



Annotated Bibliography Basics

Shoen Library

An annotated bibliography is a list of books, articles and other sources used in your research. Each source is cited using APA, MLA or Chicago format, followed by a paragraph which describes and evaluates the information. It will help the writer reflect on what information the source provided, and inform the reader of the quality and relevance of the source. It should be detailed but also succinct: typically between 120 and 150 words.

Your annotations must include the following elements:

1. The name and qualifications (or credentials) of the author(s).
2. A brief summary (2-4 sentences) of the resource, including the thesis.
3. A description of the intended audience. Is it written for a general audience with little knowledge of the subject, or
4. An evaluation of the source's usefulness, reliability, strengths and weaknesses and its value for your research.

Example:

Zack, N. (2009). *Ethics for disaster*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

The author, a professor at the University of Oregon, provides several discussions around ethics and disasters, posing questions and ideas as to what is and is not considered ethical within the overarching culture in the United States. Because natural disasters often times threatens human life and well-being, the author speaks to the need of a code of ethics, indicating that morals and values be referred to in implementing procedures in disaster planning. This book is intended for audiences that have basic understandings of ethics and philosophy. Though this book covers various disasters, the questions posed around the ethical design of disaster planning in regards to "natural disasters" opens doors to further research and bring forth questions that will potentially help or hinder my thesis. Either way, I have another lens to view my topic through.

You may use MLA, APA or Chicago Manual of Style for your citations, depending on the discipline. This example is APA.