

# THE RIGHT OF CITATION AND CITATION IN THE CASE OF DOCTORAL THESES. CITATION RULES. CITATION SYSTEMS USED

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## Abstract

*The right of citation in doctoral theses is an essential aspect of academic research and knowledge development in various fields. This fundamental concept allows PhD students to support their arguments, validate their hypotheses and strengthen their academic contribution by referring to the works and ideas of other authors. In this article, we aim to explore the role and importance of citation rights in the context of PhD theses. The right of citation serves as a basis for building an academic dialogue between the author and the scientific community. By referring to previous work, PhD students demonstrate that they know their field of study and that they incorporate its contributions into their own research. This strengthens the credibility and relevance of the PhD thesis within the academic community. The right of citation ensures compliance with academic ethics and prevention of plagiarism. By highlighting the sources used and giving proper credit to the original authors, PhD students demonstrate academic integrity and respect for the work of others. This practice promotes transparency and collaboration in research, fundamental to scientific progress and maintaining high academic standards. In addition, the citation right contributes to the development of a solid knowledge base in the field. By connecting with previous work, PhD theses situate their contribution in the existing context and can identify gaps or opportunities for future research. Thus, this citation and referencing process is an engine of academic progress, encouraging innovation and the continuous development of knowledge. Thus, the right of citation is a fundamental pillar of doctoral theses, having multiple roles and importance in the context of academic research. By following this principle, PhD students contribute to building and consolidating knowledge in their areas of expertise, promoting academic ethics and advancing the frontiers of human knowledge.*

**Keywords:** citation, system, doctoral, theses, academic.

## 1. Introduction

Citing is the process of retrieving and/or using information related, discovered and/or invented by another person, whereby the person who uses it mentions who is the rightful owner of the rights to the information/ideas taken.

This process is used obligatorily, but involuntarily, in different proportions, in any academic writing, having an informative role, both for the one who writes a paper, to be able to elaborate it in an academic and/or empirical manner, and for the one who read it to be able to understand the context and the subject, through the perspective desired by the author.

Also, the citation gives the author a more complex perspective on the topic addressed, because this process involves prior information from a significant number of sources and, implicitly, the selection of sources relevant to the perspective addressed.

*«In the legal literature, the „right of citation” is defined as the right of limited reproduction, without the consent of the cited author, of a work brought to the public's knowledge and, like any limitation, by way of exception, of subjective rights, it is strictly interpretation. That is why the right to cite must be exercised with strict observance of the conditions imposed by law, because where the right to cite is violated, counterfeiting or plagiarism begins.»<sup>1</sup>*

Thus, the right of citation should be seen as a tribute to the reference authors, this being a sign of distinguished appreciation for the scientific value they have brought through their creation, but also of ethics and morality.

## 2. The origins of the right to quote

The concept of the right to quote has evolved over time and cannot be assigned a precise date. The idea of reproducing and using excerpts from different literary works has existed, in various forms, throughout the history of literature and other writings.

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<sup>1</sup> V. Roș, *The right to cite*, in Romanian Intellectual Property Law Review no. 3/2009, available as a word document, p. 3.

In antiquity, especially in Rome and Ancient Greece, writers used quotations to support their arguments or illustrate ideas. By way of example, I would like to recall a speech by the great Cicero, who stated how Socrates brought philosophy down from heaven to Earth. Thus, the simple reference to the originality demonstrated by Socrates brings an extra originality to Cicero's speech, thus constituting a tribute to the incomparable Socrates.

In the Middle Ages, manuscripts were mostly copied by monks in monasteries. Citation had begun to acquire the valences of today, the authors of those times referring to the author of the reproduced text. The theological works of that time were interspersed with the sayings of the Holy Fathers of the Churches, as well as other canonical writings relevant to that time.

