

Annotated Bibliography

What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotation is a brief explanation about a document or its contents, usually added as a note following the bibliographic citation of the document. The annotation is a short description (usually two or three sentences) which serves to describe the content, theme, and relationship of the document to the investigation.

Why is annotating useful?

For the writer – in the initial stages of compiling information, a summary will help to choose the best sources without having to reread the entire article or book.

For the reader – allows the reader to choose the best sources for further research in the topic area.

What are the various types of entries?

A. Information Summary – adopts the tone of the original; presents material in abbreviated form.

Jones, C. W. Geowriting: A Guide to Writing, Editing, and Printing in Earth Science. 2nd.

ed. Falls Church, VA: American Geological Institute, 1979.

How to prepare typescripts, drawings, photographs, and maps for publications in geology and related sciences. Conventions and authorities for geologic names; proof correction. Refereeing of manuscripts and how authors can respond to referees' criticisms.

B. Descriptive Summary – adopts a distant perspective; describes the text rather than presenting the information.

Jones, C. W. Geowriting: A Guide to Writing, Editing, and Printing in Earth Science. 2nd.

ed. Falls Church, VA: American Geological Institute, 1979.

The author provides a variety of information useful to those preparing publications in the geological sciences. Jones also offers conventions and authorities for geologic names, provides proof correction, and suggests how authors can respond to referees' criticisms.

C. Evaluative Summary – provides either descriptive or informative summary but also includes an evaluative judgment about the work. When completing an evaluative annotation, keep in mind these questions usually asked about a source:

- How extensive is the discussion of the topic? What topics does the author cover effectively? Not cover effectively or at all? (Strengths/weaknesses)
- How objective is the source? Bias?
- How dated is the source? Problem?



- How qualified is the author? Sources?
- Is this source useful to MY study?

Weiss, Lynn. Attention Deficit Disorder in Adults. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing, 1992.

The only book devoted to the problems of adults with ADD. The author, a psychologist who is the mother of an ADD son and whose former husband had ADD, does a good job of describing the effects of ADD on family relationships. It also offers practical advice on dealing with problems of daily living, and it also contains many self-help tips for ADD persons and their spouses. The discussion of psychological and family issues is thorough, but discussion of causes and medical treatment is limited and somewhat dated.

TIPS FOR WRITING AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- (1) Explain the main purpose of the work.
- (2) Briefly describe the contents.
- (3) Indicate the possible audience for the work.
- (4) Note any special features.
- (5) Warn of any defect, weakness, or suspected bias.

NOTE: All citations are written in MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Please see your professors for the documentation style to be used.