

Annotated Bibliographies

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, etc.) used for researching a topic. An annotated bibliography usually includes bibliographic information of sources used in a research paper: author's name, title of work, publisher, date, and any other information required by an instructor. If the instructor provides a guideline, always follow those instructions.

An annotated bibliography usually includes your summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. Depending on the assignment, annotations may contain one or more of the following.

- **Summarization:** What are the main arguments of the work? What is the point of the work? What topics are covered?
- **Evaluation:** Is the work a useful source for your paper? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective?
- **Examination:** How does the work benefit your research? Was this source helpful? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

An annotated bibliography may include some of the above aspects, all of these aspects, or other aspects. Remember: always get specific guidelines from your instructor.

Format Requirements

The exact format of an annotated bibliography can vary, so it is important to ask your instructor for specific guidelines or preferences (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.).

Annotations for each source usually are written in paragraph form following the bibliographic information. The lengths of the annotations may vary significantly from a few sentences to a few pages.

The following site offers helpful examples of annotated bibliographies for MLA, APA, and Chicago formats.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/annotated_bibliography_samples.html

MLA 8

The *MLA Handbook, Eighth Edition* does not include guidelines for formatting an annotated bibliography. However, professors may require one that follows MLA citation format. An annotated bibliography contains descriptive or evaluative comments about sources. Each citation should adhere to MLA guidelines.

For information, visit <https://irsc.libguides.com/mla/annotatedbibliography>

Example of an online magazine*

Mower, Laurence. "Tougher Texting While Driving Law in Florida Approved by Gov. DeSantis." *Florida Trend*, October 2019, www.floridatrend.com/article/26877/tougher-texting-while-driving-law-in-florida-approved-by-gov-desantis. Accessed 10 October 2019.

This article seeks to decode the new bill signed by Governor Ron DeSantis that toughens Florida's prohibition on texting and driving. One of the main issues that the author addresses is the complexity of enforcing the law. The author details that the law still allows drivers to use their phones when stopped. The law also permits drivers to use their phones to navigate, make phone calls, read emergency messages, and check weather alerts. The greatest difficulty for enforcement of the law is that lawmakers require police to tell drivers that they (drivers) have the right to decline a search of their phone. The article does a good job of clarifying the complications and drawbacks of the new law.

***For additional MLA examples, visit <http://irsc.libguides.com/mla/workscitedexamples>**

APA 7

The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* does not provide guidelines for creating an annotated bibliography. However, professors may require one that follows APA format. An annotated bibliography notes sources that will be used in the final research paper and follows APA citation style. The annotations may summarize or evaluate the sources used. For information, visit <http://irsc.libguides.com/apa/exampleannotatedbibliography>

Example of an online magazine with no DOI*

Mower, L. (2019). Tougher texting while driving law in Florida approved by Gov. DeSantis. *Florida Trend*. Retrieved February 24, 2020 from <https://www.floridatrend.com/article/26877/tougher-texting-while-driving-law-in-florida-approved-by-gov-desantis>

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***If DOI is provided, use DOI address.**

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_electronic_sources.html

MLA and APA paragraph formatting reduced for handout purposes. Be sure to use required font.