Although it was not recognized as an independent practice, in France in 1812, the right of citation had begun to acquire the valences of the present day. Charles-Emmanuel Nodier wrote: „any borrowings from earlier works, except for quotations, cannot be excused”. In 1838, the French author, A. C. Renouard stated in his work „Treaty of copyright in literature, sciences and fine arts” that „to prohibit writers from quoting their predecessors, to refuse for the progress of science and public discussions the use of any passage from -a work in the private domain, is undoubtedly an exaggeration. It must even be said that an author who quotes another, or makes known the one he supports or disapproves of, indicating that he did not want to assume the authorship of another's work, is, of course, out of all conduct guilty. But anything can be abused”.<sup>2</sup>

In our country, the Romanian poet Anton Pann, stated that „don't think that in order to make myself master of your poems I joined these booklets of their own accord, but only to make them immortal, composing their melody (...) so that they remain unforgotten their ways through the ages; for which, in my opinion, I reckon you will not blame me. And if I don't write everyone's name to his poem, it's not my fault, it's the fault of those who like to be plagiarists, and instead of the poet's name, they write their own, to deceive those who believe them”.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, it can be seen that since ancient times, quoting has been regarded as a tribute to the authors of the works, indicating the appreciation that a quoting person has for the author of the quoted phrase. Thus, looking at the whole, we should ask what level of originality a scientific work without citations has.

In general, the practices of citing and referring to academic sources have evolved over time and experienced significant changes depending on the cultural, social and academic context of different historical periods.

Compared to ancient times, nowadays access to information and technology is easier, which makes the citation process easier and much more ethically and legally important. In antiquity, identifying the source involved a much more elaborate process of identifying and citing relevant passages from scientific works.

However, with the evolution of the human being, but also of technology, access to information was much easier, citation becoming imperatively necessary, not just an option of the one who receives the information. In ancient times, authors naturally gave credit to those who created information before them, stealing ideas being much less common.

Starting from these ideas, a pertinent question can be raised and could represent the subject of a scientific paper in terms of the right of citation, namely „Could evolution represent an involution of ethics?”.

### 3. The right of citation and the relevant legislation

The right of citation is, in its essence, in fact a limitation of the exercise of copyright.

Within the Law no. 8/1996, limitations of copyright are provided in Chapter VI, starting with art. 33.

The provisions of art. 33 of Law no. 8/1996 stipulates the following: (1) The following uses of a work previously brought to public knowledge are permitted, without the author's consent and without payment of any remuneration, provided that they comply with good customs, do not contravene the normal exploitation of the work and not to prejudice the author or the holders of the rights of use:

b) the use of short quotes from a work, for the purpose of analysis, commentary or criticism or as an example, to the extent that their use justifies the length of the quote;

Thus, it can be observed that in the writing of another work of intellectual creation, it is allowed to take over, without the consent of the author of the work, some short quotes, for the purpose of analysis, commentary, etc., if their use justifies the length of the quote.

But to what extent can we refer to a short quote, what does this represent?

Directive no. 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament, does not provide for the condition mentioned by the national legislation, that of using short passages from a work.

Art. 10 of the WIPO Treaty provides for limitations of copyright, however, even this time no reference is made to the extent of the quoted fragment.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, p. 2.

In the content of the Berne Convention, of September 9, 1886, in art. 10, the limitations of copyright are reproduced. Thus, para. (1) stipulates that: Quotations extracted from a work already legally known to the public are permitted, provided that they are in accordance with good customs and to the extent justified by the intended purpose, including quotations from articles in journals and periodical collections, in the form of a press magazine.

The identity of legal texts cannot be ignored. It can be seen how art. 33 of Law no. 8/1996, takes over, almost identically, the content of art. 10 of the Berne Convention. However, the Romanian legislator adds the condition of using short quotations from a work, without showing, at any moment, what constitutes a short quotation in its conception.

