

Annotated Bibliography: Description & Examples

Creating **annotated bibliographies** is a powerful method for keeping track of the sources you read and reflecting on how you plan to use those sources later. An entry in an annotated bibliography consists of two basic parts:

- the citation for your source
- and a paragraph or two summarizing
 - the source,
 - evaluating its strengths and weaknesses, and
 - noting how you might use the source in your paper.

You should make one entry for every source you read and list them in alphabetical order to keep the information organized. You can also make your annotated bibliography using a spreadsheet, notecards, or another method that best suits your work style.

In order to keep the best record of your reading as possible, it's important to write your summaries right after you finish reading a source. For longer sources, it's helpful to take notes while you read and then write a summary at the end.

What Does an Annotated Bibliography Look Like?

Here is a sample entry in APA citation style for the book *Trans / active: a biography of Gwendolyn Ann Smith* by Columbia librarian Sophie Leveque. Keep in mind that annotated bibliographies are meant to help you in your research and that you could

organize the information in the way that makes the most sense to you. The following example begins with a **full citation**, followed by a **summary** and **evaluation** of the source, and concludes with a statement describing how this source will be **used in the paper or project**.

Leveque, S. C. (2017). *Trans / active: a biography of Gwendolyn Ann Smith*. Winston-Salem, NC: Library Partners Press.

This book features interviews with Gwendolyn Ann Smith, who founded the Transgender Day of Remembrance in 1999. The interview products are put in narrative form. Overall, the book is a biography of a key figure in transgender history and also provides an introduction to some recent transgender history in the United States. The book additionally summarizes gender theory by Julia Serrano and Kate Bornstein.

Leveque does not offer corpus analysis, which is a limitation. Compared to other materials, this book was written for an audience that knows nothing about the difference between gender and sex or violence against trans or gender nonconforming people. The interviews in this book are good primary source materials for my project.

Where Can I Learn More About Annotated Bibliography?

The Columbia University Libraries recommend the following resource for more information.

Purdue Owl

Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) is a great resource for learning more about annotated bibliography:

- Annotated Bibliography Samples: Provides a few examples of annotated bibliography in APA, MLA and Chicago citation styles:

<https://bit.ly/AnnotatedBibliographySamplesB2B>
