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Chicago Manual Of Style Guidelines (Quick Study)



Synopsis

When that research paper comes due and you've forgotten your style manual, get the guidance you need quickly with the Chicago Manual of Style QuickStudy® guide. Based on the 16th edition of CMS, this handy, easy-to-carry three-panel guide contains the information you need for writing academic papers to CMS specifications, pared down to the essentials, including common, real-world sample references for both CMS citation formats so that you can be sure you are giving appropriate credit where credit is due.

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Customer Reviews

Of course I won't critique the CMS, it's a standard. But this quick guide leaves a lot to be desired. I only ordered it because the used edition of CMS I ordered was going to take forever from an third-party vendor, and I had an editing job pending. So here are the problems (most deal with readability):

1. The typeface is hard to read. Some version of Times, I think. By necessity the point size must be small. But this is over-kerned (space between letters); also, while I applaud the serif font (thank god it's not some wispy sans), a better-designed body typeface like Utopia would allow for far better readability at the small point size.
2. In general the type is cramped and crowded, which impedes readability. In addition to aforementioned tracking/ Kerning, the leading is a bit tight and there is not enough internal space between text and edges of the boxes.
3. Speaking of the boxes, these multi-colored text blocks are unnecessary, a waste of space and again, make the text

harder to read, especially the blue and pink background colors. A white or pale cream background with clean section organizers like 1 pt rules would save space for content while adding breathing room and increasing text readability.⁴ Final criticism is about content. Get rid of the sections on intro to grammar and tricky words. This is information that's widely available elsewhere. Replace with more details on CMS-specific style and usage. Similarly, the section on documentation/citations takes up a full two pages of the six total. I'd rather see more on CMS style and usage, especially related to more modern usage of tech and electronic media terminology.

I found parts of it very useful, especially being that it is a concise, easy to read format. It was very user friendly, and could be a real time saver if used properly. In terms of the differences between CMS and APA (the format I have the most history with) I would say that the citations were very similarly formatted, and CMS is a bit more flexible/adaptable.

We distributed this study guide to assist senior staff with writing specific reports. The results are obvious. The guide is well organized, so the information needed is easily located. The guide answers most of the questions that arise when writing business reports. It is quick and easy to use. An excellent resource.

Anyone who uses Chicago knows how very specific it needs to be. This is a useful guide for a quick reference when you don't want to get out the massive guide, but it doesn't have the room to be your only reference when writing a paper with a lot of sources. I found it useful for the basics of footnotes and bibliography entries for books and articles, but when I needed more specific examples I still needed to use the full CMS guide.

The most often needed information is quickly available, and organized logically (at least for my mind), and it is protected from coffee spills. A must for people working late at night when the rules begin to fade from memory and coffee is likely to spill.

Useless for anyone other than a high school freshman, not a true short guide, and a lot of the info. has nothing to do with CMS. Try this free, academic website instead:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>

If you care enough about the CMS to be reading this review, you already know the full manual is not

something most people would carry around. I carry this quick study guide in my backpack, and I've found it useful for refreshing my memory about items like punctuation. Unless you write or edit only at your home or office where you can keep the full manual, I recommend that you buy this guide. And even if you do work where you keep the manual, it's worth the price.

I love CMS but trying to condense the book into 6 pages could not work. This guide is not the entire book but enough for small tasks when needed. The font is small, making it difficult to read for some eyes.

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