Citing Sources: *Chicago Style*

**AUTHOR-DATE**

The author-date system is used by many in the physical, natural, and social sciences and is recommended by Chicago for works in those areas (15.5).

---


---

**General Guidelines**

(Numbers in parentheses refer to the related sections in the *Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed.*)

- Chicago Author-Date format uses *parenthetical text citations* rather than footnotes and endnotes used in the Notes & Bibliography format (whether a direct quote, paraphrase, or summary) (15.2).

- Sources are cited in the text, usually in parentheses, by the author’s last name, the publication date of the work cited, and a page number if needed. Full details appear in the reference list—usually titled “References” or “Works Cited” (15.5).

- In a *reference list* entry, the year of publication is the second element, following by the first-listed author’s name (last name first) (15.6), according to which the entry is alphabetized in the bibliography; and the elements are separated by periods.

- Sources consulted online should generally include a uniform resource locator, or URL, as the final element in a citation (14.6). If the source offers a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), use that; otherwise, determine whether a persistent URL, permalink, stable URL, or the like is available (14.9, 14.10). For a source consulted via a library or other commercial bibliographic database and available only through a subscription or library account, it may be best to name the database in lieu of a URL (14.11).

- Titles of websites are generally set in roman without quotation marks and capitalized headline-style.

- Titles of larger works (e.g., books and journals) are italicized; titles of smaller works (e.g., chapters, articles) or unpublished works are presented in roman and enclosed in quotation marks (14.20).

- Each entry in a reference list should begin on a new line. Use your word processor’s indentation feature to assign a hanging indent to each line (2.24).
Citation Examples

**Book with Single Author or Editor** (15.9)
Text citation:  (Strayed 2012, 87-88)

**Book with Two Authors** (15.9)
Text citation:  (Grazer and Fishman 2015, 188)

**Book with Four or More Authors** (15.9)
Text citation:  (Adams et al. 1998, 35)

*For works with more than ten authors, Chicago recommends the policy followed by the American Naturalist: only the first seven should be listed in the bibliography, followed by et al.*

**Book—Editor in Place of Author** (15.9)
A book with an editor in place of an author includes the abbreviation *ed.* (*editor*; for more than one editor, use *eds.*). Note that the text citation does not include *ed.*

**Contribution to a multiauthor book** (15.42)
Text citation:  (Miller 2017, 325)

**Books consulted online** (14.161)
Text citation:  (Lystra 2004, 60-61)
http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/kt8779q6kr/.
Journal Article (15.46 – 15.48)
Text citation: (Lock 2015, 155)
https://doi.org/10.1086/680350.

A URL based on a DOI (appended to https://doi.org/), if it is available, is preferable to the URL that appears in your browser’s address bar when viewing the article (or the abstract).

Magazines (15.49)
Text citation: (Saulnier 2008, 48)

Newspapers (15.49)
Text citation: (Savage 2017)

Websites (15.50)
Text citation: (Onion 2018)
Reference list: Onion. 2018. “‘No Way To Prevent This,’ Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens.” Last modified February, 14, 2018, 5:32 p.m.
https://www.theonion.com/no-way-to-prevent-this-says-only-nation-where-this-r-1823016659.

This example uses the “last modified” revision date (14.13). If that date cannot be determined, use the access date (15.50). If the author or editor is unknown, the bibliography entry should normally begin with the title (14.79).

Social Media Content (15.52)
Text citation: (Hayden 2016)
Reference list: Hayden, Carla (@LibnOfCongress). 2016. “Hello @Twitter! I am Carla Hayden, the 14th #LibrarianOfCongress. Let's explore @LibraryCongress together.” Twitter, September 14, 2016, 10:29 a.m. https://twitter.com/LibnOfCongress/status/776110670114848768.
Unpublished interviews and personal communications (15.53)
Text citation: (John Doe, email message to author, May 5, 2017)
Reference list: Reference list entries are unneeded, though each person cited must be fully identified elsewhere in the text.

Audiovisual Recordings and Other Multimedia (15.57)
Text citation: (Danforth and Chillag 2015)
Reference list: Danforth, Mike, and Ian Chillag. 2015. “F-Bombs, Chicken, and Exclamation Points.” Produced by Gillian Donovan. How to Do Everything, April 21, 2015. MP3 audio, 18:46. https://tmblr.co/ZyXenx1i-dLU-.

Legal and Public Documents (15.58, 15.59)
   Any work using the author-date style that needs to do more than mention the occasional source in the text should use supplementary footnotes or endnotes; see 15.31. Works with only a handful of citations to legal and public documents may be able to limit these to the text, using the forms detailed in 14.269-305.
   Citations in predominantly legal works generally follow one of two guides ... The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, published by the Harvard Law Review Association, is the most widely used citation guide; its conventions predominate in law reviews (14.269) [available at the Research Help Desk, Ref KF245.B53 2015].