

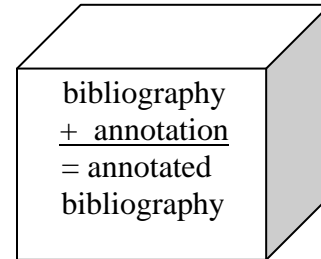
# Annotated Bibliography

Many students are familiar with the term "bibliography," but the word "annotated" tends to cause confusion. The purpose of an annotated bibliography is to inform the reader as to the content, relevancy, and accuracy of sources listed.



## WHAT IS IT?

A bibliography is a list of sources – or citations – organized alphabetically. An annotation is a description of the source. An annotated bibliography combines the two: it begins with a citation and is followed by a brief paragraph that describes the source.



## THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF ANNOTATION

### DO

Do summarize the central theme.  
Do explain the usefulness of the source in relation to your topic.  
Do include only significant information.  
Do explain WHY a source is good.  
Do be concise. One or two sentences is enough for each question.

### DON'T

Don't use a source unrelated to your topic.  
Don't comment on trivial information.  
Don't use jargon or slang.  
Don't just say it's "good" or "bad."  
Don't ramble or use vague language.

## WHAT TO INCLUDE IN AN ANNOTATION



The above information should be included in any standard annotation. A more in-depth description might include the following:

- a comment about the background as well as authority of the author
- a comparison of the source with others you have cited
- a comment about the intended audience
- any limitations of the source (out-of-date, confusing, etc.)
- your reaction to the source

# FORMAT

→ Begin each entry with a complete bibliographic citation. Citations include:

- author
- title
- publication information
- date

The order of each will depend on the type of source you're citing and the style used. MLA and APA are the styles used most frequently; however, there are other styles to choose from (Chicago, Turabian, CBE, ASC, etc.). Check with your instructor for style requirements. (Style handbooks are available in the Library or THE WRITING CENTER)

→ The citation and annotation are double spaced.

→ Typically, there is a space between the citation and the annotation.

→ Typically, the annotation (the summary) is indented 10 spaces on the first line and 5 spaces for every line to follow.

→ Skip a line between each entry.

→ Check with your professor for any specific format preferences.



## EXAMPLES

### ***FOR A BOOK:***

#### **MLA STYLE**

Author. Title of Book. City of publisher: Publisher's name, year.

Gurko, Leo. Ernest Hemingway and the Pursuit of Heroism. New York: Crowell, 1968.

#### **APA STYLE**

Author. (year). *Title of book*. City of publisher: Publisher's name.

Gurko, L. (1968). *Ernest Hemingway and the pursuit of heroism*. New York: Crowell.

Gurko's book gives an general introduction to the writer. After fifty pages of straight biography, Gurko discusses Hemingway's major work. The book is particularly useful for those interested in details of Hemingway's life as well as his novels, rather than his short fiction.

## ***FOR A PERIODICAL:***

### **MLA STYLE**

Author's name. "Title of article." Name of journal volume number (year): page numbers.

Goldscheider, Frances and Linda Waite. "Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." American Sociological Review (1986): 541-554.

### **APA STYLE**

Author. (year). Title of article. *Name of journal*, volume number (issue number), page numbers.

Goldscheider, F. & Waite, L. (1986). Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review*, 51(3), 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that non-family living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their beliefs in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams (cited below) shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of non-family living.

## **FOR WEB SOURCES:**

**NOTE: THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO CITE A WEB SOURCE (PROFESSIONAL WEB SITE, NEWSPAPER, ONLINE BOOK, ETC.), BUT THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE MOST COMMONLY USED.**

### ***ARTICLE FROM AN ONLINE JOURNAL:***

#### **MLA STYLE**

Author. "Article Title." Journal Title volume and any issue numbers (publication year): page numbers. Access date <URL>.

Palfrey, Andrew. "Choice of Mates in Identical Twins." Modern Psychology 4.1 (2003): 26-40. 25 Feb. 2006 <[http://www.liasu.edu/modpsy/palfrey4\(1\).htm](http://www.liasu.edu/modpsy/palfrey4(1).htm)>.

## **APA STYLE**

Author. (Year of publication). Article title. *Name of journal*, volume number.  
Retrieved month day, year , from URL.

Clune, A.C. (2002). Mental disorder and its cause. *Psychology*, 13. Retrieved September 23, 2003, from <http://psycprints.ecs.soton.ac.uk/archive/00000210/>.

## ***AN ARTICLE FROM AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE (PROQUEST, EBSCO, ETC.) TO WHICH THE LIBRARY SUBSCRIBES:***

## **MLA STYLE**

Author. "Article Title." *Title of Publication* volume number (year): page numbers. *Name of Database*. Name of the service. Name of subscribing institution, Library Name. Access date <URL>.

Gorski, Paul C. "Privilege and Repression in the Digital Era: Rethinking the Sociopolitics of the Digital Divide." *Race Gender and Class* 10.4 (2003): 145-76. *Ethnic NewsWatch*. ProQuest, Clarion U of Pa, Carlson Lib. 12 January 2006 <<http://proquest.umi.com>>.

## **APA STYLE**

Author. (Year of publication). Article title. *Name of journal*, volume number (issue number), page numbers. Retrieved month day, year , from Name of Database.

Wilkins, J. M. (1999). The myths of the only child. *Psychology Update* 11 (1), 16-23. Retrieved December 20, 2005, from ProQuest Direct database.

**\*\*Disclaimer: This handout is meant as a guideline. Please note that there may be variations in format depending on a professor's preferences. Please check with your professor to make sure she or he is in agreement with the style you use.**

Adapted from:

Lester, J.D. & Lester, Jr., J.D. *Writing Research Papers in the Social Sciences*. New York: Pearson, 2006.

Aaron, J.E. *The Little, Brown, Compact Handbook with Exercises* 6<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Pearson, 2007.