



Library Resources Help Sheet

Annotated bibliography help sheet

SRA215 Utopian Ideals

What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations (or references) to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

Purpose of an annotated bibliography

Depending on your specific assignment, the purpose of an annotated bibliography may serve to:

- review the literature of a particular subject;
- demonstrate the quality and depth of reading that you have done;
- exemplify the scope of sources available—such as journals, books, web sites and magazine articles;
- highlight sources that may be of interest to other readers and researchers;
- explore and organise sources for further research.

When set as an assignment, an annotated bibliography allows you to get acquainted with the material available on a particular topic.

How do I write an annotated bibliography?

There are two main sections to each annotated bibliography entry:

1. The bibliographic information (the reference or citation).

2. The explanatory paragraphs (the annotation), which provide one or more of the following elements depending on your assessment requirements:

- a *summary* of the main arguments or ideas presented by the author

- a *critique or evaluation* of the source's usefulness, reliability, objectivity or bias, and a comparison with other sources
- a *reflection* on how the source fits into your research.

Adapted from Writing at the [Writing at the University of Toronto](#)

Examples of an entry from an annotated bibliography

Sample annotated bibliography entry for a book

Cox, Phillip and Lucas, Clive, *Australian Colonial Architecture*, Lansdowne Editions, Melbourne, 1978

Cox and Lucas provide a well-illustrated and reasonably comprehensive coverage of Australia's Colonial Architecture. Critical definitions, analysis of vernacular and high style architecture in Australia and comparisons are particularly useful. This volume sets up the context and makes a good starting point for further research.

Useful links for Annotated Bibliographies

The following web resources provide further information and have been used as a basis for the construction of this guide.

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

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

<http://student.unsw.edu.au/annotated-bibliography>

Where do I find out more information about referencing?

At Deakin University the documentary-note (Oxford) system is used in some history and philosophy units offered by the Faculty of Arts and Education, and in some units offered by the School of Architecture and Building. *You should always check your unit guide and/or with academic staff (unit chair, lecturer or tutor) to make sure that this is the correct system for your unit.*

More information on referencing can be found through the [Deakin Study Skills](#) website. Refer to information on the [documentary-note \(Oxford\) system](#).