

THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

An annotated bibliography is a list of book, article, and other document citation entries that are each followed by a brief (about 150 words) paragraph that describes and evaluates the resource to inform the reader of the **scope, quality, and usefulness** of the source being cited.

THE PROCESS

- First consider the scope of your project. What types of books, articles, online resources, etc. are you looking for? How many? Make sure you check your assignment for guidelines.
- Next, locate the resources. Be sure to ask a librarian if you need help!
- Examine and review your sources. Which are most applicable to your project?
- Cite each book, article, or web document using the appropriate style.
- Write a concise annotation that includes most, if not all, of the following elements:
 - the central **purpose or scope** of the work
 - the work's **form** and **content**
 - **theoretical basis** and **currency of author's argument**
 - **significance** and **value** the work presents to the body of scholarship
 - evaluate the **authority or background of the author**; is the work a **credible source**?
 - work's **intended audience** and/or **bias** (as appropriate)
 - **compare or contrast** this work with another you have cited
 - explain how this work **illuminates your topic**; is this source **useful** to your reading of the text/theory, etc. If so, how?

CHOOSING THE CORRECT FORMAT FOR THE CITATIONS - Check with your instructor to find out which style is preferred for your class. Though there are many citation styles, the three most commonly used styles are:

- **APA (American Psychological Association)** – Generally used for Psychology, Criminal Justice, Communication, Education, and the Behavioral Sciences.
- **MLA (Modern Language Association)** – Generally used for English, Art, Music, and the Humanities.
- **Chicago/Turabian** – Generally used for History and the Social Sciences.

Questions? Ask a Librarian! reference@fitchburgstate.edu • 978-665-3223 • IM: librariansfsu

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UC Santa Cruz University Library. (n.d.). Write an annotated bibliography. Retrieved 2015 from:
<http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/write-an-annotated-bibliography>

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY WORKSHEET

Questions to get you started:

CREDIBILITY OF SOURCE:

Who is the author?

What are the author's credentials?

Who is the work's intended audience?

Do you think that the author is biased in their argument or presents multiple points of view?

DISCUSSION OF SOURCE'S CONTENT:

Discuss the source's content.

What is the central purpose or scope of the work?

What is the author's theoretical basis for their argument?

How does this source add value or significance to the field?

USEFULNESS OF SOURCE:

How is this work relevant to your research topic or question?

Does this source help you to better understand your central text, theory, etc.?

How does this source compare or contrast with another listing in your bibliography? Does each source share the same argument or hold contrasting viewpoints?