*«The interests of the legislator who adopted the solution to limit the copyright and for the benefit of those who want to quote it are, as always, varied and not easy to identify. But the limitations of the exclusive rights of the authors of works can only be based on practical arguments and on arguments that concern the rights of others and to which the exclusive rights must yield. Or if the latter is the most solid argument to justify the paralysis of the author's rights in front of third parties who want to criticise, analyse, parody, etc. a pre-existing work, means that a right is recognized in favor of the „quoter”, hierarchically above the author's right and that the name „right of citation”, used, moreover, in the doctrine, is justified.»<sup>4</sup>*

#### 4. The right of citation and citation in the case of doctoral theses

I want to confess that in the preparation of this work I wanted to analyse a quote from the words of Ecclesiastes. „What has been will be, and what has happened will happen again, because there is nothing new under the sun. If there is anything to say, „Here's something new!” this was in ancient times, before us.”<sup>5</sup>

Trying to outline the structure of this paper, I wanted to start from the analysis of the above-mentioned quote and the impact it still has at the moment in relation to any scientific creation. I thought of an approach from the most authentic perspective possible, thus starting from a quotation from the Bible in the analysis of the right of citation in the elaboration of some scientific papers. I was not surprised when, in reading the bibliographic sources I selected, I noticed that I was not the first or even the only one who wanted to analyse this quote relevant to the topic at hand.

I noticed that Professor Viorel Roș, in his article published in the Romanian Intellectual Property Review, refers to this quote, in the analysis of what Petre Țuțea said.<sup>6</sup> Thus, the words of Petre Țuțea also come to mind, „only God is original”.

What I want to point out through these analogies is the difficulty that a PhD student faces in writing the scientific report that he has to prepare. Writing a PhD thesis in the field of law causes innumerable problems in the mind of the PhD student, in particular, how to bring originality when things are quite clear. How could you reinterpret legal texts when they are quite clear.

In the present analysis, we could start from the idea that where there are two jurists, there are three opinions. The use of citations is imperative to bring originality to a doctoral thesis, at least in the field of law. Most of the time, in the field of law, whole chapters on comparative law are used, where European or international legislation, domestic legislation or national or international doctrine are compared.

Thus, the use of citations in doctoral theses, at least in the field of law, is imperative, the choice of relevant citations bringing a degree of originality to the respective paper.

We cannot ignore the words of Ecclesiastes; how could we add value to a scientific work when everything has already been said. How could we bring more originality if we did not comment on certain legal texts.

Besides, how could we evolve if not by commenting on the words of others, by bringing arguments for or against previously evoked phrases. In terms of writing doctoral theses, the use of citations can add scientific value to the research. The inclusion of a large number of bibliographic sources in the content of the doctoral thesis strengthens the credibility of the work, increasing the reader's confidence in the validity of the presented research.

The use of quotations, including their choice, gives a degree of originality to the work. By citing and comparing with other relevant works in the field, the thesis highlights its originality by itself, thus illustrating its contribution to the development of the respective field.

The main problem that PhD students can face in the development of a PhD thesis is represented by plagiarism. Proper citation can ensure transparency in presenting the source of information. In addition, the right to cite provides a form of legal and intellectual protection for authors and their contributions to scientific fields.

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<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Ecclesiastes, Chapter 1, verses 9-10, Orthodox Bible.

<sup>6</sup> V. Roș, *The right to cite*, op. cit., p. 6.

This becomes critical in environments where the rapid flow of information and easy access to resources can pose copyright and intellectual property challenges.

Through proper citations, PhD students protect their own interests as well as those of other members of the academic world.

First, the right to cite in a paper serves as a tool to validate the author's arguments and conclusions.

When a paper is frequently cited, it not only increases a researcher's credibility, but also places the paper in a wider academic context

Citations not only show recognition of previous contributions, but also allow authors to highlight how new research adds value and innovation to existing discussions in the field.

Second, citing is an ethical practice that shows respect for the work and contributions of other researchers. By clearly citing the sources used, the authors acknowledge the efforts of their predecessors, but also their influence on the direction of research in the reference field.

This ethical transparency not only supports academic integrity, but also strengthens readers' confidence in the validity and relevance of the work.

## 5. Citation rules

Regarding citation rules, at the international level, on February 23, 1947, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was established.

