Chicago Manual of Style

In Chicago, the way we cite is designed to reduce the visual presence of sources, so the audience can read without being uninterrupted by citations. This style is popular in:

- Business
- History
- Humanities
- Political Science

What Should Citing in Chicago Look Like?
Across the various citation styles, citing will look different when used in-text. In Chicago, your in-text citations will usually follow the superscript format. Superscript formatting cites your sources using small numbers located at the top right of your cited information. For example:

The author believes they are correct.¹

Notice the little number 1 at the end of the example sentence. That is a superscript. Regardless of whether you quote or paraphrase in Chicago, you will simply insert a small number just after the punctuation.

In-Text Superscript Citations and Footnotes

Superscripts
If you notice in the example above, you can read the sentence easily without stopping to read citations at the end of sentence. These superscripts are called “notes”. The number corresponds to the order in which a source is introduced. Take a look at the example below:

In The Dark is Rising Sequence, magic is represented as a genetic trait.¹ In the series A Game of Thrones, magic is represented as a gift from the Lord of Light to his worshippers.²

The superscript “1” at the end of the first sentence references the source for the sentence about The Dark is Rising Sequence. The superscript “2” at the end of the second sentence references the source for the sentence about A Game of Thrones. The note numbers would increase as new resources are introduced. Keep in mind if you use the same book but a different page, the note number increases. If you use the same book and the same page, the note number stays the same.

Footnotes
Footnotes are similar to your Notes citations (covered in the next section), but they occur on the same page where you mention the citation in text. Footnotes will be in the Footer of a page and add extra information about your cited source. This extra information does not necessarily have to relate directly to your argument. For example, if a footnote were written using the example in the Superscripts section:

1. The Dark is Rising Sequence is a middle-grade book series that ties into Arthurian legends.
Quoting
Quoting in Chicago will look something like this:

Anne Shirley is adamant about her first name being spelled with an “e” at the end. When she first arrives at Green Gables, she initially tries to go by the name “Cordelia,” but Marilla Cuthbert insists she goes by her given name, which we can assume is “Ann”; however, Anne finds the name without an “e” abrasive, stating, “… A-N-N looks dreadful, but A-N-N-E looks so much more distinguished.”

Paraphrasing
Paraphrasing in Chicago will look something like this:

Anne Shirley is adamant about her first name being spelled with an “E” at the end. When she first arrives at Green Gables, she initially tries to go by the name “Cordelia,” but Marilla Cuthbert insists she goes by her given name, which we can assume is “Ann”; however, Anne finds the name without an “E” abrasive. She believes that saying names creates an image in a person’s head, and “Ann” with an “E” creates a more beautiful image, making “Anne” a better name than “Ann.”

Notes Page and Bibliography Page
Chicago requires you to include both a Notes page, corresponding to the superscripts, and separate Bibliography page. Check with your instructor to see if you are required to include both.

Notes Page
The “Notes” page is like a works cited/bibliography/reference page. The difference is the notes are all listed in order of appearance in your paper. The “Notes” page should always start on a new page.
Your Notes page should look like this:

Notes


*If you have one source you use consecutively but with references to different parts, such as pages, the note would look something like this:

1. Author’s Last Name, Author’s First Name, *Book Title* (Publishing Location: Publisher and Publishing Date), page number

2. Ibid., New Page Number

For Example:

1. *Hacker, Diana. A Writer’s Reference. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2015), 572*

2. *Ibid., 573*

The term “Ibid” is used when the last names and titles of the preceding note are the same. "Ibid" can only be used with consecutive notes.
Bibliography Page
In Chicago style papers, your last page will be “Bibliography”. This page a list of all the sources you chose to use in your paper. Your sources will be listed alphabetically with a hanging indent. Depending on the source, the citation format will slightly change. This will be very similar to the Notes page, but unlike the notes page, you don’t need to list the same source when you use different pages; you will only note the main sources you use. Below is a series of examples of the most common types of sources:

Publication with a Single Author
Author’s Last Name, Author’s First Name. Book Title. City of Publication: Publisher, Publishing Year.


Publication with Two or Three Authors
First Author’s Last Name, First Author’s First Name and Second Author’s First Name and Last Name. Book Title. City of Publication: Publisher, Publishing Year.


Publication with Four or More Authors
First Author’s Last Name, First Author’s First Name. Second Author’s First and Last Name, Third Author’s First and Last Name, Following Author’s First and Last Names. Book Title. City of Publication: Publisher, Publishing Year.


Note: In the Notes, you will just list the first author’s first and last name. After, you will use the Latin term “et al.” for the subsequent authors. For example:

1. First Author’s First and Last Name, et al., Book Title, (City of Publication: Publisher, Publishing Year), Page Number.

Article in a Journal (Web)
Author Last Name, Author First Name. “Article Title,” Journal Title Volume (Publishing Year), doi:


**Organization or Company as an Author**

Organization/Company. Publication Title. City of Publication: Publisher, Publishing Year.


**Web Source—Entire Website**

Website Page Title. Website Organization/Company. Last Modified Date in Month Day, Year Format. Website URL.


**Note:** Notice in the example citation the “n.d.” This abbreviation means “no date.” You can use this abbreviation when dates are missing.

**Web Source with an Author**

Author’s Last Name, Author’s First Name. “Web Source Title.” Web Source Organization/Company. Last Modified Date in Month Day, Year Format. Web Source URL.


*For web sources without an author, you will cite the source with the website or organization/company as the author.*
Chicago Manual of Style Resources

- The UNT Writing Center
- A Writer’s Reference with Writing in the Disciplines by Diana Hacker
- ChicagoManualOfStyle.org
- Owl.Purdue.edu/Owl/Research_And_Citation/Chicago_Manual_17th_Edition/CMOS_Formatting_And_Style_Guide/General_Format.html
- Footnotes—Plagiarism.org/Article/What-Are-Footnotes
- Missing Information—Chicago: https://libguides.gprc.ab.ca/c.php?g=70707&p=455888

Keep in mind websites like CitationGenerator or EasyBib can make citing easy; however, these generators are not perfect, so always double-check their work.

Bibliography


