

What is an annotated bibliography?

- An annotated bibliography is a list of citations of books, articles, and other documents. Each citation is followed by a brief evaluative paragraph.

What is the purpose of the annotation?

- The annotation provides the reader with a brief summary of the article’s main points and also comments on the quality, accuracy, and relevance of the article.

How do abstracts and annotations differ?

- *Abstracts* are summaries of a paper, usually found in the beginning of an article.
- *Annotations* provide the citation for the article and discuss the authors’ key points, credibility, and relevance of the article.

How do I choose my sources?

The quality and usefulness of your bibliography will depend on your selection of sources.

- Always **refer to your assignment guidelines** for information on the types of sources you will need.
 - Peer-reviewed, scholarly sources are available in the FSC Library databases.
 - Websites: Use appropriate websites such as .org, .edu, or .gov sites.

What should be considered to help find appropriate limits for your research?

- What problem am I investigating?
- What questions am I trying to answer?
- What kinds of research material am I looking for?

What content should be included in an annotation?

- Annotations should be structured and written in a consistent style. Create an outline or consistent guide to follow for each.

What should be included in the annotation?

- Annotations should be concise.
- They should summarize the author’s (a) central theme, (b) key points, (c) scope of the article or book and should include the following content
 - evaluate the authority, credibility, or background of the author,
 - comment on the intended audience,
 - compare or contrast this work with another you have cited,
 - explain how this work will support discussion of your topic.

Annotative bibliography samples

The following example uses APA style (*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition, 2020*) for the journal citation:

Waite, L. J., Goldschneider, F. K., & Witsberger, C. (1986). Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review. 51, 541-544.*

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.

This example uses MLA style (*MLA Handbook, 9th edition, 2021*) for the journal citation:

Waite, Linda J, et al. “Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults.” *American Sociological Review*, vol. 51, no. 4, 1986, pp.541-544.

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.