

Jennifer King offers a very practical narration on the mechanics of writing an annotated bibliography. The article begins with a brief description of what an annotated bibliography is, what information they generally contain, and why they are useful. Tips are provided for how to write the annotations, with a list of some aspects that may be helpful to keep in mind when critically evaluating the resource. Sample annotated bibliography entries are provided, as well as an evaluation sheet for research sources and a list of verbs to aid in descriptive writing. This article is a valuable resource for concise, practical information that will aid in the writing process.


One particularly helpful section of this article is the information regarding selecting the sources to be summarized in an annotated bibliography. The author points out that well-defined boundaries will allow the bibliography to be comprehensive without becoming unwieldy. A focus on finding and assessing essential studies on a topic is emphasized. The article also discusses the main information an annotation should identify, and seeks to provide ways in which writers can ensure they are encapsulating the main arguments of their resources as well as the relevance and value of the resources to the research question at hand.


The Purdue online writing lab (Purdue OWL) is a well-respected online source offering reference materials and services intended to help users as they develop their writing skills. The annotated bibliography page offers a definition that describes what an annotated bibliography is and provides a brief description of the purpose of the annotations in different assignment types. The authors detail why annotated bibliographies are a valuable writing tool, both for the author of the bibliography and for other readers. Formatting information is provided, with links to style guides for various citation styles. A link is provided to an example of an annotated bibliography, as well as sample annotated bibliographies in APA, MLA, and Chicago citation styles.