# CMS/APA Style Comparison

## Format Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>APA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Used in the humanities, especially in history, literature, and art. These fields often use primary sources (written and pictorial documents produced in the past by people living during the time period being researched).</td>
<td>Used in the Social Sciences; may also be used in other disciplines (e.g., Nursing, Education); Publication Manual written for students and professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s a system for referencing their sources through the use of footnotes, endnotes, and through the use of a bibliography. This offers writers a flexible option for citation and provides an outlet for commenting on those sources, if needed.</td>
<td>Authoritativeness based on how current the information is, where it was published, and credentials of the author, as well as the quality of the information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Chicago Style, the term figure can refer to illustrations or images that are displayed or reproduced separately from the text. Illustrations or images, in this case, can refer to a wide range of visual materials, including photographs, maps, drawings, and charts placed within a text. An example of a textual reference to a figure might look like the following: &quot;as figure 2 shows...&quot;; &quot;when comparing figures 3 and 4.&quot; The lowercase <em>figure</em> should be used when making references to figures in the text. Images are sometimes referred to as illustrations, artwork, or art in the Chicago Style, and refer to images presented separately from text (as opposed to an embedded chart or figure). Images, or illustrations, can come in a range of forms, including charts, maps, line drawings, paintings, and photographs. Note</td>
<td>Uses graphics (e.g., tables, charts) frequently to present data and prescribes graphics format (Publication Manual, Ch. 7); places graphics after References OR in text</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information about paintings, photographs, sculptures, or other works of art can usually be presented in the text rather than in a note or bibliography. [14.235]

If note or bibliography entry is needed, follow the guidelines below.

Format

1. First Name Last Name of creator, Title of Work, date of creation or completion, medium, Name of Institution, location (if applicable), URL.

*Images can generally be noted via text in the Notes Section and Bibliography, you would mention it is a photograph. You are able to include images in this format, you need to put a title above the image, and list what figure it is ((example: Figure 1. An example of syzygy (celestial alignment) above the La Silla observatory, Chile. (Photograph by Yuri Beletsky, *Three Planets Dance over La Silla*, June 3, 2013, European Southern Observatory, [https://www.eso.org/public/images/potw1322a/](https://www.eso.org/public/images/potw1322a/)).)

In Chicago Style, a table is defined as list presented as an array with horizontal rows and vertical columns.

When more than one table is included, table numbering is recommended. However, this numbering should be separate from figure/illustration numbering (for example, fig. 1, fig 2., table 1, fig 3.).

Recommends headings and prescribes format for up to five levels of headings (pp. 47–49)
References to tables in the text should use the lowercase form of the word table. A numbered table should be included as soon as possible after it is first referenced in the text.

Notes to a table come in several types, and are always included directly below a table. These notes should have a separate numbering scheme from the text notes.

For tables taken from another source, acknowledgement needs to be made in unnumbered footnotes starting with **Source**

**Examples**


Sources: Data from Adams (1998); Bevan, Collier, and Gunning (1989).

CMS citation generally includes a Bibliography at the very end of the paper. (Check with your instructor to see if you need both Notes and a Bibliography. CMS also has an alternate system of parenthetical author-date references

The title page should include page number (and last name of writer in the running head), paper title, Author byline, full course name, instructor info, date (middle of the first page)

In the Notes and Bibliography system, you should include a note (endnote or footnote) each time you use a source, whether through a direct quote, paraphrase, or summary. Footnotes are added at the end of the page on which the source is referenced, while endnotes are compiled at the end of each chapter or at the end of the entire document. In either case, a superscript number corresponding to a note, along with the bibliographic information for that source, should be placed in the text following the end of the sentence or clause in which the source is referenced.

Provides header on upper right of all pages: on student papers only page numbers appear

Abstract is on the second page, after the title page.
## List of formats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>APA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>List of Sources: Bibliography</strong></td>
<td><strong>List of Sources (in bold): References</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes all sources cited in text, stated in the Notes section.</td>
<td>Includes all sources cited in the text except personal interviews, non-retrievable data, and entire websites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses author’s last name and full first name</td>
<td>Uses author’s last name, with initials only of first and middle names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverses every co-author’s first and last name</td>
<td>Reverses every co-author’s first and last name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses commas between names of multiple authors (up to 20); uses et al. to continue lists of authors</td>
<td>Uses commas between names of multiple authors (up to 20); uses an ampersand (&amp;) before the last author’s name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omits place of publication (unless place is important to paper being written)</td>
<td>Omits place of publication (unless place is important to paper being written)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not use quotation marks around, or underlining of, article titles; italicizes book, journal, report, and webpage titles</td>
<td>Does not use quotation marks around, or underlining of, article titles; italicizes book, journal, report, and webpage titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitalizes only the first word of the title and subtitle of articles and books; capitalizes all proper names and periodical titles/names</td>
<td>Capitalizes only the first word of the title and subtitle of articles and books; capitalizes all proper names and periodical titles/names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefers DOI over URL; DOI supplied when known even if print version of source was used</td>
<td>Prefers DOI over URL; DOI supplied when known even if print version of source was used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses date of retrieval only if information is meant to change</td>
<td>Uses date of retrieval only if information is meant to change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## In-text Citations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>APA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **For In-text Citations, the section is called Notes and Short Notes, but are not listed as such. Notes and Short Notes are located at the footer of a page, that corresponds to a script number, in order of usage in the paragraph. Subscripts are included for quotes and paraphrases. Do not include parenthesis for the author, year or page number. Include information about the source in the note, the subscripts serve as a citation.  
*Within the paragraph you can mention the last name of the author within a sentence (example: Joshsten stated …)*** | **For summaries or paraphrases, uses author’s last name and publication date separated by a comma; e.g., (Johnson, 1992).  
For quotations, also includes page number, time stamp, section heading, paragraph number; e.g., (Johnson, 1992, p. 140) 
The author and year information appears together whether in an attributive tag or a parenthetical; e.g., Johnson (1992) argued that “….” (p. 140) OR One** |
Examples of Reference entries

