

Annotated Bibliography

Welcome to the Lloyd Sealy Library! This handout is designed to give you an outline of how to create an annotated bibliography. There are many reasons to develop annotated bibliographies. They can help you to examine your sources and topic carefully and critically. They can help you to filter your sources and narrow down your topic. And they can be very useful to anyone who reads your research, giving an insight into why you picked the sources you did.

Bibliography

A **bibliography** is the list of sources and other materials that you used when researching your topic. It usually consists of books, journals, periodicals, web sites, videos, etc. Anything that you read/watched and used in your paper should be part of your bibliography.

A bibliography will usually include bibliographic information. It is not enough to just list some information. You must list as much information as you have available including title, author/s, publisher, publication date, and place of publication. How a bibliographic citation is listed depends on the type of citation method you are using (APA, MLA, Chicago Style).

Annotation

An **annotation** is a note of explanation or comment added to a text or diagram. In the case of an annotated bibliography it is a summary and/or evaluation of the bibliographic source, usually not exceeding about one paragraph though in some cases an annotation can run several pages.

An annotation to a bibliographic citation can do one or more of three things: summarize, assess, and reflect.

- **Summarize:** What are the main arguments? What is the material about? What topics does it cover?
- **Assess:** Is it a useful source? Is it reliable? Is it biased or objective?
- **Reflect:** Was this source helpful? How can you use this material in your research project? Did it change how you think about your topic?

Related links

Library Website: <http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/>

Refworks: <http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/refworks/>

How to Cite Sources: http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/citing_sources/