

Annotated Bibliographies

Annotated bibliographies are a combination of a bibliographic reference (bibliography) and summary/evaluative notes (annotation) on a source. Annotated bibliographies help us to understand the big picture of a topic and how a certain source directly relates to our own research.

General Formatting

Annotated bibliographies are short notations on specific sources. They resemble a reference list with the addition of annotations following the reference for each source.

In order to write an annotated bibliography, keep in mind some basic tips:

- Annotations should be brief
- Each annotation should be listed individually (one annotation is about just one source)
- When using multiple sources, alphabetize each reference by the author's last name
- Format your references just as you would in a reference list
- Do not include citations or quotes in the annotation (all information in the annotation is already directly related to the reference)
- Do not include a reference list at the end of your manuscript (because you are already providing the references)
- Use third person throughout the paper (no first or second person)
- If you have more than one annotation to do continue with a new reference immediately following the previous one. Do not add separate sections or additional pages for each annotation. Include all annotations in one manuscript.

Annotated bibliographies are general between one to three paragraphs, with three paragraphs being a very common structure. The following structure generally applies to annotated bibliographies of three paragraphs:

First paragraph: Brief summary of the article

- What is the purpose of the source?
- What are the goals of the author(s)?
- What were the major findings?
- What were the methods employed?
- What were the conclusions?

Second Paragraph: Critique and analysis of the article

- Is the information reliable/accurate?
- Is the source useful?
- Was the theoretical or conceptual framework applied well?
- Does the author effectively convey the meaning and purpose?
- Are the conclusions justified?
- Are the findings generalizable?

Third paragraph: Implication of the article/relevance to your topic

- How does the source fit into your research?
- How useful is the source to your research?
- Is the source applicable to a wide variety of applications?
- How is this source different than others on the topic?