






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