

chicago citation examples for corporate authors

Mastering Chicago Citation Examples for Corporate Authors

chicago citation examples for corporate authors are essential for academic and professional writing, ensuring proper attribution and avoiding plagiarism. When citing organizations, government bodies, or other corporate entities, adhering to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a standardized and authoritative approach. This guide delves into the intricacies of citing corporate authors in Chicago style, covering both the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. We will explore how to format citations for various types of corporate publications, including reports, websites, and internal documents, offering clear examples and explaining the underlying principles for both in-text citations and full bibliographic entries. Understanding these nuances is crucial for anyone producing research that relies on information attributed to collective entities.

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Understanding Corporate Authors in Chicago Style

In Chicago style, a corporate author refers to any organization, institution, or group that acts as an author, rather than an individual. This encompasses a broad range of entities, from publicly traded companies and non-profit organizations to government agencies and academic departments. The core principle remains the same: identify the entity responsible for the creation of the work. Differentiating between a corporate author and a corporate publisher is also a key consideration; in many cases, the same entity can serve both roles.

Identifying the Corporate Author

The first step in correctly citing a corporate author is to accurately identify it. This usually involves looking at the title page of the publication or the "About Us" or "Contact" sections of a website. If the work is produced by a committee or a specific division within a larger organization, Chicago style generally advises citing the parent organization unless the division is clearly identified as the sole author. For instance, a report published by the "Marketing Department of Acme Corporation" would typically be cited under "Acme Corporation."

Corporate Authors vs. Corporate Publishers

It's important to distinguish between a corporate author and a corporate publisher, though they often overlap. A corporate author is the entity that created the content, while a corporate publisher is the entity that published or distributed it. In Chicago style, if the same entity is both the author and the publisher, it is listed as the author in the citation. If they are different, both will appear in the citation, with the author listed first.

Notes-Bibliography System: Citing Corporate Authors

The Notes-Bibliography system in Chicago style utilizes footnotes or endnotes for citations within the text, followed by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. When citing corporate authors in this system, the structure of the note and the bibliography entry will vary slightly.

Footnote/Endnote Citations for Corporate Authors

In a footnote or endnote, the corporate author is listed first, followed by the title of the work. Subsequent information, such as the place of publication, publisher, and year, is then included. For instance, a report by a corporation would be cited similarly to a book with an individual author, but the corporate name replaces the individual's name.

A typical footnote/endnote for a report by a corporate author might look like this:

1. International Organization for Standardization, ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems—Requirements (Geneva: ISO, 2015).

Bibliography Entries for Corporate Authors

The bibliography entry for a corporate author follows a similar format to the footnote but is alphabetized by the corporate author's name. The key difference is that the note entry is typically presented in sentence case with a superscript number at the beginning, whereas the bibliography entry is presented in full and alphabetized.

An example of a bibliography entry for the same report:

International Organization for Standardization. ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems—Requirements. Geneva: ISO, 2015.

Corporate Authors with Subordinate Divisions

When citing a work authored by a specific department or division of a larger corporation, the citation should reflect this hierarchy. The larger corporation is usually listed first, followed by the subordinate division.

Example:

2. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Mars Exploration Program: Rover Mission Status (Pasadena, CA: JPL, 2023).

Author-Date System: Citing Corporate Authors

The Author-Date system, often used in the sciences and social sciences, requires parenthetical in-text citations and a reference list at the end. This system emphasizes brevity within the text.

In-Text Citations for Corporate Authors

In the Author-Date system, in-text citations for corporate authors include the corporate author's name and the year of publication, enclosed in parentheses. If the corporate author is mentioned in the sentence, it may not be necessary to include it in the parenthetical citation.

Example:

According to the World Health Organization, global vaccination rates have seen a significant increase in recent years (World Health Organization 2022).

If the corporate author is mentioned in the text:

The World Health Organization (2022) reported a significant increase in global vaccination rates.

Reference List Entries for Corporate Authors

The reference list entries are alphabetized by the corporate author's name and follow a specific format. This format is analogous to the bibliography entries in the Notes-Bibliography system but typically omits page numbers unless referencing a specific section.

An example of a reference list entry:

World Health Organization. 2022. Global Vaccination Report. Geneva: WHO.

Corporate Authors with Identical Names

When citing multiple works by corporate authors with the same name, or when distinguishing between a corporate author and an individual author with a similar name, Chicago style advises using descriptive terms or subordinate divisions to differentiate them in the citation.

Citing Different Types of Corporate Publications

Corporate authors produce a wide array of materials, and Chicago style provides guidelines for citing them accurately, whether they are formal reports, web pages, or less formal documents.

Corporate Reports

Reports are a common output from corporate authors. When citing a report, include the corporate author, the title of the report (italicized), the place of publication, the publisher (if different from the author), and the year. If the report is part of a numbered series, include the series title and number.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

3. United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2021/2022: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World* (New York: UNDP, 2022).