ISO is an international body with the role of making standards in various sectors and activities available to the general public.

Currently, ISO has 163 member countries, including Romania, through the national body, the Romanian Standardization Association.

The main problem regarding the citation rule, encountered by a PhD student, concerns „how long the text we want to cite”<sup>7</sup>.

According to Umberto Eco, there are 10 citation rules that must be known and respected when writing an empirical paper, respectively:

- „The fragments subject to interpretive analysis should be of a reasonable size;
- Texts from the critical literature are cited only when their authority corroborates or confirms our claim;
- Quoting implies sharing the idea of the quoted author, except when the fragment is preceded and followed by critical expressions;
- From any quote, the author and the printed or manuscript source must appear;
- If possible, citation of primary sources is done by referring to the critical edition or the most accredited edition (...);
- When studying a foreign author, the citations must be in the original language;
- The reference to the author and the work must be clear;
- When a quote does not exceed two or three lines, it can be inserted within a paragraph, between quotation marks;
- Quotations must be faithful;
- Citing is like testifying in a trial. You must always be able to spot the witnesses and demonstrate that they are credible. That's why the reference must be exact and punctual (do not quote an author without saying from which book and which page) and can be checked by anyone.<sup>8</sup>

Regarding the development of scientific texts, ISO has developed a set of Rules for the presentation of bibliographic references and the citation of information resources), entitled ISO 690:2010.

Therefore, ISOR 690:2010 presents indications/rules for the presentation of bibliographic references and citations in all types of information resources, except legal documents that have specific rules.<sup>9</sup>

The main rule regarding the right to cite an author in the elaboration of the scientific work is also provided by art. 33 of Law no. 8/1996 which stipulates the conditions under which scientific works can be cited. Thus, it is necessary for the work to be subsequently brought to public knowledge, to be in accordance with good customs, not to contravene the normal exploitation of the work and not to prejudice the author or the holders of the rights of use.

Thus, in the specialised literature it is mentioned that a quote must be exactly the original text of the author,

<sup>7</sup> E.E. Ștefan, *Methodology of Elaboration of Scientific Papers*, University Course, Pro Universitaria Publishing House, 2019, Bucharest, p. 169.

<sup>8</sup> U. Eco, *How to make an undergraduate thesis*, in E.E. Ștefan, *Methodology of Elaboration of Scientific Papers*, op. cit., , p. 169.

<sup>9</sup> V. Roș, *Rules for citation and preparation of the doctoral thesis, Ethics of scientific research activity*, Power Point presentation, slide 4.

there is even an obligation of fidelity to the text.<sup>10</sup>

At the same time, other authors state that „parts of quotations can be removed only if the remaining part does not distort the original text”<sup>11</sup>. On the other hand, Septimiu Chelcea emphasises the fact that: Regarding the length of a quote, Mircea Eliade said: A quote is valued (in the reader's mind) to the extent that it is short, dense, bright. A full-page quote cancels this image. As regards the rules for citing quotations and footnotes, the provisions of art. 33 of Law no. 8/1996, namely, the use of short quotations, for the purpose of analysis, commentary or criticism, to the extent that their use justifies the length of the quotation.<sup>12</sup>

*„Footnotes must be numbered in ascending order, throughout the work, and not on each page, chapter or section, this way allowing the identification of all citations and bibliographic references; When quoting, the takeover must be exact, the distortion of the meaning through omissions or additions being incompatible with the ethical rules specific to scientific research activity; If ideas previously formulated by other authors are reproduced, between quotation marks or by paraphrasing, this must be indicated, appropriately in accordance with art. 4 para. (1) letter d) from Law no. 206/2004.”<sup>13</sup>*

A fundamental aspect of citation rules is the selection of a particular citation system, such as: APA (American Psychological Association), MLA (Modern Language Association) and Chicago are just a few of the most well-known examples.

