

Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide for Government Documents

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Introduction

This Quick Guide provides examples of citations for government documents based on the **Notes and Bibliography system** of the **15th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*** (henceforth CMS15).¹ Although the most recent edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* is the 16th edition, we recommend the use of CMS15 for government documents because the 16th edition does not include guidance for the creation of bibliographic entries for those resources.

Quick Guides are also available at HL Library Reference Desk at Bowdoin College and online at Bowdoin College Library’s list of “Style and Citation Guides”.² Quick Guides providing examples of citations for publications other than government documents using the 16th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* are also available in those two locations.

Generalities pertaining to government documents

More examples. For examples of citations for additional types of government documents, see **CMS15, 17.290-17.359**.

¹ See section 16.3 of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. Main Ref Desk Z253 .U69 2003 and online, <http://login.ezproxy.bowdoin.edu/login?url=http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/contents.html>. CMS15 states that the Author-Date system is “generally inappropriate for citing public documents” (CMS 15, 17.291). See CMS 15, 17.291 for instructions on how to convert to the Author-Date system if necessary.

² <https://library.bowdoin.edu/help/citationguides-a-z.shtml>.

Common sense. “Discretion and common sense should dictate how much information is necessary for a reader to locate the material and, if both notes and a bibliography are used, which elements may be omitted from the notes.” (CMS15, 17.294)

Long titles. “An extremely long title or subtitle may be shortened in a bibliography or note. Enough information should be given to allow readers to find the full title in a library or publisher’s catalog.” (CMS15, 17.62)

Government Printing Office. Many U.S. government documents are published by the Government Printing Office. Any of the following forms of that agency’s name are permitted as publisher (CMS15, 17.295):

U.S. Government Printing Office

Government Printing Office

GPO

Publisher; place and date of publication. “These facts of publication are often omitted when other identifying data are given, such as the data for congressional documents.” (CMS15, 17.295)

Omitting “U.S.” “In notes, where alphabetical order does not apply, ‘U.S.’ is usually omitted.” (CMS15, 17.298) However, “U.S.” is not omitted in these examples so that notes and bibliographic entries are more similar to each other, facilitating finding entries in the bibliography from the notes.

Omitting “Congress”. Bibliographic entries for congressional materials “usually begin with ‘U.S. Congress,’ followed by ‘Senate’ or ‘House’; committee and subcommittee, if any”, etc. “Since ‘Congress’ is usually understood, a listing may simply begin ‘U.S. Senate’ or ‘U.S. House’.” (CMS15, 17.298) “Congress” is not omitted in the examples in this guide.

Online Documents

“To cite online public documents, [...] in addition to the complete standard citation, include a URL and, if the publisher or discipline requires it, or for especially time-sensitive data, an access date.” (CMS15, 17.356)

NOTE	<p>11. U.S. Government Accountability Office, <i>Whistleblower Protection: DOD Needs to Enhance Oversight of Military Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations</i>, GAO-15-477 (Washington, DC, 2015), 17, http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-477.</p> <p>12. U.S. Government Accountability Office, <i>Whistleblower Protection: DOD Needs to Enhance Oversight of Military Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations</i>, GAO-15-477 (Washington, DC, 2015), 17, http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-477 (accessed May 12, 2015).</p>
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	<p>U.S. Government Accountability Office. <i>Whistleblower Protection: DOD Needs to Enhance Oversight of Military Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations</i>. GAO-15-477. Washington, DC, 2015. http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-477.</p> <p>U.S. Government Accountability Office. <i>Whistleblower Protection: DOD Needs to Enhance Oversight of Military Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations</i>. GAO-15-477. Washington, DC, 2015. http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-477 (accessed May 12, 2015).</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.356

Executive Branch Documents

Federal agency, without personal author

“When authors are identified, their names should be cited.” (CMS15, 17.317)

NOTE	11. U.S. Census Bureau, “Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1987 to 2005,” Historical Health Insurance Table HI-1, http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/data/historical/orghihist1.html (accessed November 7, 2013).
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	U.S. Census Bureau. “Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1987 to 2005.” Historical Health Insurance Table HI-1. http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/data/historical/orghihist1.html (accessed November 7, 2013). U.S. Department of State. Treaty for the Renunciation of War: Text of the Treaty, Notes Exchanged, Instruments of Ratification and of Adherence, and Other Papers. Washington, DC: GPO, 1933.

