

WRITING AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Purpose

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations of published literature where each citation is followed by a brief annotation of about 150 words. The annotation describes the contents and purpose of the book or article and should inform the reader of its relevance, accuracy, and quality.

An annotated bibliography has three main functions:

- Excellent preparation for research
- Provides the author of the bibliography the opportunity to learn about a specific topic
- Offers others in a specialised field comprehensive and current information about related sources
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You should always check with your lecturer about the specific requirements of your annotated bibliography with regards to the length of the annotations and the referencing style required.

Structure

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS (SOURCE INFORMATION)	ANNOTATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written in paragraph form and both the summary and the critique are of about equal length. <p>The length of the annotation will vary depending on the purpose: eg . Some bibliographies merely summarise the source</p>	
	Summary	Critique (Assess and Reflect)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title • Author • Publisher • Place • Date • Page Numbers (If relevant) 	<p>Look for the main ideas and re-write them in your own words.</p> <p>Ask yourself the following questions to help you focus on the main ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main arguments? • What is the point the author is making? • What topics are covered? • What ideas and evidence is the author using to support this point? 	<p>This is your critical response to the author's main points and always comes after the summary.</p> <p>Draw on all your readings of the topic and ask yourself these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it contribute to my understanding of the topic? • What is added to the existing field of knowledge? • Is the information reliable? • How does this main point integrate with other works / ideas on the topic? • Does it help me shape my argument? How? Can I use it in my research? • Would I recommend this source to others interested in this topic/ field? Why? Why not?

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Academic Language of an Annotated Bibliography

Summary of the main ideas

- This article describes/analyses/discusses/focuses on/compares/introduces/states that/defines/demonstrates
- The author presents an overview...
- The author highlights...
- This chapter presents findings from a study into...
- The book includes a thorough investigation of...
- Brown uses a wide range of...

Evaluation of the reliability and credibility of the source

- The author of this chapter is a world-renown expert in this area with multiple publications on this topic to the source is evidently reliable.
- The authors base this article on research done in... and ...
- The author's credentials are not included. However, as the article is published in a peer- reviewed journal, it is a reliable source of information in this domain
- Substantial evidence is provided for all claims made...
- This article appears to be presenting factual information, however the author excludes relevant background information, to there is obvious bias.
- Although the article describes the major areas of..., there is no reference to ..., which is a major oversight.
- This is unarguably a thorough examination of...

Assessment of the usefulness of the source for research in the field

- This chapter is essential reading for research into the topic as it covers the ... critical concepts...
- This chapter contrasts the two...
- Most aspects of are covered by the article but further research will be necessary to fully understand...

Discipline Examples

BA1001

<http://libguides.jcu.edu.au/c.php?g=162331&p=1064585>

IA2013

https://www.jcu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/121989/jcuprd1_073106.pdf

Useful Links

Creating an Annotated Bibliography

<http://libguides.jcu.edu.au/c.php?g=162332&p=1064594>

Editing

<https://libguides.jcu.edu.au/writing/writing5>

Being Critical

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/being-critical/>

Referring to Sources

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/referring-to-sources/>

Annotated Bibliographies

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/index.html

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