These systems establish precise rules for formatting, ordering and displaying the bibliography, and choosing the right system for each PhD student's field is important for the coherence and clarity of the paper, helping readers to navigate easily among the sources used.

Another important rule consists in the process of checking and ensuring the doctoral student on the correctness of the way of citing information in the text of the paper, because insufficient or incomplete citations can lead to accusations of plagiarism and can affect the credibility of the author, even if he intended or not to defraud

By accurately identifying the author, year of publication, and relevant pages, citations provide readers with enough information to identify and access the original source.

Also, doctoral students must respect the rules for citing indirect sources and quoting information from others, an aspect that must be treated with caution and with great care to avoid involuntary errors and implicitly, as we mentioned before, attracting the accusation of plagiarism. Thus, authors must clearly indicate that the information is from another source and provide full details of the information.

Another aspect of citation rules that is often underestimated is the proper handling of multiple citations in a single sentence or paragraph. This requires attention to detail and consistent presentation of sources so that the reader recognizes each source and its contribution to the essay's overall argument.

Citation rules also include control of electronic sources, in the digital age information is easily accessible online, but citations must be as rigorous as print sources. Bibliographic citations of information from the online environment must include the URL address, date of access, and other relevant information to identify the source.

Citation rules for doctoral theses are not only a formal procedure, but also a set of rules designed to ensure the consistency, reliability and integrity of scientific research. Adherence to these rules not only fulfills academic requirements, but also emphasises the professionalism and ethics of researchers.

There are several internationally agreed citation systems in the academic environment and/or in the development of papers of an empirical nature, especially in the case of doctoral theses. They should represent the standard of ethics and integrity in the academic field.

## 6. Numerical citation system (European, traditional, author-number)

In Romania, the numerical citation system is the most common, it is also recommended by the Romanian Academy. Regarding the publication of a guide for the use of this citation system, the Romanian Academy did not want to officially publish such a guide, which leads to the lack of a standardised version and a unitary practice. Given that there is no standard variant of this citation system, the variants differ according to aspects such as punctuation, capitalization, abbreviations, etc. Currently, there is a trend in university centers to abandon this system in favor of other specialised systems, according to recommendations found on web pages.

Features of the citation system recommended by the Romanian Academy:

- Insertion of exponent numbers in the text in the upper right part of the last word of the quote, which

<sup>10</sup> M.St. Rădulescu, *Methodology of scientific research. Elaboration of undergraduate theses*, apud E.E. Ștefan, *Methodology of Elaboration of Scientific Works*, op. cit., p. 170.

<sup>11</sup> N. Gherghel, *How to write a scientific article*, apud E.E. Ștefan, *Methodology of Elaboration of Scientific Works*, op. cit., p. 171.

<sup>12</sup> Art. 33 of Law no. 8/1996.

<sup>13</sup> V. Roș, *Rules for citation and preparation of the doctoral thesis, Ethics of scientific research activity*, Power Point presentation, slide 11.

refers to a footnote with the same number;

- The use of footnotes, numbered, written in a smaller font than the text;
- The references in the footnotes can also be found in the final bibliography;
- The bibliography is placed at the end of the paper, after the annexes;
- The final bibliography is ordered alphabetically.<sup>14</sup>

One of the essential features of the system promoted by the Romanian Academy is the use of Latin expressions in the footnotes. This practice not only respects a tradition in the writing of scientific papers, but also has the objective of avoiding repetitions and, implicitly, of keeping the sizes of footnotes at reduced levels.

