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**Documenting Electronic Sources**

For every source in your paper, you must provide complete bibliographical information so your reader will know where you got the information. This allows your readers to find the sources in order to evaluate your interpretation of them or read more extensively from them to gain a deeper understanding of the topic. There are numerous ways to document sources, and most academic disciplines have their own preferred methods and style manuals to guide the way. While each historian is different and opinions are in a constant state of flux, the most widely used manual for historians continues to be *The Chicago Manual of Style*.1

*The Chicago Manual of Style* uses a system of footnotes or endnotes for documentation, along with a bibliography. Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* and Mary Lynn Rampolla’s *A Pocket Guide to Writing History* are also widely used by historians, since they are both based on the Chicago system of documentation.2 Most historians, feeling the system imprecise and prone to misunderstandings, do not accept parenthetical documentation as promoted by the Modern Language Association. However, as with all issues about writing, you should consult your professor’s guidelines for documentation and follow them*.* The following examples, based on the Chicago system, are simply models. They should not take the place of using the appropriate style manuals for your classes, especially since the examples treat only the most common citations. Please direct any questions you have to your professor or the HL.

 **Note**: The first example in each case is the note form, footnote or endnote, and the second example in each case is the bibliography form. Take notice of the differences between the two forms in word order, punctuation, spacing, and format.

1 *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers*, 16th ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010).

2 Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013).; Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 7th ed. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2012).

**Web Sites**

2

\* You should include as much of the following information as you can find

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\* You may limit your citations of a Web site to the notes, unless it is critical to your argument or frequently cited (or both)

\* Footnote/Endnote Form

16 Louis Kyriakoudes, “Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage,” The University of Southern Mississippi, n.d., accessed 22 August 2014, <http://www.usm.edu/oral-history.>

17 Cotton Mather, “The Duties of Children to Their Parents (1703),” *The Hall of Church History*, 2001, accessed 22 August 2014, <http://www.spurgeon.org/~phil/mather/dut-chi.htm.>

19 National Park Service, “Vicksburg National Military Park,” National Park Service. n.d., accessed 22 August 2014, <http://www.nps.gov/vick/index.htm.>

\* Bibliography Form

\* If there is no author, list the source under the name of the owner or sponsor.

Kyriakoudes, Louis. The University of Southern Mississippi. “Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage.” The University of Southern Mississippi. n.d. Accessed 22 August 2014. <http://www.usm.edu/oral-history.>

Mather, Cotton. “The Duties of Children to Their Parents (1703). *The Hall of Church History*. 2001. Accessed 22 August 2014. <http://www.spurgeon.org/~phil/mather/dut-chi.htm.>

National Park Service. “Vicksburg National Military Park.” National Park Service. n.d. Accessed 22 August 2014. <http://www.nps.gov/vick/index.htm.>

**Online Journal Articles**

3

* Include the following information
* Author’s name
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* Issue number
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* Page numbers
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* URL
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24 Douglas B. Chambers, “This Dreamer Cometh: The National Civil Rights Museum,” *American Visions* 14, no. 5 (October/November 1999): 41, accessed 22 August 2014, [http://web.a.ebscohost.com.lynx.lib.usm.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=8609247d-62ec-443a-9408-cb4300180818%40sessionmgr4001&vid=29&hid=4212.](http://web.a.ebscohost.com.lynx.lib.usm.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=8609247d-62ec-443a-9408-cb4300180818%2540sessionmgr4001&vid=29&hid=4212.)

* Bibliography Form

Chambers, Douglas B. “This Dreamer Cometh: The National Civil Rights Museum.” *American Visions* 14, no. 5 (October/November 1999): 40 – 42. Accessed 22 August 2014. [http://web.a.ebscohost.com.lynx.lib.usm.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=8609247d-62ec-443a-9408-cb4300180818%40sessionmgr4001&vid=29&hid=4212](http://web.a.ebscohost.com.lynx.lib.usm.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=8609247d-62ec-443a-9408-cb4300180818%2540sessionmgr4001&vid=29&hid=4212)

**Online Encyclopedias**

* WIKIPEDIA: is NOT a viable source for formal History papers.
* Entries are not checked for historical accuracy.
* AVOID using Wikipedia in a history paper. \*
* Footnote/Endnote Form

56 “Ming Dynasty,” *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, December 2013, accessed 22 August 2014, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/383846/Ming-dynasty.>

* Bibliography Form

“Ming Dynasty.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. December 2013. Accessed August 2014. <http://www.britannica.com/Ebchecked/topic/383846/Ming-dynasty>

**E-mails**

4

\* Only cite in the notes

\* Include the following information

* Name of the other person
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42 Heather Stur, e-mail to author, 18 August 2014.

\* Avoid depending exclusively on electronic sources.

\* Be sure to depend on material from academically accredited institutions. \* When you use electronic sources suppress the hyperlinks.