Example (Author-Date):

United Nations Development Programme. 2022. *Human Development Report 2021/2022: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World*. New York: UNDP.

Corporate Websites and Web Pages

Citing information from corporate websites requires careful attention to what is considered the "author" and the specific web page. If the entire website is authored by the corporation, use the corporate name. If a specific page or document on the website has a clear authoring body, that should be used. Include the title of the specific page, the name of the website (if different from the author), and the URL. For online sources, the most recent access date is also crucial.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

4. Apple Inc., "About Apple," accessed January 15, 2024, <https://www.apple.com/about/>.

Example (Author-Date):

Apple Inc. "About Apple." Accessed January 15, 2024. <https://www.apple.com/about/>.

Corporate Documents with No Clear Authoring Body

In some cases, a document may be published by a corporation but lack a clearly designated authoring body or individual. In such instances, the corporation itself is considered the author, and the title of the document becomes the primary entry point.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

5. *Company Policies and Procedures Manual*. Chicago: Innovate Solutions Inc., 2023.

Example (Author-Date):

Innovate Solutions Inc. Company Policies and Procedures Manual. Chicago: Innovate Solutions Inc., 2023.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Corporate Authorship Citation

Citing corporate authors can present unique challenges that require careful consideration and application of Chicago style guidelines. Navigating these complexities ensures accuracy and credibility in your work.

Identifying the "Real" Author

Sometimes, a document is produced by a corporation but has an individual listed as the author. In such cases, if the individual is acting in an official capacity for the corporation, the corporation is still considered the primary author. However, if the individual is writing in a personal capacity or as an expert contributor outside their direct corporate role, they would be cited as the individual author. This distinction is often determined by the context and the prominence of the individual's name versus the corporate entity on the title page.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

When a corporate author is commonly known by an acronym or abbreviation, Chicago style generally advises using the full name in the first citation and then employing the acronym for subsequent citations within the same work, provided it is clear and unambiguous. In the bibliography or reference list, the full name is preferred.

Works Published by Government Agencies

Government agencies are considered corporate authors. When citing documents from government agencies, the agency name is listed as the author. For federal agencies, it is common to include the department under which the agency operates, especially for less well-known agencies.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

6. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Report on Air Quality Standards (Washington, DC: GPO, 2020).

Example (Author-Date):

United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2020. Report on Air Quality Standards. Washington, DC: GPO.

Key Takeaways for Chicago Citation Examples for Corporate Authors

Mastering Chicago citation examples for corporate authors involves understanding the principles of attribution and applying them consistently across different publication types. Whether employing the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system, the goal is to clearly identify the entity responsible

for the work. Key considerations include accurately identifying the corporate author, differentiating it from the publisher, and formatting entries according to the specific system being used. Pay close attention to the nuances of citing reports, web content, and government publications, as these are common sources of corporate authorship. By adhering to these guidelines, writers can ensure the academic integrity and professional presentation of their research.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between citing an individual author and a corporate author in Chicago style?

A: The primary difference lies in identifying the "author." For an individual author, you use their name as it appears on the publication. For a corporate author, you use the name of the organization, institution, or group that created the work, rather than an individual's name.

Q: When should I use the full name of a corporate author versus an acronym in my Chicago citations?

A: In the Notes-Bibliography system, you should use the full name of the corporate author in the first note and bibliography entry. For subsequent notes, you can use the acronym if it's clearly established and unambiguous. In the Author-Date system, the full name is generally preferred in the reference list, and the full name or acronym can be used in the in-text citation depending on clarity.

Q: How do I cite a report published by a specific department within a larger corporation?

A: When citing a report from a specific department, you generally list the parent corporation first, followed by the subordinate department. For example, "Google, AI Research Division." The title of the report then follows.

Q: What if a corporate document does not have a clearly identified corporate author on the title page?

A: If a document is published by a corporation but lacks a specific authoring body listed, the corporation itself is considered the author. In such cases, the title of the document becomes the first element in the citation.

Q: How do I cite a government report as a corporate author in Chicago style?

A: Government agencies are treated as corporate authors. You would list the name of the agency as the author, often including the department or ministry it falls under. For example, "United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics." The title of the report, publication details, and year follow.

Q: Is there a specific way to cite a website authored by a corporation in Chicago style?

A: Yes, when citing a corporate website or a specific page on it, the corporation is listed as the author. You then include the title of the specific page or document, the name of the website (if different from the author), the access date, and the URL.

Q: How do I handle situations where a corporate author and publisher are the same entity?

A: If the corporate author and publisher are the same, you list the corporate author once and do not repeat it as the publisher. The citation will still include the place of publication and the year.

Q: What is the difference in formatting for the Notes-Bibliography system versus the Author-Date system when citing corporate authors?

A: In the Notes-Bibliography system, you use footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end. The corporate author is listed first in the note, followed by the title. In the Author-Date system, you use parenthetical in-text citations (Corporate Author Year) and a reference list at the end, where the corporate author is listed first followed by the year and title.

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