This file is intended as a brief introduction to the Chicago author-date specification (16th ed.) (CMS 2010) as implemented by biblatex-chicago, and falls somewhere in between the “Quick-start” section of biblatex-chicago.pdf and the full documentation as presented in section 5 of that same document. I’ve attempted to design this introduction for ease of cross-reference, so clicking on citations should bring you to the reference list entry, whence clicking on the entry key in the annotations should present you with the entry as it appears in the .bib file, where clicking on the entry type should return you to the reference list. If you have questions beyond the scope of this introduction, then the full documentation is the place to look next — marginal notes here refer to section or page numbers there, and if you’ve installed the package using the standard \TeX \ Live method then clicking on these marginal notes should take you to the other document. If you can’t find answers there, please write to me at the email address in biblatex-chicago.pdf.

Important Note

Starting with biblatex version 1.5, in order to adhere to the author-date specification you will need to use Biber to process your .bib files, as BIB\TeX \ (and its more recent variants) will no longer provide all the features the style requires. For this release, you really need the current versions of Biber (2.10) and biblatex (3.10), which contain features and bug-fixes on which my own code relies. The advice that follows in this document assumes that you are using Biber; if you wish to continue using BIB\TeX \ then you need biblatex version 1.4c and biblatex-chicago 0.9.7a.

Editions

The 16th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style implements significant changes to what the author-date specification has, historically, recommended, and there are certain to be users who prefer the older format with titles capitalized sentence-style and not, in the case of most un-book-like entries, enclosed in quotation marks. For such users, the authordate-trad style, as envisaged by the CMS (2010, 15.45), grafts the traditional Chicago author-date title formatting onto the current recommendations for the remainder of the reference apparatus. Please consult cms-trad-appendix.pdf for notes on the few .bib entries from this introduction that would require modification for the trad style; for the remainder, you’ll notice a few extra sets of curly braces in various title fields to make the entry usable in both author-date styles. I have removed the 15th-edition styles from the package to prepare for the appearance of the new 17th-edition styles, which will be the focus of my attention, after this last 16th-edition release.

Usage

As a general rule, you’ll probably want to use the \autocite command for most citations. For most sources, the result will be exactly as you expect it to be. A few examples: (Adorno and Benjamin 1999); (Ashbrook and Albright 1997); (Babb 1989); (Barcott 2000). Any page references should also appear as you expect: (Batson 1990, 338); (Beattie 1974, 79); (Boxer 1953, 36).
Repeated citations

Repeated citations are somewhat complicated. The Chicago author-date style doesn’t use “Ibid,” but in general a repeated citation on the same page will print only the page reference: (Browning 1996); (45). Technically, this should only occur when a source is cited “more than once in one paragraph” (CMS 2010, 15.26), so you can use the \citereset command from biblatex to achieve the greatest compliance, as the package only offers automatic resetting on part, chapter, section, and subsection boundaries, while biblatex-chicago automatically resets the tracker at page breaks:
\citereset (CMS 2010, 15.27). If you are going to repeat a source, make sure that the cite command provides a postnote — when using biblatex-chicago you’ll no longer get any annoying empty parentheses, but you will get another standard citation, which may add too much clutter: (CMS 2010). If you don’t need to cite a specific page, then it may be better, or at least more concise, only to use one citation command rather than two.

Other citation commands

The other citation commands from biblatex also work fine:
\textcite: Conley (1999); \autocite*: (1982); \cite: Conway 1998; \cite*: 2001; \footnote with \autocite: ' \footcite (=\cite inside a \footnote).²

Multicites should work as you expect, too:
\autocites: (Electronic Book Technology Inc. 1991; Eliot 1953); \autocites by the same author: (Pirumova 1977a, 1977b); \autocites by the same author with postnotes: (Pirumova 1977a; 1977b, 14); \textcites by the same author with postnotes: Pirumova (1977a, 37; 1977b).

Biblatex-chicago now also provides a \gentextcite command, which prints an Author’s (forthcoming) name in the genitive case in what is otherwise a standard \textcite. If you want to change the default – ‘s – printed there you can specify whatever text you wish like so: \gentextcite[<ending>][{entry:key}]. There is also a \gentextcites command, modified thus: \gentextcites[<ending>](){key1}{key2}.

