

DA 03.511 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is an alphabetical list of sourced briefs. The annotation provides a brief account of selected references used to exemplify the research done on a given topic. It also demonstrates a concise summary for each reference along with some assessment of the value or relevance of the reference to the proposed work. For this course, the annotated bibliography (parts I and II) is completed as the foundation for a larger project, the final scholarly paper.

Sources /References

The quality and usefulness of your bibliography will depend on your selection of references, hereafter referred to as sources for the work (final scholarly paper). You may include required and suggested course materials in the annotated bibliography. Carefully defining the scope and limits of your literature research will help you to make good judgments about what to both include and exclude:

Creating an annotation. Summarizing the argument of a source:

- An annotation briefly restates the main argument of a source.
- An annotation of an academic or scholarly (peer-reviewed) source typically, identifies the thesis (research question, or hypothesis), the major methods of investigation and the main conclusions.
- Identifying the argument (basis for the discussion) of a source is different than summarizing. A summary simply describes and lists source contents.
- An annotation seeks to **EXPLAIN** why specific content is presented in the source.

To identify the argument of a source:

DA 03.511 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Identify the author's thesis (central claim or purpose) or the research question.
 1. The thesis may be clearly stated or rationally implied.
 2. If implied, the information should be located in either the introduction or the conclusion.

- Look for key terms or ideas.
 1. Follow them through the text and examine how they are used.

- Notice how the theory is used to frame and interpret evidence.
 1. Identify the method used to investigate the issues addressed in the text.

- Notice how the text of the article is laid out and organized.
 1. What are the main sections?
 2. What is emphasized and why?
 3. Look also for paragraphs that summarize the argument.

Assessing the relevance and value of a source:

Since your bibliography is part of a larger project, include in the annotation a statement that briefly identifies how you intend to use the source and why it has relevance to your pending work.

- Are you interested in the way the work frames the thesis or research question?

DA 03.511 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Does the work provide a unique method for answering that question?
2. Does the work make new connections or open up new ways of seeing a problem?
3. How effective is the method of investigation?

- Are you interested in the way the source uses a theoretical framework or a key concept?

If so, why do you find this use valuable?

Is it problematic in some ways? (e.g. analysis of existing, extinguished, other kinds rights)

- Does the source gather and analyze a particular body of evidence that you want to use?

How good is the evidence?

- How do the conclusions influence or contribute to your own understanding?