

Library Handout
Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is an organized list of sources, each of which is followed by a brief note or "annotation." Ask your students to annotate the entries and include information on how they found the sources, what type of source they are, and why they found them useful. They can include a note on key ideas or limitations of the material.

Assignment: *Find a specified number of sources on a topic and write descriptive or evaluative annotations.*

- describe the content and main aspects of the book or article
- explain why the source is useful for their research
- evaluate the source as to its accuracy, authority, currency, relevance and purpose

Learning Outcome: This assignment sharpens students' research skills and develops their critical evaluation abilities.

Citation Styles: Tell your students which citation style they should follow

The Library has created a number of [citation style guides](#) to help students format their bibliography (list of references). ([APA](#), [MLA](#), [Chicago / Turabian](#), etc.).

Type of annotation: Tell your students what type of annotation they should follow

There are two kinds of **summarizing annotations**, depending on what is most important for a reader to learn about a source, informative and indicative.

- Informative annotations summarize the content of the source, including notes on the author(s).
- Indicative annotations provide information on key issues in the source.

Evaluative annotations do not provide source summaries only, they give critical evaluation of the work or author; explain why a source is useful for your or any further research.

Examples of annotated bibliographies:

[MLA Style](#)

[APA Style](#)

[CBE Style](#)

Writing Style: tell your students what writing style you want them to use

- Telegraphic – includes quick, concise information
- Paragraph – includes more in-depth evaluative information

[Write the annotation](#) in your preferred style. The three styles are telegraphic, phrases instead of sentences; complete sentences, grammatically correct but not verbose; and paragraph, more elaborate and descriptive (similar explanation in Wikipedia)

Additional Information

Concordia University Libraries – [How to prepare an Annotated Bibliography](#)

Cornell University Library – [How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography](#)

Purdue Online Writing Lab – [Annotated Bibliographies](#)

SFU – [How to Write an Annotated Bibliography](#)

University of Toronto – [Writing](#) Centre

If you have any questions regarding [Citation Styles](#) documentation in the Library, please contact Kwantlen Librarian [Urike Kestler](#).

If you would like to incorporate a citation style workshop into the regular Library Research Skills session (and to schedule a Library Research Skills Session), please click on the [Library Instruction](#) link.

The literature review assignment requires students to critically interpret resources and see the relationship between concepts, fitting together various ideas to build a comprehensive view of the topic under study.

Incorporates [ACRL Standards](#): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Standard One : 2 c, d,
Standard Two: 2 a – f; 3 a,b; 5 c, d
Standard Three: 2a

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