Shorthands

Chicago’s author-date style only seems to recommend the use of shorthands as abbreviations for long authors’ names, particularly institutional names (CMS 2010, 15.36). By default, I have followed this recommendation: \autocites: (BSI 1985; ISO 2001); \textcites: BSI (1985) and ISO (2001). This shorthand will by default appear at the head of the entry in the list of references, followed by the parenthesized expansion of the shorthand, taken from the author field. (This is a change from the 15th edition.) You will usually also need a sortkey field to make sure that the entry is alphabetized by the shorthand rather than by the title. If you use a \printbiblist{shorthand} command, the list of shorthands will still be printed, so you now have a variety of options available for presenting the expansions depending on your specific requirements. Please note, also, that you can get back something approaching the “standard” behavior of shorthands if you give the cmslos=false option to biblatex-chicago in your document preamble.

1. (Donne 1995).
2. Dunn 1999.
Mildly problematic entries

In most entries, the absence of an author can be supplied by, e.g., an editor or a translator: (Crow and Olson 1966); (Silverstein 1974). Sometimes an anonymous work’s author is known or can be guessed: ([Horsley] 1796); ([Cook?] 1730). Alternatively, in some cases the title may appear in place of the author: (Stanze 1547); (True and Sincere Declaration 1610). The 16th edition is less than enthusiastic about the use of “Anon.” as author.

By default, in most entry types, an absent date will automatically provoke Biber into searching for other sorts of dates in the entry, in the order year, eventyear, origyear, urlyear: e.g., (Evans-ton Public Library 2002), which only has a urlyear. In three entry types — Music, Review, and Video — this search order is eventyear, origyear, year, urlyear, as in these types the earliest year should take precedence (cf. page 5, below). You can also change the default search order, for all but the three types just mentioned, by using the \texttt{cmsdate} option in the preamble of your document, instead of (or in addition to) using it in the options field of individual entries. Setting that option in the preamble either to “both” or “on” makes the document-wide search order: origyear, year, eventyear, urlyear. This may be useful for documents that contain many entries with multiple dates, and where you want always to present the earlier (i.e., orig) dates at the head of reference list entries and in citations. You can eliminate some of these dates from the running, or change the search order, using the \texttt{\textbackslash DeclareLabeldate} command in your preamble, but please be aware that I have hard-coded the possibilities above into the author-date style in order to cope with some tricky corners of the specification. If you reorder these dates, and your references enter these tricky corners, the results might be surprising. (Cf. section 4.5.8 in \texttt{biblatex.pdf}.)

In most entry types, the absence of all four possible dates will automatically produce “n.d.” instead: (Bernstein, n.d.). You can also give it yourself in the form \texttt{\textbackslash bibstring\{nodate\}}: (Ross, n.d.). A date that can be guessed should appear within square brackets: (Clark [1957?]).

You can handle forthcoming works in one of two ways: either by using the \texttt{\textbackslash autocap} macro and the year (instead of the date) field, or by placing the exact string \texttt{forthcoming} in the \texttt{pubstate} field. Either way the word will appear, correctly capitalized, in both citations and the list of references: (Author, forthcoming); (Contributor, forthcoming).

The 16th edition of the \textit{Manual} has changed the rules for entries with more than one date (CMS 2010, 15.38). First, Music, Review, and Video entries have their own rules, which are applied automatically. (Once again, see page 5, below.) For other entry types, there are two options, corresponding to two different states of the \texttt{cmsdate} entry (or preamble) option. The default is \texttt{cmsdate=off}: (Maitland 1926). Here, setting the \texttt{pubstate} field to \texttt{reprint} ensures that a notice of the original publication date will be printed at the end of the reference list entry. Alternatively, you can use \texttt{cmsdate=both}: (Emerson [1836] 1985); (Maitland [1898] 1998). \texttt{cmsdate=new} and \texttt{cmsdate=old} are both now synonyms of \texttt{both}, while \texttt{cmsdate=on} is still available even though it falls outside the specification: (James 1909). These options, in combination with others available in your .bib files, can cover a wide range of difficult cases. Please see the next section below, and also the following entries in dates-test.bib: (Schweitzer [1911] 1966; White 1946a, 1946b).

Corners of the specification

In some cases, the \textit{Manual} isn’t altogether clear about how to present entries in the author-date style. By following up on suggestions from the notes & bibliography style, one can be reasonably certain about most of what follows, but if you interpret the specification differently please let me know.
In Reference entries

These present several peculiarities: the title of the work should always take the place of any author, no “n.d.” will automatically be provided, and any postnote field will be enclosed in quotation marks preceded by “s.v.” for “sub verbo.” This allows you to refer to alphabetized articles in well-known reference works: (Ency. Brit., 15th ed., s.v. “Hume, David”); (New Grove Dict. 2002, s.v. “Sibelius, Jean”); (Wikipedia 2012, s.v. “BibTeX”).

