



Annotated Bibliography

What is a bibliography?

A bibliography (or reference list/works cited) is a compiled list of sources that you plan to use/have used while doing your research. It supplies the information needed to track down a source; like the author, title and date of publication. It is usually compiled in APA or MLA format (ask your professor which one they prefer).

What is an annotation?

An annotation (in the academic sense) is a short summary of a source(book, journal article, etc), and usually includes an evaluation of it as a research tool (how it is useful/pertains to the research topic, and its quality).

What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is those two concepts put together; a list of sources that you have used/plan to use for your research. Each one should have a short summary of its content, the usefulness of the content, and the quality of it, as well.

Steps for completion

1. Select your sources and review them.
2. Find out the citation format for your discipline (usually APA or MLA; if you are not certain, ask your professor).
3. List your sources on a "works cited" page.
4. Annotate these sources (include: the unique qualities that make this source useful for your particular research topic, how it fits into your project, the strengths/weaknesses that this source might have, and of course, a general summary of the content)

Want to see an example?

In APA:

Gottlieb, P. D. (1995). The "golden egg" as a natural resource: Toward a normative theory of growth management. *Society and Natural Resources*, 8, (5): 49-56.

This article explains the dilemma faced by North American suburbs, which demand both preservation of local amenities (to protect quality of life) and physical development (to expand the tax base). Growth management has been proposed as a policy solution to this dilemma. An analogy is made between this

approach and resource economics. The author concludes that the growth management debate raises legitimate issues of sustainability and efficiency.

In MLA:

Gurko, Leo. Ernest Hemingway and the Pursuit of Heroism. New York: Crowell, 1968.

This book is part of a series called "Twentieth Century American Writers": a Brief Introduction to the Man and his Work. After fifty pages of straight biography, Gurko discussed Hemingway's writing, novel by novel.

There's an index and a short bibliography, but no notes. The biographical part is clear and easy to read, but it sounds too much like a summary.

Need more examples? You can check out these sites:

1. Cornell University's Website on Annotated Bibliography
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>
2. Skidmore College's Website on Annotated Bibliography
<http://www.skidmore.edu/library/help/annotatedbibliography.htm>

Have more questions? Ask your librarians!

Phone: (603) 428-2344

Email: libraryhelp@nec.edu

Website: www.nec.edu/library

Note: This guide draws heavily from the following sources:

- Cornell Olin & Uris Libraries. (2009). "How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography." Retrieved June 29, 2009 from <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>
- Stacks, G., & Karper, E. (2009). The OWL at Purdue: Annotated Bibliographies. Retrieved June 28, 2009 from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>.
- University of North Carolina Library. (2009) "MLA Style Examples." Retrieved June 29th, 2009 from http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/annotated_mla.html.