



Annotated Bibliographies

What are they?

- An annotated bibliography is a list of citations for books, articles, and other sources on a topic, and offers important information about each source. It *looks* like a reference page, but it includes an annotation after each source cited.

Why do we write them?

- Writing an annotated bibliography helps you develop critical reading skills and helps you identify key points of a research study. Doing this effectively synthesizes the content in a way that helps the reader determine the sources' validity and usefulness in relation to the topic of research.

Types of Annotations: **Note: These are two of the most common types, but instructors may ask for specific methods to follow. Always check with your instructor about directions!*

- **Summary Annotation:** Describes the source in detail by answering the following questions:
 - Who wrote the document?
 - What is the document's main argument and conclusion?
 - When & Where was the document written?
 - Why was the document produced?
 - How was the document provided to the public?
- **Evaluative Annotation:** Includes a summary with all the information relevant to the questions above, but also critically assesses the work for *accuracy*, *relevance*, and *quality*. These annotations can help you learn about a topic, develop a thesis, decide if a source will be useful for an argument, and determine if there is enough valid information to complete your project.
 - What is the author's authority or qualifications for writing the document?
 - Who is the intended audience of the document?
 - How might the document contribute to your topic?
 - What are the strengths, weaknesses, or limits of the document?
 - How does the document compare or contrast to other works you have evaluated?

Format:

- The *bibliographic information* should include the title, the author, the publisher, the date published, and any other information important to document that the reader should know.
- The *annotations* should be written in paragraph form. The length can vary depending on purpose.
- The information you summarize is relative to the purpose of the bibliography or the work it accompanies.
- Use your resources. You can also find videos online to assist in guiding you through how to do an annotated bibliography or come to the Writing Center!

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SUMMARY EXAMPLE

*Note: This is a *brief* example of an APA-formatted annotated bibliography.

Annotated Bibliography

Carnie, J. (1972). Diet and heart disease. *Science Progress (1933-)*, 60(238), 231-

243. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43423705>



In this scientific article, Carnie details the information gathered from animal experiments on the effects of different sugars and carbohydrates within the body and their links to ischemic heart disease. The article also contains theories that attempt to explain why elevated blood cholesterol levels are linked to high saturated fat intake. Dr. Carnie studies and teaches Biochemistry at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Her understanding of Biochemistry allows for detailed information regarding the effects of sugars, carbohydrates, and saturated fats on the blood cholesterol levels in adults. This source is trustworthy because of the author's expertise in the field and the experiments and research provided within it support the claims made. I do believe that more information about specific test subjects should be provided for contextual reasons regarding the research.

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Reminders:

- Use the correct citation methods for your sources (APA or MLA).
- You will repeat this process for each source you are using, making sure to provide all relevant information:
 - Citation, credibility of author, main argument of the source, research methods, relevance to your paper, weak and strong points of the source, and your opinion on the source.
- Your instructor may have specific additions or alterations to these tasks. Be sure to check with them to know exactly what they are looking for. Refer to your prompt!
- The Writing Center loves when you visit and ask them for help!

