Documenting Sources in Chicago

The Chicago Style of citation is generally used in history and other humanities courses not covered by MLA; it is also the preferred method of many academic publications.

Chicago Style differs significantly from APA and MLA styles, most noticeably in its use of footnotes or endnotes rather than in-text, parenthetical citations.

Here is an example of a Chicago citation in an example text:

According to MacIntyre, emotivism is grounded in the notion that all efforts “to provide a rational justification for an objective morality [have] in fact failed.”

The superscript number one here will correspond to the note that gives full citation information for this source. The footnote (or endnote if you so choose) would appear at the bottom of the page (or at the end of the paper) in the following general format: the author's name, the title of the work, the publishing information, and the page number. For example:


If you cite the same source a second time, the entry may be abbreviated:

2. MacIntyre, After Virtue, 38.

If you cite one source in two notes back-to-back, you may substitute "Ibid." followed by the page number.

3. Ibid, 39.

Most papers using Chicago Style will include a Bibliography at the end. The format is as follows: the author’s name (last name first), the title, and the publishing information. For example:


Just as in MLA and APA styles, academic journal entries and other forms of media vary from this model to some degree. Internet sources, for instance, include the URL within the in-text note and the bibliographic entry: Author’s Name, Title, http://www.etc.com/-html