### 7. Harvard Citation System (author, date)

The „Harvard System” describes styles that use the „author-date” method. This system is used for in-text citations and is based on the recommendations for citing and referencing materials developed by the British Standards Institution. Universities use the general principles of the Harvard System to be able to develop internal guidelines. Unlike other systems, the Harvard system does not create complications in rearranging references if the order of citation in the text changes.<sup>15</sup>

„Characteristics:

- Do not use footnotes for bibliography, only for explanations;
- Submissions are made with the same letter (type, size) as in the text of the work;
- For two authors, both names are mentioned;
- For 3 or more authors, cite the first author followed by *et al*;
- If the author's name is mentioned in the text, only the year is mentioned in parentheses; the same when the year is mentioned in the text (the aim is to avoid repetition);
- Short quotes of a maximum of 2-3 lines are integrated into the text and limited by quotation marks; quotations longer than two or three lines are separated into blocks of text and margins are left; do not use quotation marks; the reference to the bibliography appears after the point, in brackets;
- At the end of the paper, a list of all cited sources, arranged in alphabetical order, is compiled, which includes all types of sources (books, articles, websites, etc.);
- The final bibliography is drawn up separately and includes all the works used for writing the paper, without being cited.”<sup>16</sup>

### 8. APA (American Psychological Association) citation system

This citation system is an (author, date) type system and is most often used in scientific works in the social sciences and related fields.

APA style is a way of writing and formatting academic documents, such as journal articles and books, and is often used to cite behavioral and social science sources. This approach is detailed in the American Psychological Association (APA) style guide known as the American Psychological Association Publication Manual. The purpose of these standards is to promote reading comprehension and improve the clarity of communication in the social and behavioral sciences. APA style, in its entirety or with modifications, is widely used in hundreds of academic journals, including medical and public health journals, textbooks, and academia for educational activities. The APA Handbook was first introduced in 1952 as a 61-page supplement to the Psychological Bulletin and marked the beginning of the recognition of „APA style”. The 6<sup>th</sup> ed. of the American Psychological Association Publication Manual was published in July 2009 and includes significant changes and updates. This new edition includes expanded ethical guidelines on authorship, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collaboration with editors in writing articles, and new formats and examples for electronic publishing. APA style uses the author date method for in-text citations, with the author's name and year of publication in parentheses, separated by a comma (and page number, if applicable).<sup>17</sup>

In the case of a government agency or authority, its name is given in brackets. Complete bibliographic information for identifying and editing citations is included in the reference list at the end of the book. APA style discourages the use of footnotes and endnotes, as they may incur additional editorial reproduction costs. The reference list is arranged alphabetically by author or publisher name, and works by the same author or publisher are arranged chronologically by date of publication.

<sup>14</sup> V. Roş, *Citing systems*, document available in word format, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.armyacademy.ro/cercetare/documente/ghid\\_practic\\_ref\\_bibl.pdf](https://www.armyacademy.ro/cercetare/documente/ghid_practic_ref_bibl.pdf), accessed on 04.01.2024.

<sup>16</sup> V. Roş, *Citing systems*, document available in word format, p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.armyacademy.ro/cercetare/documente/ghid\\_practic\\_ref\\_bibl.pdf](https://www.armyacademy.ro/cercetare/documente/ghid_practic_ref_bibl.pdf), accessed on 04.01.2024.

For publications of the same year, APA recommends using a lowercase letter (a, b) before the year. References with the same first author but different second authors are sorted alphabetically by the second author's name. If the first and second authors are the same, alphabetical sorting is based on the name of the third author. Sources without authors are ordered alphabetically by title within the same list.<sup>18</sup>

#### *Characteristics*

- The final bibliography is arranged alphabetically;
- Does not usually use footnotes for bibliography or Latin expressions;
- May use footnotes for explanations;
- Submissions are made with the same letter (type, size) as in the text of the work;
- Quotations longer than 40 words are separated into blocks of text and left margins; do not use quotation marks; the reference to the bibliography appears after the point;
- For two authors, both names are mentioned;
- For 3-5 authors, all names are mentioned in the first submission, then only the first name followed by et al;
- For more than 6 authors, cite the first author followed by et al;
- In the case of works with an unknown author, mention the title or, in the absence of the title, the first words of the text;
- If the author's name is mentioned in the text, only the year is mentioned in parentheses; the same when the year is mentioned in the text (the aim is to avoid repetition);<sup>19</sup>

### **9. Chicago Citation System**

This citation system is recommended by the Doctoral School of the Nicolae Titulescu University, according to the Doctoral Thesis Drafting Guide that can be found on the website of the University's Faculty of Law.

