

Annotated Bibliographies

What is an annotated bibliography?

An **annotated bibliography** is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents that include a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, called the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

How do I write an annotated bibliography?

1. Cite the book, article, or document normally using the appropriate style. See the Library's handout on the citation style you will be using (such as APA, MLA, CBE, Chicago, etc.). The Library also has the citation manuals for most citation styles. Check with your instructor to determine which style you need to use.
2. Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. It is recommended that you include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.

Annotated bibliography samples:

These are *samples only*. Exact formatting (spacing, punctuation, indents, etc.) may vary depending on the citation style and your instructor's requirement.

APA format for a journal citation:

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

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 living.

MLA format for a journal citation:

Waite, Linda J., Frances Kobern Goldscheider, and Christina Witsberger. "Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." *American Sociological Review* 51 (1986): 541-554.

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.

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