Source: CMS15, 17.317, 17.356

Federal agency, with personal author

“When authors are identified, their names should be cited.” (CMS15, 17.317)

NOTE	15. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, <i>Assessment of Coal Geology, Resources, and Reserves in the Montana Powder River Basin</i> , by Jon E. Haacke, David C. Scott, Lee M. Osmonson, James A. Luppens, Paul E. Pierce, and Jay A. Gunderson, Open-file report 2012-1113, U.S. Geological Survey (Reston, Virginia, 2013), http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2012/1113/OF12-1113.pdf .
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Geological Survey. <i>Assessment of Coal Geology, Resources, and Reserves in the Montana Powder River Basin</i> , by Jon E. Haacke, David C. Scott, Lee M. Osmonson, James A. Luppens, Paul E. Pierce, and Jay A. Gunderson. Open-file report 2012-1113, U.S. Geological Survey. Reston, Virginia, 2013. http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2012/1113/OF12-1113.pdf .

Source: CMS15, 17.317

Federal Register

NOTE	27. U.S. President, Proclamation, "National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2013, Proclamation 9050," <i>Federal Register</i> 78, no. 214 (November 5, 2013): 66611, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-11-05/pdf/2013-26670.pdf .
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	U.S. President. Proclamation. "National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2013, Proclamation 9050." <i>Federal Register</i> 78, no. 214 (November 5, 2013): 66611. http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-11-05/pdf/2013-26670.pdf .
	<p>Federal Register / Vol. 78, No. 214 / Tuesday, November 5, 2013 / Presidential Documents 66611</p> <hr/> <p>Presidential Documents</p> <p>Proclamation 9050 of October 31, 2013</p> <p>National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2013</p> <p>By the President of the United States of America</p> <p>A Proclamation</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.315

Code of Federal Regulations

NOTE	39. Executive Order 13228 of October 8, 2001, Establishing the Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council, <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> , title 3 (2001): 796-802, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2002-title3-vol1/pdf/CFR-2002-title3-vol1-eo13228.pdf .
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	Executive Order 13228 of October 8, 2001, Establishing the Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council. <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> , title 3 (2001): 796-802. http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2002-title3-vol1/pdf/CFR-2002-title3-vol1-eo13228.pdf .
	<p>EO 13228 Title 3—The President</p> <p>Executive Order 13228 of October 8, 2001</p> <p>Establishing the Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council</p> <p>By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.315

Public Papers of the Presidents

NOTE	41. George Bush, "Remarks on Signing the Hate Crime Statistics Act, April 23, 1990," in <i>Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: George Bush, 1990, Book I-January 1 to June 30, 1990</i> , 547 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1991).
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	Bush, George. <i>Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: George Bush, 1989-1993</i> . 8 vols. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1990-1993. Bush, George. "Remarks on Signing the Hate Crime Statistics Act, April 23, 1990." In <i>Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: George Bush, 1990, Book I-January 1 to June 30, 1990</i> , 547-548. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1991.

Source: CMS15, 17.316

Legislative Branch Documents

Congressional hearing

The committee should be listed as the author. (CMS15, 17.307)

NOTE	45. U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works, <i>Global Climate Change: Hearings before the Committee on Environment and Public Works</i> , 105th Cong., 1st sess., 1997, 202-205.
SHORTENED NOTE	46. U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee, <i>Global Climate Change</i> , 202.
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Environment and Public Works. <i>Global Climate Change: Hearings before the Committee on Environment and Public Works</i> . 105th Cong., 1st sess., July 10 and July 17, 1997.

Source: CMS15, 17.307

House or Senate document, House or Senate report, etc.

Materials published in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set can be cited using the models under the headings below, substituting the appropriate type using the following abbreviations:

- House document (H. Doc.)
- House miscellaneous document (H. Misc. Doc.)
- House report (H. Rep.)
- Senate document (S. Doc.)
- Senate executive report (S. Exec. Rep.)
- Senate report (S. Rep.)
- Senate treaty document (S. Treaty Doc.)

If possible, include the Serial Set volume number (after “serial” in the examples). (CMS15, 17.306)

