Assignment: Writing an Annotated Bibliography
What is an annotated bibliography?

- It is an organized list of sources on a topic with a note or annotation that describes or summarizes the source and may evaluate it.

What is the difference between an abstract and an annotation?

- An **abstract** is an **objective description or summary** of the contents of a publication.

- An **annotation** is also a **description or summary** of the contents of a publication, but it **often includes an evaluation** of the work.
What is the purpose of an annotated bibliography?

- “Reviews the literature on a topic.”
- Shows the “scope and quality of your research.”
- “Provides examples of the types of sources available on a given topic” for others in your field.
- “Can help you organize material and think about the potential use... of each source.”
- Can help you “gain perspective on a topic and identify a good research question or thesis.”

What should the annotation include?

- A bibliographic entry in APA format.
- A paragraph of about 150-200 words about the source.
What are the types of annotation?

- Indicative (descriptive)
- Informative
- Evaluative
- Combination

For further information and examples...

- My source for these four types is The Writing Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- See the Writing Center Web site below for additional information and for examples of the types described in the next four slides.
Indicative (Descriptive)

- “Defines the scope of the source, lists the significant topics included, and tells what the source is about.”
- “This type is different from the informative entry in that the informative entry gives actual information about its source.”
- “No attempt to give actual data such as hypotheses, proofs, etc. Generally, only topics or chapter titles are included.”

Informative

- Summary of the source.
- If the source is a research study, you follow the outline for a study.

Evaluative

- Assesses the source's strengths and weaknesses.
- May compare it to other sources.
- May comment on type and amount of information.
- May note any biases.

NOTE: Do not include any evaluative statements such as “I think this source will be important in writing my paper.” In the class assignment, we are striving for an annotated bibliography that could be published as a paper of interest to your community.


Combination

- “Most annotated bibliographies are of this type.”
- “They contain one or two sentences summarizing or describing content and one or two sentences providing an evaluation.”
- Type required for class assignment.

What is the writing style for the paragraph of annotation?

- Telescopic – not complete sentences
  - Frequently omits subject and part of the verb.
  - Much harder to do than it seems at first.

- Paragraph – complete sentences
  - More useful because more complete information is usually given.
  - Type required for the class assignment.
How should the list of sources by organized?

- By alphabetical order.
  - Preferred in most cases.
- By date.
  - Preferred when currency is an issue.
- By topics.
  - Used sometimes for very long bibliographies.
  - Organized by alphabet or date within topics.
How should the list be presented?

- Paper should have a meaningful title.
- Paper should have an introduction.
  - Identifies the topic.
  - Gives the selection criteria.
- Each entry has a bibliographic citation in APA format, a blank space, and a paragraph of annotation.
- Entries are single-spaced with two blank lines between entries.
Completing the assignment

- See a description of the assignment and the rubric for grading in the course syllabus.
- See the Webliography for Web sites with advice on completing an annotated bibliography.
- See Course Content for a model bibliography.
  - The model does not have complete sentences; you need to use complete sentences.
- Submit your abstract for grading in the Assignments folder as a file attached to the assignment page.
Questions?

- Please let me know if you have any questions about the assignment.