

*'Let's get on with it'*



What is an  
**ANNOTATED  
BIBLIOGRAPHY?**

## Bibliography

A list of sources cited in an assignment which provides readers with the author, title and publication details.

## Annotation

A brief summary of each source (book, magazine, journal, etc.)

thus . . .

An Annotated Bibliography is a list of sources, each with a summary of its main arguments. It also includes a value statement of each source.

## The Functions of an Annotated Bibliography

The annotation does one or more of the following:

- identifies the main purpose of the book or article
- describes the usefulness of the source to your research
- evaluates the conclusions or reliability of the source
- records your reactions to the source

## Examples

**01** The following annotated bibliography example uses the **APA format** for a journal reference:



For more information see the **References Study Guide**

### The Citation

Waite, L. J., Goldschneider, F.K., & Witsberger, C. (1986). "Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults." *American Sociological Review*, 51, 541-554

### The Annotation

Author information

Purpose of work

Results of the investigation

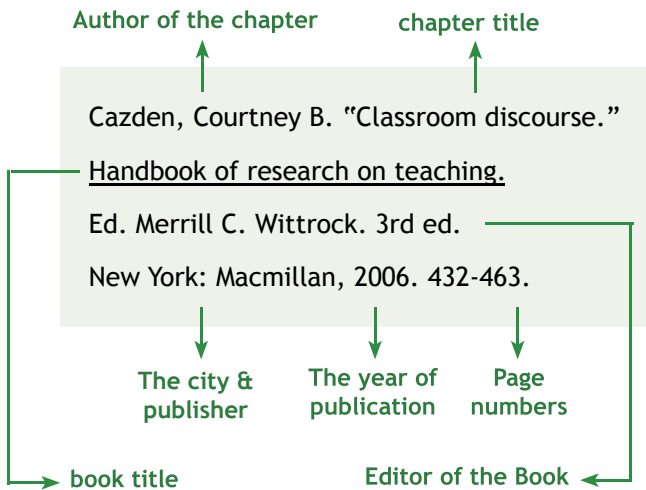
Other studies & personal comment

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 find 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.

02 The following annotated bibliography example uses the MLA for a book reference.



Note the use of quotation marks in chapter titles, underlining of book titles, and the use of full stops and commas between elements of the citation. For a fuller discussion of these elements, refer to an **MLA Style Manual**.



## The Writing Process

### Step 1

Critically evaluate each work to determine if it is suitable for your topic.

If you were asked to compile an annotated bibliography for the topic, "AIDS in The Pacific" using a series of articles from different sources, you would:

- first develop a list of questions about the topic. Arrange them into categories and ensure you clearly note the sources which are related to the scope of your topic.
- next, develop a Synthesis Grid (see below) to show the similarities between views. An example grid is provided.



For further information see the **Literature Review** study guide. Also, see stage - (Planning) or download a copy of the USP Library handout, **Critically Evaluating Information Sources** (<http://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=4195>)

- When you have completed the grid, pull all your conclusions together in a short paragraph (annotation).



For more information see the **Summarising Study Guide**

### The Annotation

Cazden reviews research in classroom discourse from a sociolinguistic perspective. She provides a fairly useful discussion of some of the key issues in the field and concludes with a discussion of the relationships between discourse and cognition.

## SYNTHESIS GRID

List author's theme in these spaces

	Author 1	Author 2	Author 3	Author 4
Theme 1				
Theme 2				
Theme 3				
Theme 4				

## Step 2

Bibliographic entries are arranged alphabetically by the authors' last names (surnames). Cite each entry using the appropriate style: Harvard, APA, MLA and be consistent in your use of the chosen style.



### Activity

Compile a bibliographic list for the following entries using the *Harvard Referencing Style*.



For more information see the **Using References** study guide)

- Title: *The Practice of Philosophy, A Handbook for Beginners, 2nd Edition.*  
Author: Jay F Rosenberg  
Publisher: Prentice Hall  
Year of Publication: 2005  
Place of Publication: Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey
- Title: *The Philosophy of Student Writer's Manual.*  
Authors: Anthony Graybosch, Scott M Gregory and Steven Grassion.  
Publisher: Prentice Hall  
Year of Publication: 2007  
Place of Publication: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey



### Answers

Graybosch, A. Gregory, M S & Garrison, S G 2007, *The Philosophy Student Writer's Manual*, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Rosenberg, JF 2005 *The Practice of Philosophy: A Handbook for Beginners, 2nd Edition*, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ

## Step 3

Proofread your entire annotated bibliography

## Helpful Checklist:

- Complete bibliographic information
  - Consistent style, eg. Harvard, APA or MLA
  - Author
  - Title of the work
  - Publication details
- Information to explain the authority and/or qualification of the author
  - For example: Professor Ian Campbell, a history professor at USP, based his book on twenty years of research in Tonga.*
- Scope and main purpose of the work.
  - Any biases that you detect
  - Intended audience and level of reading difficulty
  - The relationship, if any, to other works in the area of study
  - Your own brief impression of the work
  - A summary comment
  - For example: It is a popular account directed at educated adults.*
- Remember to be brief
  - The annotation is usually about 100-200 words long*



For more information see the **Using References** Study Guide



For more information see the **Essay Writing** Study Guide