Author-less Article, Review, and Manual entries

In Article and Review entries with the magazine entrysubtype, the absence of an author automatically places the journaltitle of the periodical in citations and at the head of the entry in the list of references: (Gourmet 2000). (Without the entrysubtype, you’ll get the title at the head rather than the journaltitle.) You can cite newspaper and magazine articles entirely within the text, i.e., without them appearing in the reference list (CMS 2010, 15.47), if you set the cmsdate=full entry option: (Lake Forester, March 23, 2000); (New York Times, April 10, 2000). In Manual entries, the organization field does the same: (Electronic Book Technology Inc. 1991). If you wish to present an abbreviated form of the organization name in citations only, then the shortauthor field — or in other cases the shorthand field — is the place for it: (BSI 1985). For abbreviated journaltitles, you can use shortjournal, which also allows you, should you wish, to provide a list of abbreviated journal names with their expansions using \printbiblist{shortjournal}: (Ergänzungsblätter z. Allg. Lit.-Ztg. 1828).

Misc entries with an entrysubtype

When citing individual letter-like pieces from an unpublished archive where only an origin-date is present, you no longer need to set the cmsdate option in your .bib entry, as Biber and biblatex-chicago now handle this automatically: (Creel 1918). Non-letters, e.g., interviews, use the date field, so you don’t need cmsdate there, either: (Spock 1974). For undated pieces you can put \bibstring{nodate} in the year field: (Dinkel, n.d.). For citing whole collections, see the next section.

entrysubtype = {classical}

This option’s name derives from its use for citing texts from classical antiquity, though in the author-date style especially it can be put to use in several other contexts. In a nutshell, any entry with such an entrysubtype will be treated, in citations only, not as author-date but as author-title. (Entries in the list of references, e.g., a particular edition of Aristotle, will still appear in standard author-date format.) A \cite* or \autocite* command will, in such a case, produce the title rather than the year. Some examples should make this clearer:

Classical works: without abbreviation: (Aristotle Metaphysica); with abbreviation: (Aristotle Metaph.); (Pl. Resp.); using standard pagination: (Metaph. 3.2.996b5–8); (Resp. 420e); work cited by page of a modern edition, i.e., without entrysubtype: (Euripides 1958, 198).

Sacred works, e.g., the Bible and the Qur’an: (Gen. 25:19–36:43).

An unpublished archive, from which more than one work has been cited: (House Papers, file 12). (Both this and the previous example use a Misc entry with classical entrysubtype.)
Comments inside citations

If you wish to include a comment inside the parentheses of a citation, it will need to be separated by a semicolon (CMS 2010, 15.23). If you have a postnote, then you can manually provide the punctuation and comment in that field, e.g., (Stendhal 1925, 4; the unrevised trans.). Without a postnote, you have two choices. You can enable the postnotepunct package option, which allows you simply to type \autocite[; the unrevised trans.]{stendhal:parma} (Stendhal 1925; the unrevised trans.), or you can continue to use a separate Misc or CustomC entry containing just the text of the comment in the title field, entrysubtype classical, and options skipbib. An \autocites command calling both the main text and the comment will then do the trick, e.g., (CMS 2010; the most recent edition).

Multiple authors

The default settings in biblatex-chicago are maxnames=3, minnames=1 in citations and maxbibnames=10, minbibnames=7 in the list of references (these latter parameters set in biblatex-chicago.sty). In practice, this means that an entry like hlatky:hrt, with 5 authors, will present all of them in the list of references but will truncate to one in citations, like so: (Hlatky et al. 2002). For the vast majority of circumstances, these settings are exactly right for the Chicago author-date specification. However, if “a reference list includes another work of the same date that would also be abbreviated as [‘Hlatky et al.’] but whose coauthors are different persons or listed in a different order, the text citations must distinguish between them” (CMS 2010, 15.28). The (Biber-only) biblatex option uniquelist, set for you in biblatex-chicago.sty, will automatically handle many of these situations for you, but it is as well to understand that it does so by temporarily suspending the limits, listed above, on how many names to print in a citation. Without uniquelist, biblatex would present such a work as, e.g., (Hlatky et al. 2002b), while hlatky:hrt would be (Hlatky et al. 2002a). This does distinguish between them, but inaccurately, as it suggests that the two different author lists are exactly the same. With uniquelist, the two citations might look like (Hlatky, Boothroyd et al. 2002) and (Hlatky, Smith et al. 2002), which is what the specification requires.

