

# Writing An Annotated Bibliography

Adapted from: UNC –Chapel Hill  
and University of California-Santa Cruz

# What Is An Annotated Bibliography?

-  A list of citations to books, articles, and documents.
-  Followed by a brief (usually about 200 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation.
-  Informing the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.
-  Each entry includes all the information included in a list of works cited.
-  The citations have the appropriate bibliographic format (*e.g.*, MLA, APA) required by your teacher.

# Annotations Versus Abstracts



## **Abstracts -**

are **descriptive summaries** found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or in periodical indexes.



## **Annotations -**

are **descriptive and critical**; exposing the author's point of view, clarity and authority.

# What is the *purpose* of an annotated bibliography?

-  A review of the literature on a particular subject.
-  Illustrates the quality of research done and encourages critical thinking about the content of the works used.
-  Provides examples of the types of sources available.
-  Describes other items on a topic that may be of interest to others doing research.

# Why should I write an annotated bibliography?

-  To learn about your topic in preparation for a research project.
-  To develop a thesis that is debatable, interesting, and current.
-  To review the literature and determine where your own research fits into the issues.
-  To read and respond to a variety of sources on a topic, developing a unique viewpoint through careful and critical reading.

# What is the *Process*?

## ***CONCISE DESCRIPTION, SUCCINCT ANALYSIS, AND INFORMED LIBRARY RESEARCH***

-  Locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic.
-  Briefly examine and review the actual items.
-  Choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.

# What Happens *Next*?

-  Cite the book, article, or document using the appropriate style. (MLA, APA, Chicago).
-  Write an explanation summarizing the central theme and scope of the source showing that you have read and understand it.
-  Include one or more sentences that:
  -  Evaluate the authority or qualifications of the author
  -  Comment on the intended audience,
  -  Compare or contrast this work with the worth, effectiveness, and usefulness of the others you have cited.
  -  Explain how this work illuminates your topic.
  -  Include relevant links to other work done in the area.

# Common *Forms* Of Annotated Bibliographies

 **Informative**

 **Indicative**

 **Evaluative**

 **Combination**

# Informative

-  This form of annotation is a **summary** of the source.
-  Informative annotations sometimes read like straight summaries of the source material.
-  They spend more time *summarizing* relevant information about the author or the work itself.

# Indicative

-  This form of annotation **defines the scope** of the source, lists the significant topics included, and tells what the source is about.
-  There is no attempt to give actual data such as hypotheses, proofs, etc.
-  Generally, only topics or chapter titles are included.

# Evaluative

-  In this form of annotation you need to **assess** the source's **strengths and weaknesses**.
-  Say why the source is interesting or helpful to you, or why it is not.
-  List what kind of and how much information is given; in short, evaluate the source's usefulness.

# Combination

 An annotated bibliography may combine elements of all the types

 They contain one or two sentences **summarizing** or describing content and one or two sentences providing an **evaluation**.

# Formats for Citing Sources

**MLA (Modern Language Association)** Generally used for disciplines in the literature, arts, and humanities, such as English, languages, film, and cultural studies or other theoretical studies.

**APA (American Psychological Association)** Natural and social sciences, such as psychology, nursing, sociology, education and social work. It is also used in economics, business, and criminology.

**CBE (Council of Biology Editors)/CSE (Council of Science Editors)** Used by the plant sciences, zoology, microbiology, and many of the medical sciences.

**Turabian:** Designed for college students to use with all subjects.

**Chicago:** Used with all subjects in the "real world" by books, magazines, newspapers, and other non-scholarly publications.

# LOOK AT EXAMPLES:

## **Cornell University**

<http://guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=32342&p=203790>

## **University of California-Santa Cruz**

<http://library.ucsc.edu/ref/howto/annotated.html>

## **The OWL at Purdue**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

## **The Writing Center @ University of Wisconsin, Madison**

[http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/AnnBib\\_content.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/AnnBib_content.html)