



How To Do An Annotated Bibliography

So you have to do an Annotated Bibliography! Before you panic, read this guide to learn what it is and how to get started.

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is an alphabetical list of research sources including books, magazines, journals, online articles and media. It looks like a References or Works Cited page but each source is followed by an annotation – a note about the source.

An annotated bibliography helps you to think critically about the sources you might use for your research paper. It can also help you to develop the thesis of your paper.

Components of an Annotated Bibliography.

It consists of two components:

1. Source Citation: Cite the source using a prescribed bibliographic format style (MLA/APA/Chicago)

2. Annotation: a description and assessment of the source.

Before Doing an Annotated Bibliography

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. What research question or topic am I investigating?

2. What kinds of sources do I need?

- academic journal articles?
- books?
- magazine articles?
- government documents?
- media such as videos or images?

3. What type of annotated bibliography am I doing?

- Do you need to describe each source, summarizing the major points?

Consider how the source is relevant to your topic.

Identify the main argument of the source.

What is its conclusion?

OR

- Do you need to evaluate each source? If so consider the following:

Is the information reliable?

Does the source offer new insights?

Does it provide evidence you can use in your paper to support a position?

What are the conclusions of the source?

The OWL Purdue Writing Lab has a [good example of an Annotated Bibliography](#).

Annotated Bibliography Worksheet

Research Question:

Source Citation:

Annotation:

Source Citation:

Annotation:

Source Citation:

Annotation:

Source Citation:

Annotation:

Source Citation:

Annotation:

Source Citation:

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