If, however, the distinguishing name occurs further down the author list — in fourth or fifth position in our examples — then the default settings would produce citations with all 4 or 5 names printed, which can become awkwardly long. In such a situation, you can provide short-author fields that look like this: {{Hlatky et al., \mkbibquote{Quality of Life,}}} and {{Hlatky et al., \mkbibquote{Depressive Symptoms,}}}, using a shortened title to distinguish the references. This would produce (Hlatky et al., “Quality of Life,” 2002) and (Hlatky et al., “Depressive Symptoms,” 2002), as the spec recommends. There is, unfortunately, no simpler way that I know of to deal with this situation.

Audiovisual entries

According to the Manual, “Chicago recommends a more comprehensive approach to dating audiovisual materials than in previous editions.” This means, for instance, that, even when consulting a digital copy, “it is generally useful to give information about the original source.” Also, “the date of the original recording should be privileged in the citation” (15.53). The rather more book-like entries are generally unaffected by these changes, so published (Audio) and unpublished (Misc) scores are no problem at all: (Schubert 1895); (Verdi 1998); (Shapey 1966). The dating of online materials has been enhanced: (Coolidge [1920?]); (“HOROWITZ” 1968); (Pollan 2007). The most significant changes, however, appear in Music and Video entries, where every effort should be made to find date(s) for sources: (Auden 1991); (Curtis and Malins 1996); (Handel 1987); (Holiday 1958); (New York Trumpet Ensemble 1981). Others perhaps require further information in the entry or genuinely are better suited to presentation
in running text: (Beethoven, n.d.). The standard biblatex tools for subdividing reference lists are all available if you want to follow the Manual’s recommendations on presenting this kind of material separately from other sources.

Related entries

Biblatex provides a powerful mechanism, using the related field, for grouping two (or more) works together in a single entry in the list of references, while biblatex-chicago offers both this functionality and some Chicago-specific variants which employ different means. You can find a full discussion of this in biblatex-chicago.pdf, but a few of the entries already cited in this introduction show some of the possibilities: (Aristotle Metaphysica); (Coolidge [1920?]); (Emerson [1836] 1985); (Schweitzer [1911] 1966).

In conclusion

Allow me, finally, to emphasize just how multifarious are the sources illustrated in the CMS, only a small selection of which have appeared in this introduction. You will find significantly fuller guidance in biblatex.pdf and biblatex-chicago.pdf, but the CMS itself defines the specification and shall arbitrate all disputes. If you see something in biblatex-chicago that looks wrong to you, or if the documentation has left you perplexed, please let me know.

References


[adorno:benj] A published collection of letters, in a Book entry rather than Letter. Citations of it could provide details of the individual letter in the running text, and/or just cite by page number.


[aristotle:metaphy:gr] A work from classical antiquity, presented in a Book entry with classical entrysubtype, hence in-text citations will be author-title rather than author-date. This assumes you are using the traditional, fixed divisions of the text, in this case those of Bekker’s edition, instead of page references to this particular edition. In the latter case, you wouldn’t need the entrysubtype. Putting skipbib in the options field means it won’t be printed separately in the reference list, because it will be appended to the entry for the English translation, given below. This volume is a reprint edition, identified as such in the pubstate field. The absence of any cmsdate instruction in the options field means that the reprint information is presented as you see it here. The shorttitle provides the officially-sanctioned abbreviation for this work in citations, should you want to use such abbreviations.

[aristotle:metaphy:trans] The translation of the previous entry, in this case also using Book with classical entrysubtype, as citations will be by the pages of Bekker’s edition. The userf field contains the entry key for the Greek original, which means the entry in the list of references will contain the translation followed by the Greek text. The origlanguage field means that the connecting text between the two books in the list of references will read “Greek edition:” instead of
“Originally published as.” Note also nameb, the translator of this particular volume of the main-
title, as distinct from the editor of the whole series, even though in this case they happen to be
the same person.


[ashbrook:brain] A typical InBook entry, identified by title and also, in this case, by chapter num-
ber rather than page range.


[auden:reading] A spoken-word recording, here presented as a Music entry, though the CMS
sometimes uses a more book-like presentation for such material, using an Audio entry, as with
twain:audio in dates-test.bib.

Author, Margaret M. Forthcoming. “Article Title.” Journal Name 98.

[author:forthcoming] An example of how to deal with a forthcoming Article by placing the string
forthcoming into the pubstate field. Cf. the alternate way of doing this in contrib:contrib.


