RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

HOUSE STYLE

We follow the most recent edition of The Chicago Manual of Style for usage and Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary for spelling. Please pay close attention to verb agreement, split infinitives, dangling modifiers, verb tense, and pronouns lacking antecedents.

Keep a thorough style sheet.

Put all queries on flags and also flag all cross references, tables, and figures.

Please pay particular attention to the following points of style.

1. Use the serial comma:

   This book is brilliant, incisive, and timely.

2. Numbers

   • In most contexts spell out figures up to one hundred as well as large round numbers. An exception is made for numbers that begin a sentence (spell out), for page numbers and units of measure (use numerals), and when following this rule would result in mixed styles within the same paragraph:

     “Of 129 voters, 57 were Democrats and 72 were Republicans.”

   • In stating percentages, the word percent is always spelled out, but the number is always a figure: 75 percent.

   • Keep the traditional style for dates (July 16, 1987)

3. Observe the important distinction between that and which. (See the explanation in Words into Type if you are in doubt.)

4. Implement proper capitalization for all titles and heads in text and notes.

5. Year ranges should be changed from 1978–79 to the full years (1978–1979)

6. Abbreviations

   • The use of i.e., e.g., vs., and etc. is not acceptable, even in parentheses and endnotes. Please spell out or reword.
• Acronyms should be spelled out at first use.

• Do not italicize *ibid.* or *et al.* when used in endnotes and references.

• The words *Hispanic*, Latina, Latino, Latinx, Latin@, *African American* and other ethnic and racial appellations derived from proper nouns should be capitalized. Note that per *The Chicago Manual of Style*, we lowercase black and white, but authors may capitalize the words as long as all racial designations are capitalized. For question about particular terms please speak with the press.

**7. Use of biased, derogatory, or offensive language**

• In quoted texts within scholarly works the preference is to elide the word (n—, r—, g—, etc.). It is acceptable to add an *s* at the end of the dash to make the sentence grammatically correct. We encourage the author to include an explanation for why the word has been changed. If the word is used repeatedly (for example, in an ethnography where the respondents use the word as part of their normal responses) a note of explanation must be included in the FM, whether as a separate note or as part of the introductory material.

• If the author wants to retain the full use, they must speak with the director of publications to get approval to do so, and the author must include some kind of explanation in a note attached to first use.

• If citing the title of a published work in-text, the word or words should be retained but an endnote should be added to explain why it was retained.

• Be alert to sexism and racism. Change or tactfully query the author.

8. Identifications and first names of people mentioned in the text should be queried in the text if not provided. First names should be given the first time an author’s name is used in the text and throughout the references.

   “Psychologist Judith Wallerstein has stated that . . .”

9. The use of *they*, *their*, or *them* as singular gender-neutral pronouns is acceptable (as is the generic “he” or “she” but avoid gender role stereotyping).

10. Reword any references to material “above” or “below.”

11. Drop ellipses from the beginning and end of quoted material.

12. Tables and figures should be double-numbered by chapter: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and so on. In-text references to them (and to other chapters) should be lower case: “see table 3.2”; “see chapter 7.” Use italicized letters when necessary for table footnotes.
13. References and Endnotes

- We typically use author and date system of citation: “McFate 1995” in endnotes, with a complete citation appearing in a reference list at the end of the book/chapter. To include page numbers with a string of citations please use the following style: McFate 1995, 9; Jones and Murphy 1992, 6–10; Hardin 1990, ch. 4. There are exceptions to this, so please confirm with the RSF director of publications. Copyeditors should move in-text citations to endnotes and add a superscript note number. Ibid. may be used in endnotes, but not italicized.

- Check all citations against the reference list. Query author regarding references that do not appear in both places.

- For substantive notes, we use endnotes. Mark note numbers in text for superscript and repeat them in the margin within a circle. Verify that they run consecutively and match the endnotes themselves.

- Avoid note numbers in mid-sentence, unless placing them at the end of a sentence would confuse what is being cited.

- In references if an offensive word is used in the title of a published work, it should be retained.

14. Every element of the text should be coded including lists, equations, and the subsections of tables and figures.

15. Any references to color—in text, or in captions, or in the key within the art—need to be worded so that they will work when printed in black and white and when it appears in color as an ebook.

Sample References:

Please note the use of first names and issue numbers throughout the references.

**Standard entry for single-author book:**

**Standard entry for multi-author book:**

**Standard entry for journal article:**
Avery, Roger, Frances Goldscheider, and Alden Speare. 1992. “Feathered Nest/Gilded Cage:

Chapter in edited volume:


Newspaper article:

Occasional paper/working paper:

Institutional author:

Conference paper:

Authored article in government publication:

Dissertation:

Unpublished paper:

Government publication:


*Website (If no ‘last modified’ date is found just list the accessed date):*


16. **Grants**

All grants acknowledged in a book must be identified by grant number. The number can be put into an endnote rather than in the text. This includes any grants given by the Russell Sage Foundation.

17. **Legal Cases**

Names of legal cases should be italicized in both the text and notes.

18. **Non-English-Language Terms**

Italics may be used for non-English-language terms that are not in a standard dictionary such as Merriam-Webster’s.

19. **Avoid Overuse of Italics, Boldface, and Quotation Marks**

Writers regularly overuse italics, boldface, and quotation marks for emphasis, for irony, or, as seen in textbooks, to denote terms. RSF House Style follows *The Chicago Manual of Style*, which states:

> When a word or term is not used functionally but is referred to as the word or term itself, it is either italicized or enclosed in quotation marks.

> The term *critical mass* is more often used metaphorically than literally. The term “critical mass” is more often used metaphorically than literally.

Otherwise, the term should be set roman. We do not highlight key terms at their first occurrence.