How to Prepare Bibliographic Citations: Chicago Manual of Style

Author-Date References


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The *author-date-system* is used by many in most social sciences and in the natural and physical sciences. Sources are cited in the text in parentheses, by the author’s last name, the date of publication, and a page number. Full details appear in the reference list, labeled “References” or “Works Cited” in which the year of publication appears immediately after the author’s name. This arrangement makes it easy to follow a text citation to the corresponding full source in the reference list.

**Author-date references – Examples and variations**

**Book with Single Author or Editor** – Invert the name in the reference list; in the text, include only the last name.

Text: (Strayed 2012, 87-88)


**Book with Two Authors** – Only the first listed name is inverted in the reference list.

Text: (Grazer and Fishman 2015, 188)


**Book with Three or More Authors** – Only the first list name is inverted in the reference list.

Text: (Berkman, Bauer, and Nold 2011, 7-10))

Book with Author plus Editor or Translator

Text: (Garcia Marquez, 1988, 242-55)


Chapter in an Edited Book – Include the chapter author; the chapter title, in quotation marks; and the editor. Precede the title of the book with *In*. Note the location of the page range for the chapter in the reference list entry.

Text: Wiese 2006, 101-2)


Journal Article – Citations of journals include the volume and issue number and the date of publication. The volume number follows the italicized journal title. A specific page reference is included in the text; the page range for an article is included in the reference list, preceded by a colon.

Text: (Smith 1998, 639)


Article in an Online Journal – Use the DOI rather than the URL.

Text: (Liu 2015, 312)


Newspapers and Magazines in Reference Lists – It is usually sufficient to cite newspaper and magazine articles entirely within the text. However, if a reference list entry is needed, repeat the year of publication with the month and day to avoid any confusion. To cite an article consulted online, include the URL, or if no suitable URL is available, the name of the database.


Websites – An access date is required in citations of website and other sources consulted online only if no date of publication or revision can be determined from the source. When only an access date is used, use n.d. as the date of publication in the reference list entry and for the in-text citation.

Text: (Alliance for Linguistic Diversity, n.d.)

Blogs – Like newspaper and magazine articles, it is often sufficient to cite blog posts entirely within the text. If a reference list is needed, repeat the year of publication with the month and day to avoid any confusion. References to an entire blog should also be made in the text rather than in a reference list.


Comments are not included in reference lists; instead they should be cited in the text, in reference to the related post.

A comment on Constine (2017) from TechCrunch (on September 10, 2017) insisted that….

Social Media – Citations of social media content can often be limited to the text. A frequently cited account or an extensive thread related to a single subject or post, however, may be included in a reference list. In the text, cite the name under which the entry is listed. In the reference list, include the real name and a screen name.

Text: (O’Brien 2015)