

Annotated Bibliography Tip Sheet

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

Annotated bibliographies are citations listed by the writer. Every one of them is followed by a summarizing paragraph of the cited reference. These citations are usually of academic references such as books and articles. How to write the annotated bibliography depends on what kind of style is used such as MLA or APA.

What is generally expected in an Annotated Bibliography?

Similar to a reference list, the same rules of how to organize references apply to the annotated bibliography. Therefore, citations can be organized alphabetically or even thematically, but this depends on the writer. However, what is different in the annotated bibliography is that each reference is followed by a paragraph, usually a short one, that contains a summary of the main ideas of the source. An evaluation of the source is also included. An evaluation shows your own position and thoughts about the source and how it discussed the topic.

Steps to Follow When Writing an Annotated Bibliography

- First, look for a useful source about the topic you are interested in by reading books, articles ... etc.
- After finding a useful source that could be used, read it carefully to gain a full understanding of the position that the author of the source took upon the topic you chose.
- However, do not stop when you find one useful source. Look for more sources that could give a different position about the chosen topic as this will help in making the paper complete and unbiased toward your own opinion of the topic.
- After examining a number of sources, cite them using the format style required such as MLA or APA.
- Start annotating the sources by summarizing them. Then evaluate the sources by

answering questions such as what kind of position does the source's author take when discussing the topic? Is the source useful or not? does it lack some aspects? How does the source differ from the other sources?

- Adding other sources that could give the topic more context could definitely help anyone who needs to understand the topic and why this kind of opinion is taken.
- Lastly, you need to look at how these sources that are annotated can be integrated into your paper.

What is the importance of an Annotated Bibliography?

There are many reasons to write an annotated bibliography especially if you are interested in writing a research paper. It helps you understand the topic you are researching since you are going to read the references you chose thoroughly. Therefore, you are going to be able to collect information that will help you with the main idea of your paper. You will also get to see the many different perspectives that is set upon your topic. Moreover, when you publish your research that might contain your annotated bibliography, you are helping other researchers who are trying to research the same topic. In addition, an annotated bibliography reveals how complex the topic is since you are showing the different negative and positive perspectives of it.

References

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