[barcott:review] A Review entry presenting a review from a newspaper, with keyword magazine
in entrysubtype, and with the \bibstring reviewof in the title field. You could just write “re-
view of” instead, but the \bibstring makes the entry portable across languages. Note the for-
matting of the reviewed book’s title using \mkbibemph, and the headline-style capitalization you
have to provide by hand inside that formatting, which makes this entry incorrect for the trad
style.

Psychologist 45 (March): 336–46.

[batson] A very typical Article entry, but notice that you no longer need to include the subtitle
in the title field when the latter ends in a question mark, as the styles now do the right thing
automatically.

95.


[beethoven:sonata29] A musical recording exhibiting several of the peculiarities common to the
audiovisual entry types. Here, the composer goes in the author field, while the performer goes
into the editor field. The editortype none prevents any identifying string being used for the per-
former, as none is needed. As in most Music entries, the series and number give label identifying
information. In the absence of any sort of date whatsoever, the style provides the string “n.d.” for
citations, a situation generally frowned upon by the CMS.

[bernstein:shostakovich] This is a rather abbreviated Music entry, lacking a date and a type. It does, however, show the method for emphasizing the conductor instead of the composer (the options field), and also for identifying the conductor in the editor type field. Here, the performing orchestra goes in the editora field, and the editoratype none prevents any string attaching to the orchestra, as one isn’t needed. The usual series and number give the label information. The CMS strongly encourages you to find a date for such an entry – online resources should be able to help.


[boxer:china] A Book entry with a series and a number. In all book-like entries (as opposed to Article, Periodical, and Review entries, for example) the series field will be a name, as here, while the number field may contain such information as “2nd ser.” or “vol. 3,” or just a plain number. Putting “2nd ser.” in the number field may seem counter-intuitive, but it’s necessary for getting the punctuation to work out right.


[browning:aurora] A Book entry with a series field, but no number.


[bsi:abbreviation] A Manual entry providing an author in the organization field and a shorthand field for in-text citations. By default, the shorthand will be printed at the head of the entry, followed by the expansion in parentheses. The sortname field ensures that the entry is correctly alphabetized by the first thing you see in the entry, i.e., the shorthand.


[clark:mesopot] A standard Booklet entry, though the same information could be presented in a Book entry, using publisher instead of howpublished. Note the brackets around the year, as this is obviously a best guess.


[conley:fifthgrade] An Article that is part of a special issue of a journal. The title of the issue goes in issuetitle, the editor of the issue in editor, and the sort of issue in note, with a lowercase initial letter. Cf. good:wholeissue for how to refer to the special issue as a whole, rather than to one article in it, using a Periodical entry.


[connell:chronic] An Article with italicized words in the title.


[contrib:contrib] A forthcoming essay in an InCollection entry. Note the \author:forthcoming command in the year field. The author:forthcoming entry presents an alternate way of providing the same information.

[conway:evolution] An Article in a journaltitle which appears in different series, here “B” for Biological, which information can be given in the volume field.


[cook:sotweed] A complicated Book entry. First, the author is unknown, but guessed at, hence the anon? in the authortype field. The note field gives the author as printed in the book, presented inside quotation marks. If you remember to use \kbbibquote here, then appropriate punctuation will automatically be provided.


[loc:leaders] This Online entry provides the online location of the coolidge:speech entry. As the parent entry calls this using a related field, you no longer need a skipbib option to keep it from appearing in the reference list, nor do you need a kludge in the year field to keep a spurious “n.d.” from appearing.

[coolidge:speech] This is a recording from an online archive, using an Online entry. The related field cites the archive itself using an Online entry, and the relatedstring links the two references. The options field replaces the period with a space before the parenthesized titleaddon. Cp. weed:flatiron and loc:city, which cite a film from an online archive, both using a Video entry. Note that if you use the Online type for this, instead of Misc with an entrysubtype, it will work just as well in the authordate-trad style.


[creel:house] An unpublished letter from an archive, presented in a Misc entry with an entrysubtype. The cmsdate option is no longer needed in such an entry. The manuscript collection is found in the note and organization fields – depending on the entry, you can use note, organization, institution, and/or location, in ascending order of generality, though you should consistently put the most specific collection name in the note field. If you are citing several items from the same collection, then the CMS, 15.49, suggests not having individual entries but only one for the collection (house:papers), with more specific information forming part of the flow of the text. If, however, you cite only one item from a collection, then you can use an entry like this one. Cf. dinkel:agassiz, spock:interview.