APA journal:

CMS Journal article:
*In a note, cite specific page numbers. In the bibliography, include the page range for the whole article. For articles consulted online, include a URL or the name of the database. Many journal articles list a DOI (Digital Object Identifier). A DOI forms a permanent URL that begins https://doi.org/. This URL is preferable to the URL that appears in your browser’s address bar.

Notes

Shortened notes

*In between notes and shortened notes, make sure there is a space in between listed entries.
**For notes and shortened notes, you do not need to title the section as “Notes and Shortened Notes” in the paper.

Bibliography entries (in alphabetical order)


*Be sure to title the Bibliography on the last page, center alignment, without bolding, italicizing or underlining.

** Journal articles often list many authors, especially in the sciences. If there are four or more authors, list up to ten in the bibliography; in a note, list only the first, followed by et al. (“and others”). For more than ten authors (not shown here), list the first seven in the bibliography, followed by et al.

***For news and magazine articles such as articles from newspapers or news sites, magazines, blogs are cited similarly to journal articles. Page numbers, if any, can be cited in a note but are omitted from a bibliography entry. If you consulted the article online, include a URL or the name of the database.

CMS bibliography and notes for physical books:

Physical Book samples

Notes


*Notes correspond with subscripts that are cited within the paragraphs.

** In a note, cite specific pages. In the bibliography, include the page range for the chapter or part.

Sample sentence: Zadie Smith described how, “A truth was being revealed to me: that I had always tried to attach myself to the light of other people, that I had never had any light of my own. I experienced myself as a kind of shadow.”

Shortened notes


*Shortened notes correspond with the note entries and continue the numbering sequence if shortened notes are included, even if previous entries are the same.

Bibliography entries (in alphabetical order)


CMS bibliography and notes for translated books and eBooks:

eBook samples

Notes


* For books consulted online, include a URL or the name of the database. For other types of e-books, name the format. If no fixed page numbers are available, cite a section title or a chapter or other number in the notes, if any (or simply omit).

Shortened notes


*Notice how in the shortened notes, the websites are not listed.

Bibliography


*Be sure to list entries alphabetically no matter the type of resource in the bibliography.

Translated books

Note


Shortened note

2. Lahiri, In Other Words, 184.
Bibliography entry


CMS bibliography and notes for book reviews, interviews, thesis or dissertation, website content, social media content and personal communication:

Book review

Note


Shortened note

2. Kakutani, “Friendship.”

Bibliography entry


Interview

Note


Shortened note

2. Stamper, interview.

Bibliography entry

Thesis or dissertation

Note

Shortened note
2. Rutz, “King Lear,” 158.

Bibliography entry

Website content

*It is often sufficient simply to describe web pages and other website content in the text ("As of May 1, 2017, Yale’s home page listed . . ."). If a more formal citation is needed, it may be styled like the examples below. For a source that does not list a date of publication or revision, include an access date.

Notes

Shortened notes
5. “Yale Facts.”

Bibliography entries (in alphabetical order)


Social media content

*Citations of content shared through social media can usually be limited to the text (as in the first example below). A note may be added if a more formal citation is needed. In rare cases, a bibliography entry may also be appropriate. In place of a title, quote up to the first 160 characters of the post. Comments are cited in reference to the original post.

Text

Conan O’Brien’s tweet was characteristically deadpan: “In honor of Earth Day, I’m recycling my tweets” (@ConanOBrien, April 22, 2015).

Notes

1. Pete Souza (@petesouza), “President Obama bids farewell to President Xi of China at the conclusion of the Nuclear Security Summit,” Instagram photo, April 1, 2016, https://www.instagram.com/p/BDrmfXTtNCt/.


Shortened notes

3. Souza, “President Obama.”

4. Michele Truty, April 17, 2015, 1:09 p.m., comment on Chicago Manual of Style, “singular they.”

Bibliography entry

**Personal communication**

Personal communications, including email and text messages and direct messages sent through social media, are usually cited in the text or in a note only; they are rarely included in a bibliography.

**Note**

1. Sam Gomez, Facebook message to author, August 1, 2017.

---

**For more information on CMS and sample papers:**


https://news.uchicago.edu/explainer/chicago-manual-style-explained


https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/cite-write/citation-style-guides/chicago/chicago-citing-images