

# Annotated Bibliographies

The following was taken from the Cornell University Olin & Uris Library website and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center website. For more information and examples, see [www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm#what](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm#what) and [http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/AnnBib\\_content.html](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/AnnBib_content.html).

## WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

## ANNOTATIONS VS. ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are the purely descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or in periodical indexes. Annotations are descriptive and critical; *they expose the author's point of view, clarity and appropriateness of expression, and authority.*

## THE PROCESS

1. Locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and electronic documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.
2. Cite the book, article, or document using the appropriate style.
3. Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work sheds light on your topic.

## AN EXAMPLE

Morris, Joyce M. Reading in the primary school: An investigation into standards of reading and their association with primary school characteristics. London: National Foundation for Educational Research, 1959.

Report of a large-scale investigation into English children's reading standards, and their relation to conditions such as size of classes, types of organization and methods of teaching. Based on enquiries in sixty schools in Kent and covering 8,000 children learning to read English as their mother tongue. Notable for thoroughness of research techniques.

## ASSESSMENT

Your annotated bibliography will be assessed based on the:

- Correct use of the MLA citation format.
- Summary/description of the source.
- Evaluation of the source.
- Format.

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