Annotated Bibliography: APA Style

What is an Annotated Bibliography? An annotated bibliography contains a reference entry of a possible source followed by a short paragraph or summary (100 – 200 words) describing that work.

To write an annotated bibliography:

- **Locate sources** – from online databases, the library, and websites
- **Choose the sources** - provide a wide variety of perspectives on the topic (article abstracts are helpful in this process)
- **Cite and annotate** - include some or all of the following:
  - Purpose of the work
  - Summary of its content
  - Information about author(s)
  - Relevance to the topic
  - Special or unique features about the material
  - Research methodology
  - Strengths, weaknesses, or biases in the material

**Tip:** Annotated bibliographies are arranged alphabetically by the authors’ last names.

**Note:** For help with an annotated bibliography, refer to the APA Publication Manual, pages 180 – 215.

Information is based on the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition. Individual instructor’s specifications may vary, so check with your instructor before formatting and submitting your work.

Still have questions? Come see us – SWC L401