

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

A list of citations for books, articles, and other sources that you used in your assignment. Each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph (the annotation). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

Annotations vs. Abstracts

Abstracts are descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly works. They outline what the research is about, the central claims or findings of the research, and also why the research is significant.

Annotations are included in the bibliographic list at the end of scholarly works. They are both descriptive and critical. They may evaluate, for example, how convincing or useful the source is, how the source fits into scholarship more broadly, or how the source is relevant to the assignment at hand.

Tips for Your Annotations

- List sources alphabetically (even within categories).
Provide bibliographic data according to the citation style of your School.
Provide a summary of the main argument/ scope of the source.
Provide a critical evaluation of the source and its usefulness.
Explain how the source fits into the broader scope of the field, and what it contributes to or remedies within the field. Compare the source with other works and consider how the source fits into the author's corpus overall.
- Explain what this source contributes to your own research and the assignment at hand. How does it impact or shape your central thesis, your methodology and approach, or your theoretical frameworks?
- How timely is this source? Is the source current or out-of-date for your topic? Is this a first edition of this publication or not? Further editions may indicate that a source has been revised and updated to reflect changes in knowledge, or to redress previous omissions. Also, many printings or editions may indicate that the work has become a standard source in the area and that it is reliable.
- Who is the intended readership of this source?
Comment on the writing style and structure of the source.

Annotation Example

