Chicago Manual of Style: Bibliographic Format for References


The "Documentation II: Author-Date" system, traditionally used in the sciences and social sciences, is covered on pages 3-4 of this handout.

Documentation I: Notes and Bibliographies

The Notes and Bibliographies system consists of numbered footnotes or endnotes (titled "Notes") together with corresponding entries in the bibliography (titled "Bibliography" or "Works Cited") at the end of the paper.

Use the full citation the first time you cite the work in your notes. For subsequent notes use the author's last name only and shorten the title if it has more than four words. If the work has no identifiable author or editor, start the citation with the title.


5. Gelman, Red State, 160.

Alphabetize your bibliography by the first item in the citation, usually the author’s last name. Authors’ names are last name first in the bibliography. If there are multiple works by the same author, alphabetize them by title. If there are four or more authors of a work, use the first author’s name followed by “et al.” in the note, but list all of the authors in the bibliography entry. (See the examples under “Journal article” below.) Indent all but the first line of each bibliography citation by three or four spaces—a “hanging indent”.

For more information, consult the section numbers of the Chicago Manual of Style given after each heading below.

Book or e-book (14.68-110; 14.166-169): use the first named city on the copyright page of the book for the place of publication. Use state codes after the city only if the city is not well known or may be confused with a different place (14.134-138). For a library e-book, include the distributor (NetLibrary, Ebrary, etc.). For free online e-books, include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or URL (web address). (A DOI is shown under “Article from a journal” below.)


Book chapter or work in an anthology (14.111-117):


Journal article (14.175-198): If you access the article through a GALILEO database, include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or a stable/persistent URL in your notes and bibliography. Sometimes there is no DOI and the URL is too long or not stable. In these cases you can list the database name and a unique identifying number for the article, usually called the accession number, in parentheses. If you use the article in print, omit the URL, DOI, etc.


Magazine or newspaper article (14.199-213): These may be cited in-text and omitted from the notes and bibliography. You may choose to cite a lesser-known magazine in the notes.

Meacham (Newsweek, October 12, 2009) writes that Zakaria “argues that deterrence has worked since 1945.”


Encyclopedia entry (14.247-248): Cite articles from well-known encyclopedias in your notes, but not in your bibliography. If the encyclopedia is arranged alphabetically, do not include the volume or page numbers. Omit publication information. Include the edition number if you are not using the first edition. Put the entry title, in quotes, after the abbreviation s.v. (sub verbo, “under the word”). If it is an online encyclopedia, include a DOI or URL; if there is no publication or revision date, include the date you accessed the entry.


Cite articles from a lesser-known encyclopedia with publication information in the notes and in the bibliography:


If the encyclopedia entry has a named author and is “substantial” (fairly long), you can use a format similar to the one for a book chapter (see above) in the notes and bibliography:


Website (14.243-246): If possible, determine content author, page title, site title or site owner, and the URL. As with encyclopedias, cite the web site in the notes only, or, if your paper does not have notes, include the site in the bibliography.


Film or TV (14.279): List the screenwriter as the principal author; the film, episode, scene or commentary track title; and the media type (DVD, VHS, etc.) followed by publication information. Film and TV series titles are italicized; episode, scene and commentary titles are placed in quotes.

First Note: 10. Beverly Cross, Clash of the Titans, directed by Desmond Davis (1981; Buckinghamshire, England: MGM, 2010), DVD.


Online Media (14.280): From YouTube, Hulu, etc. Include the hosting website, duration in hours and minutes, information about the original performance, the date posted, and the URL.
