
Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is an organized list of citations followed by annotations—concise descriptive and evaluative summaries. Only significant details that are directly related to your research are necessary. Background materials and references to previous work(s) by the same author are usually not included. Entries are organized alphabetically and according to the style your instructor has requested.

Annotations do one or more of the following:

- Briefly describe/summarize the content and focus of a source
 - Briefly restate the main argument (thesis) of your source. (The introduction and conclusion are useful for this.)
 - If applicable, identify the research question or hypothesis, then the major methods, and the main conclusions.
- Suggest the source's relevance to your research
- Explain the source's strengths and weaknesses
- Discuss and record your reactions to the source

What is the purpose of writing an annotated bibliography?

The purpose differs with the audience and/or assignment. Be sure to read the guidelines that your instructor has provided. The purpose of the annotated bibliography may be to:

1. Provide additional information or background material for your reader
2. Demonstrate the quality of your research
3. Explore your topic for further reading or preparation for research
4. Give your research historical perspective or relevance

Selecting sources

Selecting appropriate sources is key to the usefulness of your bibliography. Be sure that you have defined the scope and limits of your research before you begin. Ask yourself the following:

- What question(s) am I attempting to answer?
- What problem(s) am I investigating?
- What type of material am I looking for? (Journal articles, academic books, websites, government documents, reports, etc.)
- Am I looking for primary and/or secondary sources?

Ask for help from a librarian if you need assistance with your research.

Sample annotations

<http://libguides.unbc.ca/content.php?pid=244169&sid=2391420>