Chicago Manual of Style: Bibliographic Format for References


The "Documentation II: Author-Date" system, traditionally used in the sciences and social sciences, is covered on pages 3-4 of this handout.

Documentation I: Notes and Bibliographies

The Notes and Bibliographies system consists of numbered footnotes or endnotes (titled "Notes") together with corresponding entries in the bibliography (titled "Bibliography" or "Works Cited") at the end of the paper.

Use the full citation the first time you cite the work in your notes. For subsequent notes use the author's last name only and shorten the title if it has more than four words. If the work has no identifiable author or editor, start the citation with the title.


5. Gelman, Red State, 160.

Alphabetize your bibliography by the first item in the citation, usually the author's last name. Authors' names are last name first in the bibliography. If there are multiple works by the same author, alphabetize them by title. If there are four or more authors of a work, use the first author's name followed by "et al." in the note, but list all of the authors in the bibliography entry. (See the examples under "Journal article" below.) Indent all but the first line of each bibliography citation by three or four spaces—a "hanging indent".

For more information, consult the section numbers of the Chicago Manual of Style given after each heading below.

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