

Writing an Annotated Bibliography

Definition

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and other information sources. Each entry includes the standard bibliographic information (author, title, publication) and an annotation. The bibliographic information must follow the guidelines for one specific style (APA, MLA, etc.).

Content of the Annotation

The annotation is a brief description and evaluation of the item being cited. The annotation should describe:

1. the authority and qualifications of the author
2. the subject, scope, theme of the work
3. any bias or limits
4. the intended audience
5. special features (charts, illustrations, statistics, etc.)

Style of the Annotations

1. Length of each annotation: 30 - 150 words
2. Wording: may be in complete sentences or in an abbreviated style which omits introductory words and phrases, articles, and unnecessary modifiers. Be consistent in choice of style throughout the bibliography.
3. Be consistent about spacing throughout (single, double, or a combination)
4. APA style: Entire annotation is indented 5 spaces to the right of the citation. The first line is not indented more than the others
5. MLA style: The annotation follows directly after the citation.
6. Arrangement of entries varies: alphabetical by author; in sections for primary and secondary material; in sections for different types of materials (books, articles, web sites, etc.).

APA Example: Annotation appears below the bibliographic citation.

Moodley, V. (2007). Codeswitching in the multilingual English first language classroom.

International Journal of Bilingual Education & Bilingualism, 10(6), 707-722.

doi:10.2167/beb403.0

Moodley discusses the use of codeswitching by English language learners in multilingual classrooms to achieve specific learning outcomes.

Rudestam, K.E., & Schoenholtz-Read, J. (2002). Handbook of online learning:

Innovations in higher education and corporate training. Thousand Oaks, CA:

Sage.

This edited work explores the pedagogy of online teaching and learning and provides examples for implementation.

MLA Example: Annotation continues on the same line as the citation.

Moodley, Visvaganthie. "Codeswitching in the Multilingual English First Language

Classroom." *International Journal of Bilingual Education & Bilingualism* 10.6

(2007): 707-722. *Academic Search Elite*. Web. 3 September 2009. Moodley

discusses the use of codeswitching by English language learners in multilingual classrooms to achieve specific learning outcomes.

Rudestam, Kjell E., and Schoenholtz-Read, Judith, eds. *Handbook of Online Learning:*

Innovations in Higher Education and Corporate Training. Thousand Oaks:

Sage, 2002. Print. This edited work explores the pedagogy of online teaching and learning and provides examples for implementation.