NOTE	<p>48. U.S. Congress, Senate, <i>Dietetic Importance of Florida Fruits. Article from the Herald, Miami, Fla., Sunday, July 1, 1934, on the Dietetic Importance of Florida Fruits, by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, which was Read before the Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Florida Horticultural Society at Orlando</i>, January 3 (Calendar Day, January 4), 1935, 74th Cong., 1st sess., 1935, S. Doc. 7, serial 9909, 7.</p> <p>49. U.S. President, <i>Developments Concerning the National Emergency with Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Message from the President of the United States Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency Declared by Executive Order No. 12938 of November 14, 1994 ... Pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c)</i>, 105th Cong., 2d sess., 1998. H. Doc. 105-271, 4-6.</p> <p>50. U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, <i>Acadia National Park Improvement Act: Report (to Accompany S. 1329)</i>, 110th Cong., 2d sess., 2008, S. Rep. 110–291, 6-7, http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS93319.</p>
SHORTENED NOTE	<p>51. U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee, <i>Acadia National Park</i>, 5.</p>
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	<p>U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. <i>Acadia National Park Improvement Act: Report (to Accompany S. 1329)</i>. 110th Cong., 2d sess., 2008. S. Rep. 110–291. http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS93319.</p> <p>U.S. Congress. Senate. <i>Dietetic Importance of Florida Fruits. Article from the Herald, Miami, Fla., Sunday, July 1, 1934, on the Dietetic Importance of Florida Fruits, by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, which was Read before the Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Florida Horticultural Society at Orlando</i>. January 3 (Calendar Day, January 4), 1935. 74th Cong., 1st sess., 1935. S. Doc. 7, serial 9909.</p> <p>U.S. President. <i>Developments Concerning the National Emergency with Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Message from the President of the United States Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency Declared by Executive Order No. 12938 of November 14, 1994 ... Pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c)</i>. 105th Cong., 2d sess., 1998. H. Doc. 105-271.</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.293, 17.306

American State Papers

In the pairs of examples below, the first of each pair includes both class (series) (8) and volume (3) numbers; the second of each pair includes only the volume (3) number. Both the class (series) and volume numbers are usually cited. (CMS15, 17.306)

NOTE	<p>55. Application of Maine for a Grant of Land for the Purpose of Education, Communicated to the Senate, January 29, 1822, <i>American State Papers</i>, 8, <i>Public Lands</i> 3: 511.</p> <p>56. Application of Maine for a Grant of Land for the Purpose of Education, Communicated to the Senate, January 29, 1822, <i>American State Papers: Public Lands</i> 3: 511.</p>
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	<p>Application of Maine for a Grant of Land for the Purpose of Education, Communicated to the Senate, January 29, 1822. <i>American State Papers</i>, 8, <i>Public Lands</i> 3: 511.</p> <p>Application of Maine for a Grant of Land for the Purpose of Education, Communicated to the Senate, January 29, 1822. <i>American State Papers: Public Lands</i> 3: 511.</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.313

Congressional Serial Set

Materials published in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set can be cited using the models under the heading “Congressional document, congressional report, etc.”

Committee print

“The relevant committee is usually listed as author” but if the individual(s) who prepared the committee print is more relevant to the discussion, that individual(s) may be cited as primary author. (CMS15, 17.308)

NOTE	<p>63. U.S. Congress, Joint Economic Committee, Subcommittee on Agriculture and Transportation, <i>Selling out the Family Farm: A Classic Case of Good Intentions Gone Awry: A Report</i>, report prepared by Owen D. Ambur, 99th Cong., 2d sess., 1986, Committee Print 99-208, 12-13.</p> <p>64. Owen D. Ambur, <i>Selling out the Family Farm: A Classic Case of Good Intentions Gone Awry: A Report</i>, report prepared for the use of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and Transportation of the Joint Economic Committee, 99th Cong., 2d sess., 1986, Committee Print 99-208, 12-13.</p> <p>65. <i>East Germany's Time of Crisis</i>, printed for the use of the House Committee on Small Business, 101st Cong., 2d sess., 1990, Committee Print 101-2.</p>
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	<p>U.S. Congress. Joint Economic Committee. Subcommittee on Agriculture and Transportation. <i>Selling out the Family Farm: A Classic Case of Good Intentions Gone Awry: A Report</i>. 99th Cong., 2d sess., 1986. Committee Print 99-208.</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.308

Congressional Record, Annals of Congress, Register of Debates in Congress, and the Congressional Globe

When possible, the permanent (bound) edition of the *Congressional Record* should be cited rather than the daily (unbound) edition. (CMS15, 17.302)

The predecessors of the *Congressional Record* may be cited using the examples below as models, using the appropriate title in place of “*Congressional Record*”.

- *Annals of Congress*, covering years 1789-1824
- *Register of Debates in Congress*, covering years 1824-1837
- *Congressional Globe*, covering years 1833-1873
- *Congressional Record*, covering years 1873-

