Chicago & Turabian (Author-Date)

The Chicago Manual of Style outlines citations for many academic and professional publications. For each topic below, the corresponding section in The Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition is listed in parentheses. Chicago employs two citation styles: notes-bibliography style and author-date style. This handout only addresses author-date style, which is usually preferred in the sciences and social sciences. Remember to tailor your work for your specific audience and assignment.

Note: Turabian style—detailed in Kate Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 9th edition—is a modified form of Chicago style for student papers. This handout applies to both Turabian and Chicago styles.

General Format (Turabian A.1)
Margins (Turabian A.1.1, Chicago 2.10) Use 1-inch margins on all sides.
Font (Turabian A.1.2.) Use a readable and standard-size font (e.g., Times New Roman 12-pt. font).
Line Spacing (Turabian A.1.3) Double-space body text, and single-space reference list and any block quotes.
Page Number (Turabian A.1.4.2) Include a page number for each page, except the title page, in the top right corner of the page or centered at the bottom of the page.

Title Page (Turabian A.2.1.2)
On the title page, introduce key information about your work: the title of your work, your name, course information or other affiliations, and the date.

In-Text Citations (Chicago 15.21-15.26)
This style uses parenthetical citations listing the author’s last name, the date of publication, and the page number if quoting from a specific page or section. These citations are typically placed at the end of the sentence. If the author’s name is used in the text, the remaining citation information should directly follow the author’s name.

Example (in-text citation): Fortunately for the Colonists, “the Battle of Saratoga was a pivotal victory for Americans and a turning point in the Revolutionary War” (Johnson 1991, 131).

Example (in-text citation): According to Johnson (1991, 131), “The Battle of Saratoga was a pivotal victory for Americans and a turning point in the Revolutionary War.”

Note: When citing two or three authors, list all authors separated by commas. If citing a work with four or more authors, list the first author’s last name followed by “et al.”
Two or Three Authors: (Keng, Smith, and Khan 2016, 12-15)
Four or More Authors: (Smith et al. 2017, 55)
Reference List Entries (Chicago 15.6, 15.9 and 15.50)

Book with One Author (15.9)
Include: Author’s Last name, First name. Year of publication. Title of Book. Publishing city: Publisher.

Book with Multiple Authors (15.9)
Include: First Author’s Last name, First name, and another Author’s First and Last name (until all are included). Year of publication. Title of Book. Publishing city: Publisher.

Journal Article (15.9)
Note: Include the access date and URL if accessed online.

Website (15.50)
Include: Author’s Last name, First name (if unavailable, list the organization first), Year of publication (if no date is available, use the notation n.d.). “Title of Webpage.” Organization, Full date of publication (if available). Date of access (only include if publication/modification date is not provided). URL.

Reference List Format (Chicago 15.5-15.6, 15.10-15.16)
There are various kinds of bibliographies (e.g., selected, annotated, single-author, etc. Chicago 14.64), but a standard reference list includes all sources quoted or paraphrased within your work. A reference list is required for author-date style and does not include sources that are not cited in your text (Chicago 15.3).

Listing Entries (Chicago 15.11)
List sources alphabetically by last name. If using more than one work by an author, list additional entries chronologically.

Reference List


Title (Turabian 16.2.1)
Center the title (“References”). Include two blank lines between the title and the entries.

Spacing (Turabian A.1.3)
Single-space all entries, and leave one blank line between entries.

Hanging Indent (Turabian 16.1.7)
Set a 0.5-inch indent for citations that extend more than one line.