



## A Brief Guide to Annotated Bibliographies

An annotated bibliography is similar to your bibliography or works cited page but with one key difference. Like the traditional bibliography, the annotated bibliography is organized in alphabetical order and may include journal articles, Web sites, books, book reviews, films, datasets, etc. Unlike the traditional works cited page, however, each entry in the annotated bibliography must contain a review or evaluation of each entry.

Why do an annotated bibliography? Besides the obvious answer (it's a course requirement!), the annotated bibliography outlines what has been written on a particular topic and helps to identify any potential gaps in research. The annotated bibliography also serves as a guide to other researchers to help them choose from among the resources you've identified. And, the process of creating an annotated bibliography will help you establish critical thinking processes.

Annotations may be descriptive or critical or both. Descriptive annotations describe the source by identifying what it is (journal article, Web site, film), authorship, length (pages, minutes, fields) and content such as objectives, methodology, data and analysis.

Leach, Archibald.

2002 Ceramic Stovetops in the Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. *Agga Enthusiast* 25:237-246.

Three ceramic stovetops are profiled, General Electric, Whirlpool and Frigidaire, whose success is attributed to an increase in consumer driven markets.

Critical annotations are more detailed and require you to discuss the relevancy of the source to the topic. Why is Article X important to the field of paleoenvironmental reconstruction? Who is the author and what are their credentials? How old is the resource--is it still relevant? Who is the intended audience and are there obvious limitations to the article such as applicability, age, bias? Finally, based on the information you've looked at, what is your opinion of the source?

Morrison, Marion

1963 Hemp vs. Sisal: How Far Should Authenticity Go in Recreating the Wild West. *Imagination Nation* 3:177-194.

Although written in 1963, Morrison has identified many of the problems Hollywood film producers face today in recreating authenticity for an increasingly skeptical movie going audience. Based on his experiences as senior prop manager for Big Sky Studios, Morrison clearly outlines the difficulty in obtaining bona fide artifacts and explains the procedures necessary to manufacture realistic substitutions. Written for researchers interested in film history, Hemp vs. Sisal is accessible for those interested in ethnography, history and archaeology. Morrison provides detailed illustrations showing the differences, or lack thereof, between historical artifacts and the props designed to replace them. His extensive bibliography, although now severely dated, demonstrates his scholarship in the field in addition to his personal experiences. As a source of information on historical accuracy in film making, prop creation and even in historical artefact fraud, Morrison's article is a worthy starting point.

The above samples, which are wholly fictitious, should give you an idea how to differentiate between descriptive and evaluative annotations.

For more information on locating resources and critically assessing information, have a look at the SFU Library's 'Start Your Research here' guide

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchhelp/tutorials/startyourresearchhere.htm>

For The Pehistory of Latin America (ARCH 330) you have been asked to select five key sources drawn from scholarly journals or books. In addition to the journals identified by your instructor have a look at <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchtools/databases/dbofdb.htm?DisciplineID=17> for other resrouces on locating scholarly articles relevant to your topic.

The format for your bibliography must conform to the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) style guide available at <http://www.saa.org/Publications/Styleguide/styframe.html>. In addition, you may want to have a copy of the *Chicago Manual of Style* handy as the SAA guide will suggest you consult it for clarification.

Further Resources on annotated bibliographies may be found on the Internet::

University of North Florida BLISS: Creating an Annotated Bibliography:

<http://www.unf.edu/~alderman/BLISS2/annotatedbibliography.html>

University Libraries / University at Albany: Creating an Annotated Bibliography

<http://library.albany.edu/usered/style/ann.html>

University of Minnesota Crookston: Writing an Annotated Bibliography

<http://www.crk.umn.edu/library/links/annotate.htm>

Cornell University Library: How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/research/skill28.htm>

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