[chaucer:alt] In the author-date system, unlike in a bibliography or note, an entry will generally need some sort of name to precede the date, so here the editors provide that name. The compilers go in namec, and other information in note. Cf. this entry in notes-test.bib.


[friends:leia] This is a template for citing television shows. The eventdate is the original broadcast date, while the date applies to the medium you are citing. As in other audiovisual entries, the
earliest date automatically goes at the head of the entry. Note that information about the season and episode numbers goes in booktitleaddon.


[davenport:attention] An example of the use of an addendum in a Book entry, in this case to identify that the work is an e-book.


[dinkel:agassiz] A manuscript presented in a Misc entry with a randomly-selected entrysubtype to distinguish it from a traditional Misc entry. The title begins with a generic term, hence the initial lowercase letter. This entry uses three fields to locate the manuscript, starting with note and ascending in generality through organization to location. If you are citing several items from the same collection, then the CMS, 15.49, suggests not having individual entries but only one for the collection, with specific information forming part of the flow of the text. If, however, you cite only one item from a collection, then you can use an entry like this one. Note that, in Misc entries and a few others, an empty year field will not automatically produce a no date (“n.d.” in English) abbreviation, so if you want one to be present you’ll have to provide it yourself, as here. Cf. creel:house and house:papers.


[donne:var] A Book entry with a maintitle editor (editor field) and a title editor (namea field). Also, inside an italicized title, all other titles are put in quotation marks, and using \mkbibquote will automatically move appropriate punctuation inside the closing quotation mark. It also, however, means that this entry won’t be correctly presented for the authordate-trad style.


[dunn:revolutions] A Book with two publishers, showing ampersands to prevent them being treated as four.


[dyna:browser] A technical manual presented in a Manual entry. In absence of a named author the organization is printed twice, as author and as publisher. Note that you no longer need a sortkey when using the default sorting scheme.


[eliot:pound] A Book listed by its (famous) editor rather than by its (equally-famous) author. The options field allows such presentation.


[emerson:nature] A reprinted Book, in this case a facsimile, with the note field giving the relevant information. The origdate field gives the date of original publication. Note the use of a lowercase letter to start the note field. With the amount of information given in the note field, it may be less awkward to use a cmsdate option rather than to put reprint into a pubstate field. This cmsdate option will print both dates, in the format (1836) 1985.
Encyclopaedia Britannica. 15th ed.

An InReference entry, citing a well-known reference work, and therefore generally not to appear in the list of references, but for demonstration purposes I here allow it to do so. With an options field set to skipbib, you’d only need the shorttitle for citations. As it stands, the options field contains hypertitle, which ensures that the title acts as a hyperlink between the in-text citation and the entry in the list of references. The CMS is not altogether clear about how to present such information in the author-date style, so this should be looked upon as a possible style of presentation only.


A rather unusual Review entry (entrysubtype magazine), without an author. In the author-date style we allow the journaltitle to come first in the reference-list entry and provide an abbreviated shortjournal for citations. Note the formatting of the reviewed title in the title field. The number field provides the consecutive numbers of the magazine in which the review appeared, and the style automatically provides the correct (plural) bibstring.


A work from antiquity, cited by pages in a modern edition, hence not needing classical in entrysubtype. Since the titles of such works are uniformly italicized, we need to use a BookInBook entry with a title and a booktitle (“book within a book”), and in this case also a maintitle. Note the editors of the maintitle (editor field), and the translator of the title (nameb field).


An Online entry, with a corporate author, hence extra curly braces in author and shortauthor. The title field holds the title of the specific web page, while the organization field holds the title or owner of the site as a whole.

Genesis.

A simple Misc entry (w/ entrysubtype classical) that would allow you easily to cite the Qur’an or individual books of the Bible. Ordinarily it wouldn’t appear in the list of references, but it does here for demonstration purposes. Some other sacred works may need italicized titles. Cf. CMS, 14.253-255.


A regular column in a magazine, presented in a Review entry (with magazine entrysubtype). This name is capitalized headline style. Since there is no author, the journaltitle will be used instead; there is no longer any need for a sortkey.


This is a videotape of a performance, presented therefore as a Video entry rather than as Music. The composer goes in author, the performers and conductor in editor and editora. Note the none in both editortypes, as the context presumably makes it clear what role Shaw is playing. The usual type field identifies the medium. The eventdate, which will provide the date for the head of the entry and for citations, identifies when the performance took place, and the userd field allows you to specify just what sort of eventdate it is.


reference list entry, followed by its expansion (the author) in parentheses. The sortname ensures that the entry is alphabetized by the first thing that appears there, that is, the shorthand.