The Chicago Manual of Style was first published in 1906 and played an important role in standardising citation practices. The 16<sup>th</sup> ed., published in August 2010, includes expanded recommendations for citing publications in new digital formats.

The Chicago/Turabian style is characterised by its flexibility and uses two main systems: the annotated bibliography, which is common in the humanities such as literature, history, and the arts, and the author's note and bibliography.

In a bibliography system, sources are cited in footnotes or numbered endnotes, each note corresponding to a superscript number in the text. Sources are also listed in the separate bibliography. This system is very flexible and can easily handle different types of sources.

The author data system is commonly used in the physical, natural, and social sciences, and sources are cited briefly in the text in parentheses along with the author's name and year of publication. Each in-text citation is reproduced in the reference list and full bibliographic information is provided.

The two systems are similar in style, except that they use footnotes or endnotes for parenthetical references in the text. Chicago Style recommends consistent treatment of important elements in both citation systems, such as capitalization of titles, use of quotation marks, and abbreviations. Turabian Style, named after its founder Kate L Turabian, has been a paper editor for nearly 30 years and wrote a book called „A Manual for Writers”, Chicago Style for Undergraduates and Graduates - He introduced the important rules of the „Manual of Style and Doctoral Dissertation” was first published in 1937. Revised and updated by the University of Chicago Press in 2007, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition reflects the current needs of academic research.

### **10. Conclusions**

In conclusion, the citation rules in doctoral theses should not be seen only as certain formal procedures, but rather, they represent a set of rules designed to ensure the coherence, credibility and integrity of academic research.

Adherence to these rules not only fulfils academic requirements, but also emphasises the professionalism and ethics of the researcher. A well-cited PhD thesis not only increases academic impact, but also strengthens the foundation of an original and valid contribution to knowledge in the field.

Citation rules in doctoral theses are more than a mere formality, they even become an essential structure in terms of the quality and authenticity of academic research. These are not just formal guidelines, but a complex set of rules designed to ensure consistency, reliability and integrity throughout the scientific research and

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.armyacademy.ro/cercetare/documente/ghid\\_practic\\_ref\\_bibl.pdf](https://www.armyacademy.ro/cercetare/documente/ghid_practic_ref_bibl.pdf), accessed on 04.01.2024.

<sup>19</sup> V. Roș, *Citing systems*, document available in word format, p. 4.

communication process.

Coherence is one of the main pillars of citation rules and contributes to the uniformity and consistency of bibliographic references. A well-structured and coherent document makes it easier for readers to find sources, but also gives a professional and rigorous character to a work. Thus, following the citation rules not only fulfils formal requirements, but also promotes the organised and clear presentation of information.

Credibility is another important element that citation rules add. Correct citation of sources confirms the authenticity of the information presented, and allows authors to demonstrate their ability to fit into the wider academic context. Proper citation adds validity to the author's argument and assures the reader that the information presented is supported by solid and recognized research in the field.

Academic integrity and ethics are undoubtedly at the heart of following the citation rules.

By citing correctly, authors can acknowledge the work and contributions of their predecessors and avoid plagiarism and copyright infringement. In an academic community that promotes transparency and honesty, adherence to citation ethics reinforces the professionalism of authors and protects the integrity of the academic field as a whole.

The academic impact of a PhD thesis depends directly on how the authors follow the citation rules. A well-cited thesis is not only highly respected in the academic community, but also contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the field.

By citing relevant sources, authors support their own research and add value to current debates by contributing to the development of the field as a whole.

In conclusion, citation rules in doctoral theses are not just a formality, but a complex framework that ensures the coherence, reliability and integrity of academic research. They illustrate the author's respect for academic rules and his commitment to research ethics and professionalism.

Thus, a correct and widely cited PhD thesis represents not only an academic contribution, but also a solid foundation on which new knowledge in the field can be built by other future PhD students.

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