

CHOICE *connect*

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General

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The Chicago manual of style. 17th ed. Chicago, 2017. 1,144p bibl index ISBN 9780226287058, \$70.00.

The respected style manual returns—updated seven years after the 16th edition ([CH, Jan'11, 48-2398](#))—with more than 150 entries changed or added throughout the volume's three major divisions: "The Publishing Process," "Style and Usage," and "Source Citations and Indexes." The section on the publishing process now better addresses issues of electronic publishing such as metadata, DOIs, and format types, and legal issues of copyright and open access. Notable in the section on style and usage is a new 15-page section on syntax that expands the earlier sections on grammar and parts of speech. Changes in language use are reflected in the flexing of some older rules, such as use of the singular "they" and other gender-neutral singular pronouns. While the *Chicago Manual of Style* still discourages its broad use in formal writing, "in general, a person's stated preference for a specific pronoun should be respected." The section on citing sources is retitled from the earlier edition's "Documentation," a revision that exemplifies editorial changes to headings and text for improved keyword searching online. Updates in this section include discouraging the use of *ibid.* in favor of shortened citations, and expanding citation examples for electronic and social media, including apps.

Content in the online version (portions of which are freely accessible at <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>) mirrors the print; both recent editions appear on the *Chicago* website in their entirety, along with Style Q&A and Forum sections (the latter discussions open only to subscribers). The website has a clean and intuitive interface with ample hyperlinking within the volumes. The new edition online offers licensed individuals (but not institutional users) the added functionality to bookmark, make a note, save, or email a particular page as well as to create style sheets. Keyword search retrieves user notes and user style sheets and results from the discussion portions of the website, as well as entries in the manual itself.

Along with the Modern Language Association's eighth edition of their *MLA Handbook* ([CH, Dec'16, 54-1508](#)), the American Psychological Association's *APA Style Central* ([CH, Apr'17, 54-3532](#)), and *The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law* ([CH, Jan'03, 40-2502](#)), there is also Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers* ([CH, Dec'13, 51-1807](#)) to provide guidance suited to the needs of most undergraduates. *The Chicago Manual of Style* is the essential tool—significantly larger and much more broadly based compared to particular discipline-centric styles—that has (since 1906) guided editors, publishers, copy editors, and proofreaders, and continues to support the scholarship and writing of serious researchers in all fields of study.

--M. F. Jones, Brevard College

Summing Up: Essential. Upper-level undergraduates and above; professionals/practitioners.