[james:ambassadors] This entry presents an online edition of a book which, not being inherently an online text, still uses a Book entry. The origyear field is the date of the print publication of the text that is now online, and the cmsdate=on option tells the style to use the origdate in both reference list and citations, something that isn’t part of the specification for the 16th edition, which would probably recommend both here.


[lakeforester:pushcarts] An Article entry from a newspaper, using a magazine entrysubtype. The article doesn’t have an author, so the journaltitle will be used at the head of the entry and in citations. The newspaper might not be well known, so the location field helps your readers out in this case. There is no longer any need for a sortkey. Finally, note the full key for the cmsdate option, which prints a full date specification in citations and means you wouldn’t need this entry to appear in the reference list, though I have allowed it to appear here as an example.


[maitland:canon] A reprint edition. The CMS gives many options for presenting this information. This example provides both dates at the head of the entry in the reference list and in citations, using cmsdate=new in the options field. It is identified as a reprint with the pubstate field. Cf. jones:ambassadors and maitland:equity for other alternatives.


[maitland:equity] Another reprint edition, showing an alternative way of presenting the information. This example provides just the date of the reprint at the head of the reference list and in the citation – there’s no cmsdate option, which means cmsdate=off – and then gives the date of the original, identified as such by a string, after the publication data. The string reprint in the pubstate field, even though it isn’t printed in the entry, is necessary to make this original publication information appear (unless you decide to use the relatedtype origpubin). Also, the sortyear field is necessary here because biblatex sorts automatically by the year rather than the origyear, and this entry from 1926 should come after maitland:canon which prints its origdate (1898) first. Cf. jones:ambassadors.


[grove:sibelius] An example of an online InReference entry, which I have allowed, as an example, to appear in the list of references. The author field refers to the author of the specific entry in lista, and will be printed after the name of that entry, set off by a comma. If you need to provide the author or editor of a reference work as a whole, then you should probably use a Book entry. (Cf. schellinger:novel.) Note the sortkey, needed because otherwise the author’s name will be used for sorting in the list of references. Note also that in citations of InReference entries, you can put an alphabetized article title in the postnote field, and it will be formatted for you automatically.


[nyt:trevorobit] An obituary in a Review entry (entrysubtype magazine). Without an author, the journaltitle will head the entry and appear in citations. The lowercase letter beginning the title field isn’t strictly necessary in the author-date style, but does no harm and maintains compati-
bility with the notes + bibliography style, just in case. The sortkey field is no longer needed. Note also the full key for the \cashedate option, which prints a full date specification in citations and means you wouldn’t need this entry to appear in the reference list, though I have allowed it to appear here as an example.


[nytrumpet:art] A well-populated Music entry. The title, date, author, shortauthor, number, series, sortkey, and type fields are fairly standard, and you can also specify the recording date of the album, which goes in the origdate field. The used field acts as a sort of date type field. In this example, the origdate would by default be preceded by the \bibstring recorded, but the used field allows you to provide your own here.


[pirumova] A Book entry presenting a Russian work, but giving the English translation of the title rather than the original, making it easier for a readership assumed to be without Russian to parse. In such a case, the language of the original goes in the language field. Also note the quotation marks around part of the publisher’s name, with biblatex providing the punctuation.


[pirumova:russian] The same work as the preceding entry, but giving the transliteration of the Russian title rather than the translation. In such a case, the translation of the title goes in the userd field. The langid field means that the subtitle doesn’t require any additional curly braces in the \trad style.


[plato:republic:gr] A work from antiquity, which will be cited by the traditional divisions, and which therefore requires the classical entrysubtype. The title of such a work being italicized, it needs a BookInBook entry, and it has all three sorts of title, plus a series to boot. The shortauthor and shorttitle fields provide the officially-sanctioned abbreviations for use in citations.


[pollan:plant] Another online video, presented in an Online entry. Note the userd field to modify the string printed before the urldate. Cf. harwood:biden, horowitz:youtube.


[ross:thesis] A Thesis entry with its type pre-defined by the alias MastersThesis. The nodate \bibstring (which gives “n.d.” in English) may be used in almost any entry type if you can’t find a date, though the author-date style automatically provides it in most types if you don’t.


[schubert:muellerin] An Audio entry presenting a published musical score. Note the presence of all three sorts of title, and the options field providing a space in place of a comma before the parenthesized maintitleaddon.

