

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

an·no·ta·tion

n.

1. The act or process of furnishing critical commentary or explanatory notes.
2. A critical or explanatory note; a commentary.

(2009). *The American heritage dictionary of the English language* (4th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

A list of citations for books, articles, websites, and other materials where each citation is accompanied by a brief descriptive and evaluative statement, called an *annotation*.

Annotations are different from the abstracts you will find accompanying journal article citations in online databases. Abstracts are *descriptive*. Your annotation must extend beyond the descriptive element to include an *evaluation* of the book or article.

Why Annotations?

An annotated bibliography is a tool for exploring a topic of interest. The process of reading and reflecting on the materials you find in the gathering part of the research process can help you understand the topic, identify multiple perspectives, explore different methods used to investigate the topic, and give you ideas for developing the thesis for your paper.

How are Annotations Created?

1. Locate and record the citations for articles, books, and other materials you will use for your paper. You need to gather enough sources to represent a range of perspectives on your topic.
2. Create the citation using the appropriate style (MLA, APA, etc.). Tools that can help you with this include handouts received in class, bibme.org, or RefWorks (linked from the Libraries website).
3. Write the annotation considering the questions below. Keep it short but be very complete.

Questions to consider when evaluating the item and writing your annotation include:

- What education, experience and/or background does the author have which contributes to their being an authority on the topic?
- Who is the intended audience for the book or article and how does that influence the presentation of the information?
- How does this work contribute to your argument or support your claims about your topic?
- What are the main conclusions of the author(s) and what evidence do they use to support them?

For additional tips on how to evaluate information sources take a look at:

“Critically Evaluating Information Sources”

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill26.htm>

ORIGINAL ABSTRACT

Database	 Sociological Abstracts
Title	<i>Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations among Young Adults</i>
Author	Waite, Linda J. ; Goldscheider, Frances Kobrin ; Witsberger, Christina
Affiliation	Rand Corp, 1700 Main St Santa Monica CA 90406-2138
Source	American Sociological Review, vol. 51, no. 4, pp. 541-554, Aug 1986
Abstract	Young adults in recent cohorts have been leaving the parental home earlier & marrying later now than they did several decades ago, resulting in an increased period of independent <i>living</i> . The consequences of time spent in <i>nonfamily living</i> are explored, using interview data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Men & Young Women (N not given). It is expected that experience in <i>living</i> away from home prior to marriage will cause young adults to change their attitudes, values, plans, & expectations, & move them away from a traditional family orientation. Strong support for this hypothesis is found for young women; those who lived independently became more accepting of employment of mothers, & more nontraditional on sex roles in the family than those who lived with their parents. <i>Nonfamily living</i> had much weaker effects on young men in the few tests that could be performed. Also addressed are the conditions under which <i>living</i> away increases individualism, & the implications of these findings are discussed. 7 Tables, 1 Appendix, 35 References. HA

SAMPLE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE

The following example uses the **MLA style** for the journal citation. NOTE: Standard MLA practice requires double spacing within citations.

Waite, Linda J., Frances Goldscheider, and Christina Witsberger. "Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." *American Sociological Review* 51.4 (1986): 541-554. Print.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They found their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.

Example above quoted from:

"How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography." *Home / Cornell University Library*. n.p., 12 Feb. 2010. Web. 25 Feb. 2010. <<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>>

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY WORKSHEET

In the box, write the complete citation for an item you think you will use for your paper. Feel free to use bibme.org to start getting into MLA or APA style. Remember that you MUST review each bibme.org citation for completeness and correctness before submitting your work for a grade!

Answer the following questions about this item:

- What education, experience or background does the author have which contributes to their being an authority on the topic?

- Who is the intended audience for the book or article and how does that influence how the information is presented?

- How does this work contribute to your argument or support your claims about your topic?

- What are the main findings of the research or the main conclusions of the author(s)?

To write your annotation you will weave together these answers into a short evaluative description of the item.