<p>NOTE (bound ed.)</p>	<p>72. <i>Food Security Act of 1985</i>, HR 2100, 99th Cong., 1st sess., <i>Congressional Record</i> 131, pt. 19: 26641.</p> <p>73. Senator Thurmond, speaking on S. 2189, on March 10, 1982, 97th Cong., 1st sess., <i>Congressional Record</i> 128, pt. 3:3832.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">By Mr. THURMOND: S. 2189. A bill to amend section 1951 of title 18 of the United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary. LEGISLATION DEALING WITH EXTORTION</p> </div>
<p>NOTE (daily ed.)</p>	<p>72. <i>Food Security Act of 1985</i>, HR 2100, 99th Cong., 1st sess., <i>Congressional Record</i> 131 (October 8, 1985): H 8461.</p> <p>73. Senator Thurmond, speaking on S. 2189, 97th Cong., 1st sess., <i>Congressional Record</i> 130 (March 10, 1982): S 1910.</p>	
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY (bound ed.)</p>	<p><i>Food Security Act of 1985</i>. HR 2100. 99th Cong., 1st sess., <i>Congressional Record</i> 131, pt. 19: 26581-26655.</p> <p>U.S. Congress. <i>Congressional Record</i>. 105th Cong., 1st sess., 1997. Vol. 143, pt. 7.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>That this Act may be cited as the "Food Security Act of 1985".</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TABLE OF CONTENTS</p> <p>SEC. 2. The following is the table of contents for this Act:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TABLE OF CONTENTS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TITLE I—SUGAR</p> <p>Sec. 1. Sugar price support.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Division A—Commodity Programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TITLE II—DAIRY</p> </div>

Source: CMS15, 17.302

House or Senate journal

<p>NOTE</p>	<p>85. U.S. Congress, <i>Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States</i>, 68th Cong., 1st sess., March 25, 1924, 367.</p>
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY</p>	<p>U.S. Congress. <i>Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States</i>. 68th Cong., 1st sess., March 25, 1924.</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.301

U.S. Statutes at Large

Public laws are first published separately as “slip laws” and are later bound together in the *U.S. Statutes at Large*. The examples in this section show how to cite laws published in the *U.S. Statutes at Large*. See also examples under the heading “United States Code”.

NOTE	<p>92. <i>An Act Making Appropriations for the Departments of State and Justice and for the Judiciary and or the Departments of Commerce and Labor, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1926, and for Other Purposes</i>, Public Law 502, <i>U.S. Statutes at Large</i> 43 (1925): 1023-1024.</p> <p>93. <i>Education of the Deaf Act Amendments of 1992</i>, Public Law 102-421, <i>U.S. Statutes at Large</i> 106 (1992): 2152-2154.</p>
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	<p><i>An Act Making Appropriations for the Departments of State and Justice and for the Judiciary and or the Departments of Commerce and Labor, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1926, and for Other Purposes</i>. Public Law 502. <i>U.S. Statutes at Large</i> 43 (1925): 1023-1024.</p> <p><i>Education of the Deaf Act Amendments of 1992</i>, Public Law 102-421, <i>U.S. Statutes at Large</i> 106 (1992): 2152-2154.</p>

Source: CMS15, 17.310

United States Code

The examples in this section show how to cite laws published in the *United States Code*. See also examples under the heading “U.S. Statutes at Large”.

NOTE	95. <i>Commodity Exchange Act</i> , <i>U.S. Code</i> 7 (2006), §§ 1 et seq.
SHORTENED NOTE	96. <i>Commodity Exchange Act</i> , § 2.
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	<i>Commodity Exchange Act</i> , <i>U.S. Code</i> 7 (2006), §§ 1 et seq.

Source: CMS15, 17.310

Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports

Inclusion of the report number, in these examples “RL34234”, may assist the reader in finding the report.

NOTE	101. U.S. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, <i>Managing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Policy Implications of Expanding Global Access to Nuclear Power</i> , by Mary Beth Nikitin, Anthony Andrews, and Mark Holt, RL34234 (2012).
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. <i>Managing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Policy Implications of Expanding Global Access to Nuclear Power</i> , by Mary Beth Nikitin, Anthony Andrews, and Mark Holt. RL34234. 2012.

Source: CMS15, 17.317 (patterned after executive branch documents)

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports (formerly General Accounting Office Reports)

Inclusion of the report number, in these examples “GAO-15-477”, may assist the reader in finding the report.

NOTE	105. U.S. Government Accountability Office, <i>Whistleblower Protection: DOD Needs to Enhance Oversight of Military Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations</i> , GAO-15-477 (Washington, DC, 2015), 17, http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-477 .
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	U.S. Government Accountability Office. <i>Whistleblower Protection: DOD Needs to Enhance Oversight of Military Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations</i> . GAO-15-477. Washington, DC, 2015. http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-477 .

Source: CMS15, 17.317 (patterned after executive branch documents)

Judicial Branch Documents

Supreme Court Decisions

In these examples, “384” is the volume number, “U.S.” is the abbreviation of the law reporter title (*United States Reports*), “436” is the page number, and “1966” is the year in which the case was decided.

NOTE	114. <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> , 384 U.S. 436 (1966).
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY	<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> . 384 U.S. 436 (1966).

Source: CMS15, 17.284