The Chicago Manual of Style presents two basic documentation systems: (1) notes and bibliography and (2) author-date. Choosing between the two often depends on subject matter and the nature of sources cited, as each system is favored by different groups of scholars.

Notes and Bibliography

"First note" indicates the citation used the first time the source is cited. "Second and subsequent notes" indicates a shortened form of the same citation used the second and subsequent times the source is cited; its purpose is to reduce the bulk of documentation. Both should point the reader directly to the bibliography entry.

Book

One author

- 1. Michael Pollan, The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals (New York: Penguin, 2006), 99–100. (first note)
 - 2. Pollan, Omnivore's Dilemma, 3. (second and subsequent notes)

Pollan, Michael. The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals. New York: Penguin, 2006. (bibliography)

Two or more authors

- 1. Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945 (New York: Knopf, 2007), 52. (first note)
 - 2. Ward and Burns, War, 59–61. (second and subsequent notes)

Ward, Geoffrey C., and Ken Burns. The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945. New York: Knopf, 2007. (bibliography)

For four or more authors, list all of the authors in the bibliography; in the note, list only the first author, followed by et al. ("and others"):

- 1. Dana Barnes et al., Plastics: Essays on American Corporate Ascendance in the 1960s . . . (first note)
 - 2. Barnes et al., Plastics . . . (second and subsequent notes)

Chapter or other part of a book

- 1. John D. Kelly, "Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War," in Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency, ed. John D. Kelly et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 77. (first note)
 - 2. Kelly, "Seeing Red," 81–82. (second and subsequent notes)
- Kelly, John D. "Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War." In Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency, edited by John D. Kelly, Beatrice Jauregui, Sean T. Mitchell, and Jeremy Walton, 67–83. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. (bibliography)

Article in an online journal

Include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if the journal lists one. A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to http://dx.doi.org/ in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. If no DOI is available, list a URL. Include an access date only if one is required by your publisher or discipline.

- 1. Gueorgi Kossinets and Duncan J. Watts, "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network," American Journal of Sociology 115 (2009): 411, accessed February 28, 2010, doi:10.1086/599247. (first note)
 - 2. Kossinets and Watts, "Origins of Homophily," 439. (second and subsequent notes)

Kossinets, Gueorgi, and Duncan J. Watts. "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network." American Journal of Sociology 115 (2009): 405–50. Accessed February 28, 2010. doi:10.1086/599247. (bibliography)

Website

A citation to website content can often be limited to a mention in the text or in a note ("As of July 19, 2008, the McDonald's Corporation listed on its website . . ."). If a more formal citation is desired, it may be styled as in the examples below. Because such content is subject to change, include an access date or, if available, a date that the site was last modified.

- 1. "Google Privacy Policy," last modified March 11, 2009,
- http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html. (first note)
- 2. "McDonald's Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts," McDonald's Corporation, accessed July 19, 2008, http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html. (first note)
 - 3. "Google Privacy Policy." (second and subsequent notes)
 - 4. "Toy Safety Facts." (second and subsequent notes)

Google. "Google Privacy Policy." Last modified March 11, 2009.

http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html. (bibliography)

McDonald's Corporation. "McDonald's Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts." Accessed July 19, 2008. http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html. (bibliography)

Thesis or dissertation

- 1. Mihwa Choi, "Contesting Imaginaires in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty" (PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008). (first note)
 - 2. Choi, "Contesting Imaginaires." (second and subsequent notes)

Choi, Mihwa. "Contesting Imaginaires in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty." PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008. (bibliography)

Item in a commercial database

For items retrieved from a commercial database, add the name of the database and an accession number following the facts of publication. In this example, the dissertation cited above is shown as it would be cited if it were retrieved from ProQuest's database for dissertations and theses. Choi, Mihwa. "Contesting Imaginaires in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty." PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008. ProQuest (AAT 3300426). (bibliography)

Author-Date

Book

One author

Pollan, Michael. 2006. The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals. New York: Penguin. (reference list entry)

(Pollan 2006, 99–100) (in-text parenthetical citation)

Two or more authors

Ward, Geoffrey C., and Ken Burns. 2007. The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945. New York: Knopf. (reference list entry)

(Ward and Burns 2007, 52) (in-text parenthetical citation)

For four or more authors, list all of the authors in the reference list; in the text, list only the first author, followed by et al. ("and others"):

(Barnes et al. 2010) (in-text parenthetical citation)

Chapter or other part of a book

Kelly, John D. 2010. "Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War." In Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency, edited by John D. Kelly, Beatrice Jauregui, Sean T. Mitchell, and Jeremy Walton, 67–83. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (reference list entry)

(Kelly 2010, 77) (in-text parenthetical citation)

Article in an online journal

Include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if the journal lists one. A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to http://dx.doi.org/ in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. If no DOI is available, list a URL. Include an access date only if one is required by your publisher or discipline.

Kossinets, Gueorgi, and Duncan J. Watts. 2009. "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network." American Journal of Sociology 115:405–50. Accessed February 28, 2010. doi:10.1086/599247. (reference list entry)

(Kossinets and Watts 2009, 411) (in-text parenthetical citation)

Website

A citation to website content can often be limited to a mention in the text ("As of July 19, 2008, the McDonald's Corporation listed on its website . . ."). If a more formal citation is desired, it may be styled as in the examples below. Because such content is subject to change, include an access date or, if available, a date that the site was last modified. In the absence of a date of publication, use the access date or last-modified date as the basis of the citation.

Google. 2009. "Google Privacy Policy." Last modified March 11.

http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html. (reference list entry)

McDonald's Corporation. 2008. "McDonald's Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts." Accessed July 19. http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html. (reference list entry)

(Google 2009) (in-text parenthetical citation)

(McDonald's 2008) (in-text parenthetical citation)

Thesis or dissertation

Choi, Mihwa. 2008. "Contesting Imaginaires in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty." PhD diss., University of Chicago. (reference list entry) (Choi 2008) (in-text parenthetical citation)

Item in a commercial database

For items retrieved from a commercial database, add the name of the database and an accession number following the facts of publication. In this example, the dissertation cited above is shown as it would be cited if it were retrieved from ProQuest's database for dissertations and theses. Choi, Mihwa. 2008. "Contesting Imaginaires in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty." PhD diss., University of Chicago. ProQuest (AAT 3300426). (reference list entry)