

Preparing a Bibliography for a Classics Research Paper

Where To Start:

Be sure you have looked at the basics for general information AND a starter bibliography (Oxford Classical Dictionary 4th Edition; L'année philologique, TOCS-IN; see also my "Well-Tempered Classicist" which is badly in need of an update) and located at least *most* of the primary sources and their authoritative editions. In most cases, if you can find the most recent few articles on your subject and they have been competently done, you can mine their bibliographies and add to them.

Format:

Use 12-pt Times New Roman font with standard margins and observe correct bibliographical conventions laid out in the most recent edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Each entry should be single-spaced, but you should leave full blank line between one entry and the next. Arrange alphabetically, of course.

Organizing Your Bibliographies

Not always, but very often you should seriously consider organizing your bibliographies in the following way. Always check with your instructor to see what her (or his) preference is.

Section I Primary Sources

This includes separate sections (**A**) for literary (and/or documentary) or (**B**) archaeological sources (including excavation reports, THE major publication of a piece of sculpture or glass, etc., which might be in a book, a journal article, or anywhere really)

Please use the Chicago Manual of Style for this assignment (<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/16/contents.html>), which you can access through the Simpson Library site. Jack Bales created several user-friendly pages to explain the most common details (<http://libguides.umw.edu/content.php?pid=245752&sid=2029722#6812498>).

Section II Secondary Sources (journal articles, book chapters, books)

Furthermore ...

I append this paragraph from *The Chicago Manual of Style* Online Edition for your convenience:

14.265 Modern editions of the classics

When Greek, Latin, or medieval classics are cited by page number, the edition must be specified, and the normal rules for citing books are followed. See also [14.260](#).

FOOTNOTE & ENDNOTE (for future reference; note the hanging indent)

35. Propertius, *Elegies*, ed. and trans. G. P. Goold, Loeb Classical Library 18 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990), 45.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (use hanging indent on line 2 and following)

Aristotle. *Complete Works of Aristotle: The Revised Oxford Translation*. Edited by J. Barnes. 2 vols. Bollingen Series. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1983.

Maimonides. *The Code of Maimonides, Book 5: The Book of Holiness*. Edited by Leon Nemoy. Translated by Louis I. Rabinowitz and Philip Grossman. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1965.

Please note the following Q&A exchange culled from the *Chicago Manual of Style Online* site. It addresses the case of when the editor and translator's accompanying notes or interpretive essays are more important to your project than the actual ancient author. I doubt you will need this much, because we need to be focused on the ancient sources, but sometimes the editor and commentator is more important than the edition of the ancient author, whose work may appear in a superior, more recent edition. An example would be James Frazer's Loeb edition of Ovid's *Fasti*. I include it for what it's worth, though. (<http://chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0141.html>)

Documentation

Q. I often have difficulty deciding how to cite translations with critical commentaries of ancient texts. What if I'm citing a critical comment or note made by the translator/Loeb editor? The bibliography entry is

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Rev. ed. Loeb Classical Library. 1934.

But how do I refer to something the editor/translator says in that edition? If it's like "Rackham in Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, p. xxx," then do I need some separate bib entry that mentions Rackham?

A. Yes, that's right. Your bibliography entry should include the name of the

editor, like this:

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, Rev. ed. Edited by J. Rackham. Loeb Classical Library. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1934.

If the editor is more central to your discussion than the author, you may put the bibliography entry under the name of the editor instead. A cross-reference will aid the reader.

Aristotle. *See* Rackham, H.

Rackham, H., ed. *Nicomachean Ethics*, by Aristotle. Rev. ed. Loeb Classical Library. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1934.