Annotated Bibliographies

Depending on the purpose of your bibliography and your instructor’s directions, some aspects to cover in an annotation are:

- Summarize the source information
- Evaluate the relevance of the source information to your research
- Reflect on your opinion of the information – did you agree/disagree with the premise, think it was bias or incomplete, was the information outdated, etc.

Annotation format

Only the first line of your citation is flush with the left margin. All other lines are indented. All lines in MLA and APA are double spaced. In Chicago Style the actual quotation is single spaced. Bibliographies list the citations in alphabetical order by first line.

See below for examples of an online journal article in the three most common formats.

APA style example: Journal article


In this study, the researchers examined if the Internet had affected public library usage in the United States. This study is distinct because its researchers surveyed library nonusers as well as users. The major finding was that 75.2% of people who used the Internet also used the public library. However, the researchers surveyed only 3000 individuals in a population of millions; therefore, these results may not be statistically significant.

However, this study is relevant because it provides future researchers with a methodology for determining the impact of the Internet on public library usage.
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