A reprinted Book, showing how to present this information by putting *reprint* in the `pubstate` field, the `origdate` into the `date` field, and the `date` into `origdate`. The style notices that the years have been switched with a simple numerical test, and prints them in their proper places. This would allow you to present several reprinted works from the same year by the same author, and have the years suffixed with a,b,c, etc. as required by the spec. The `cmsdate=both` option prints both dates. The `origlocation` and `origpublisher` fields allow you to present further information about the original edition, if you should so wish, and the `addendum` clarifies which edition will be providing the page references for citations.


An example of an unpublished musical score, presented in a Misc (with `entrysubtype`) rather than an Audio entry. Note that, having a non-generic title, you need to provide quotation marks in the title in the author-date style, which means that the entry is incorrect for the `trad` style.


Here, neither `author` nor `editor` are available, so the reference list entry and citations will start with the translator.


An unpublished interview from an archive, hence requiring the Misc entry type with an `entrysubtype`. The interview is dated, but isn’t letter-like, so you put the date in the `date` field. The interviewee is the author, and the title, with its initial lowercase letter, names the interviewer. This Misc entry has all 4 locating fields in increasing generality: `note`, `organization`, `institution`, and `location`. The first of these also starts with a lowercase letter. The CMS suggests that if you refer to more than one piece from such an archive, that you include only the archive in the reference list, with more specific information forming part of the flow of text. Cf. *creel:house* and *house:papers*.

Stanze in lode della donna brutta. 1547. Florence.

The standard way to present this work, allowing it to be alphabetized by title, and providing a `shorttitle` for in-text citations.


A Book entry with the real name of the author given, in the `nameaddon` field, after the pseudonym, in the `author` field.

A *True and Sincere Declaration of the Purpose and Ends of the Plantation Begun in Virginia, of the Degrees Which It Hath Received, and Means by Which It Hath Been Advanced.* 1610. London.

An anonymous Book entry with a very long title. The CMS prefers such entries generally to appear under their titles rather than under “Anon.” Here, the `shorttitle` removes the indefinite article, and the `sorttitle` does the same.

[verdi:corsaro] An Audio entry presenting a published operatic score. Note the “reverse italics” in the title, and also the titleaddon, which identifies the librettist. Note also the two publishers, and two places of publication, presented in a modified publisher field.


[white:russ] This is a spurious entry I’ve just made up to show the cross-referencing mechanism at work in Letter entries. See white:ross:memo for the details.


[white:ross:memo] In the author-date style, the CMS (15.40) recommends that the list of references contain only the whole collection of published letters (white:total, below), with any further information being provided as part of the running text. (If you follow this method, then the Letter entry type needn’t ever be used.) If, for some reason, you still want to cite individual letters in the list of references, this and the white:russ entry demonstrate how to do so. Chicago’s mechanism for shortened cross-references is operative in Letter entries using crossref or xref (as in InCollection and InProceedings entries), so the information printed in the list of references will be abbreviated. You can simply use the origdate field for the date of the letter, and you’ll get separate letters, ordered by date, and with a,b,c, etc. appended to differentiate letters from the same year.


[white:total] The parent entry of the two preceding child entries. Note that it is a Book entry, and will appear in the reference list if more than one child inherits from it, even though it isn’t cited itself.


[wikiped:bibtex] An online InReference entry, usually not presented in a list of references. Here is how you might do so, with the urldate, in the absence of the other three kinds of date, providing the year for citations and the list of references. It is strongly recommended that you at least have a urldate field, as such sources change rather rapidly, though the CMS would prefer that you use a revision date or the like instead of an access date. Here, the userd field identifies which sort of date is at stake.
The Database File

%% Database entries used to produce
%% citations in this file, taken
%% from dates-test.bib. I have
%% removed the annotations to save
%% room -- you can click on
%% the entry type to return to the
%% reference list entry, where you'll
%% also find the annotations. You can
%% click on text with a grey back-
%% ground to switch to that entry
%% within this .bib listing. Through-
%% out this listing you'll see curly
%% braces around parts of titles and
%% subtitles, which allow the entry
%% to work equally well in authordate
%% and authordate-trad.

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translator = {Nicholas Walker},
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location = {Oxford}
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publisher = {University of Texas Press},
edition = {{\bibstring{revisededition}}},
location = {Austin}
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title = {Quality-of-Life and Depressive Symptoms in Postmenopausal Women after Receiving Hormone Therapy},  
subtitle = {Results from the {Heart and Estrogen/Progestin Replacement Study (HERS)} Trial},  
journaltitle = {Journal of the American Medical Association},  
date = {2002-02-06},  
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