

Annotated Bibliographies

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A bibliography is a list of the sources arranged alphabetically that includes basic bibliographic information such as the author, title, publisher, and date.	+	An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation of a written text.	=	An annotated bibliography provides a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources listed in a bibliography.
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An annotated bibliography can provide many types of information. *Depending on the nature of your assignment*, an annotated bibliography will typically answer some or all of the following questions:

Summary: What are the main arguments presented in the source? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this source is about, what would you say?

Assessment: Is this a useful source? In what ways? What unique or valuable information can this source provide? Is the information reliable? Does it have any weaknesses?

Reflection: Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help shape your argument? Will you use this source? If so, how?

Record of Research: What are the main things you learned from this source? What do you need to remember about this source in order to find and access it quickly while writing your rough draft?

Purpose

To learn about your topic. At the professional level, annotated bibliographies help you to see what has already been covered in the existing literature and where your own research or scholarship might fit. As a student, an annotated bibliography is an opportunity to learn a great deal about a topic before forming an argument and writing.

To help you formulate a thesis. The primary purpose of research is to help you find, state, and support an argument that is debatable, interesting, and current. Writing an annotated bibliography can help you gain a good perspective on the debated issues surrounding your topic and what is being said about them.

To help other researchers. Extensive, scholarly annotated bibliographies are sometimes published to aid future researchers. Since they provide a comprehensive overview of everything important that has been said about a topic, they serve as a great springboard for new projects.

Format

The format of an annotated bibliography can vary, so it's important to ask your instructor for specific guidelines. Typically, annotated bibliographies are constructed according to the following format:

1. **Bibliographic information** is written in MLA, APA, or another format.

2. **Annotations** go beneath the bibliographic listing for each source in paragraph form. The lengths of the annotations vary significantly depending on your assignment and purpose, ranging from a couple of sentences to a couple of pages.

SPECIAL EDUCATION IN PALESTINE 1

References

Akkok, F. (2000). Special education research: A Turkish perspective. *Exceptionality, 8* (4), 273-279.

This is an older article about the history and current state of special education in Turkey. Turkey seems to be a little ahead of some other Arab states in special education, so the problems the article identifies and the recommendations it makes may be applicable to other Arab states.

Jordan Encourages Education and Rehabilitation for the Disabled. (2011). In *Special Education*. Retrieved from <http://www.belcampus.org/jordan-encourages-education-and-rehabilitation-for-the-disabled.html>

This short article talks about educational reforms in Jordan modeled after the U.S.'s Americans with Disabilities Act. While this talks about what Jordan plans to do with special education, it does not provide any explicit information on the current state of special education in Jordan.

Reynolds, T. E. (2008). *Vulnerable communion: A theology of disability and hospitality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press.

This is a book written by a theologian, drawing on his experience with a son with special needs and on theology. It presents a view of disabilities that seems close to what I believe and will be useful for my worldviews section.

This is one example of an annotated bibliography in APA. Yours may not mirror this one in form or content, but the basic information will be the same.