

Citation styles: Which style sheet should I use?

A style sheet or style manual describes the pattern or “rules” to follow when making a list of works cited (sometimes called a *bibliography*), citing sources within your text, and other elements of style such as how to order headings and sub-headings, how to write abbreviations, or how to treat figures and tables. Each field has its own preferred style, and even within a field each journal may have its own style sheet. You need to choose a style that is appropriate for what you are writing, either by using a style that is commonly accepted in your field or by following the style sheet for a journal or publisher where you would like your paper to be published.

This page introduces three commonly used styles, and lists commonly used styles in several academic fields. In addition, many journals publish their style sheets either in the journal (often as the last page) or on their web site. Select a style that is used in your field or in a journal where you want to publish. If you can't find a style for your field, use one of the three commonly used styles.

Commonly used styles

Chicago Manual of Style

The *Chicago Manual of Style* is a book that describes useful styles for making lists of works cited and in-text citations. Chicago style – also called Chicago/Turabian, after the author of one version of the book – is commonly used in sciences, humanities, and professions. Be aware, though, that there have been more than 15 editions of this book published, and some of them differ slightly in their recommendations, so it can be a bit confusing to know what an editor or publisher means by “Chicago style”.

The current *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th edition) actually contains two different styles. The *author-date* style is commonly used in the sciences, while the *notes and bibliography* style is used in the humanities. When using the author-date style, include the author's family name, the year when the book or paper was published, and the pages you are quoting from (if you are quoting) in parenthesis after a quote, paraphrase, or summary. When using the notes and bibliography style, include the author's family name, the title of the article or book, and the page number in a footnote or endnote. In both cases, you will then give complete reference in a list of works cited or bibliography at the end of the paper.

Examples: Chicago author-date

“Sino-Japanese was the form of writing used in official documents, criticism and exposition, history and critical essays, early Meiji translations of western literature and in general in upper class education” (Gottlieb 2005, 41).

...

According to Morita, “Most students have little experience in distinguishing features of different varieties of English” (2010, 69).

References

- Gottlieb, Nanette. 2005. *Language and Society in Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Morita, Liang Chua. 2010. “Applying the Curriculum Cycle.” *Studies in Language and Culture* 32: 67-70.

Example: Chicago notes and bibliography

“Sino-Japanese was the form of writing used in official documents, criticism and exposition, history and critical essays, early Meiji translations of western literature and in general in upper class education.”¹

...

According to Morita, “Most students have little experience in distinguishing features of different varieties of English.”²

¹ Gottlieb, *Language and Society in Japan*, 41.

² Morita, “Applying the Curriculum Cycle,” 69.

Bibliography

- Gottlieb, Nanette. *Language and Society in Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Morita, Liang Chua. “Applying the Curriculum Cycle.” *Studies in Language and Culture* 32 (2010): 67-70.

For more details on the Chicago Manual of Style, including on-line tutorials, see their web site.
<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

APA (American Psychological Association)

The APA style was developed by the American Psychological Association. This style is commonly used in the social sciences and education. It is similar to Chicago author-date style, with the author's family name and the year of publication given in parenthesis in the text and a full reference given at the end of the paper. Small differences in punctuation and capital letters, as well as the use of initials instead of given names make this different from Chicago author-date style. For more information see: <http://www.apastyle.org/>

Examples

“Sino-Japanese was the form of writing used in official documents, criticism and exposition, history and critical essays, early Meiji translations of western literature and in general in upper class education” (Gottlieb 2005, p. 41).

...

According to Morita (2010), “Most students have little experience in distinguishing features of different varieties of English” (p. 69).

References

- Gottlieb, N. (2005). *Language and Society in Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Morita, L.C. (2010). Applying the curriculum cycle. *Studies in Language and Culture*, 32, 67-70.

MLA (Modern Languages Association)

The MLA style was developed by the Modern Languages Association. This style is commonly used in the humanities and arts. It also gives brief information in parenthesis in the text followed by a full list of works cited, but again the details such as punctuation and capital letters are different from the styles described above. In MLA style you also need to indicate whether a source is in print or online. For more details see: <http://www.mla.org/style>

Examples

“Sino-Japanese was the form of writing used in official documents, criticism and exposition, history and critical essays, early Meiji translations of western literature and in general in upper class education” (Gottlieb 41).

...

According to Liang Chua Morita, “Most students have little experience in distinguishing features of different varieties of English” (69).

Works Cited

- Gottlieb, Nanette. *Language and Society in Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.
- Morita, Liang Chua. “Applying the Curriculum Cycle.” *Studies in Language and Culture*. 32.1 (2010): 67-70. Print.

Other styles by field

Chicago, APA, and MLA are the three most commonly used styles. In addition, though, many academic fields use other styles. In all styles you must give some information about the work you are citing in the text, plus additional information in a list of works cited or bibliography. The particular details of how to format this, and exactly what to include, may differ from one style to another.

Anthropology

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) has its own style, based on Chicago author-date style. See: http://www.aaanet.org/publications/style_guide.pdf

Biology

Biology uses the Council of Scientific Editors' *CSE Stylebook*. See: <http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/cse/dp.php>

Business and management

APA or Chicago style are used, and the American Management Association also has its own style guide: <http://www.amanet.org/default.aspx>

Chemistry

The American Chemical Society (ACS) has its own style. See: <http://pubs.acs.org/books/references.shtml>

Civil Engineering

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) style sheet: <http://pubs.asce.org/authors/journal/>

Electrical Engineering

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) stylesheet: http://www.ieee.org/portal/cms_docs/pubs/transactions/auinfo03.pdf

Engineering

In addition to the civil engineering and electrical engineering styles, many engineers use the American Chemical Society's style. See: <http://pubs.acs.org/books/references.shtml>

Geography

The Geographical Society of America has a style based on Chicago author-date style. See: <http://www.geosociety.org/pubs/geoguid5.htm>

Law

Law uses a style described in the *Legal Bluebook*: <http://www.legalbluebook.com/>

Mathematics

Mathematics uses a range of styles, but you must be consistent with the style you choose. The American Mathematical Society (AMS) has a style guide: <ftp://ftp.ams.org/pub/author-info/documentation/handbk.pdf>

Medicine

The American Medical Association publishes its own style guide: <http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780195176339/>

Physics

Although the American Institute of Physics' style guide is out of print, a free version (published in 1990) is available from their web site: <http://www.aip.org/pubservs/style/4thed/toc.html>

Political Science

Political science often uses Chicago style. There is also an American Political Science Association style: <http://dept.lamar.edu/polisci/DRURY/drury.html>

Sociology

The American Sociological Association has its own style guide. See: <http://www.asanet.org/journals/>