

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

Annotated

Annotations are critical or explanatory notes.



Bibliography

A bibliography is a list of sources.



Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a reference list that includes a brief summary and evaluation of each source.

Elements of an Annotated Bibliography

- APA title page.
- Numbered pages (beginning with the title page).
- APA formatted reference list (begin on new page).
- Annotation(s) of source(s) included in the reference list.

Components of an Annotation

- Provide a critical summary of the source listed in the reference entry.
- Typical length is 4-6 sentences.
- Consider **SEAR** (Summarize, Evaluate, Assess, and Reflect):
 - **Summarize** the main idea of the source;
 - **Evaluate** and **assess** the source for its credibility, objectivity, reliability, and currency. Compare it to other sources in your bibliography;
 - **Reflect** on the usefulness of the source to your topic.
- In APA 7, it is generally not required to include in-text citations of the work being annotated, as the origin of the information is listed in the accompanying reference entry.

APA Formatting for Annotated Bibliographies

- Place the annotation directly below the reference entry.
- Double space the entire annotation and reference entry. Do not place any additional space between entries.
- Indent the entire annotation by 0.5 inch (one tab key) from the left margin.
- Limit to one paragraph when possible. If you have more than one paragraph, indent the first line of second and subsequent paragraphs another 0.5 inch(es).
- All entries in alphabetical order by author last name (unless otherwise stated).

Check out Keyano College Library's sample annotated bibliography at keyano.libguides.com/APA7/AnnotatedBibliography

Example of an Evaluated Source in an Annotated Bibliography

Foster, J. B., Clark, B., & Holleman, H. (2021). Marx and the commons.

Social Research: An International Quarterly, 88(1), 1-30.

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/796815>.

Full reference
entry in APA 7
style

Summary of
main points
of the source

Evaluate
source for
strengths,
limitations

Assess
source for
relevancy,
usefulness to
research
topic

Foster, Clark, and Holleman's article acts as an effective summary of the importance with which communist theorist Karl Marx placed upon the division of common lands and subsequent expropriation of the peasantry in the foundations of modern liberal capitalism. They argue that by dissolving the system of common lands (which, by nature, implies common ownership and collective labour), the British wealthy elite molded Great Britain into a nation that prioritized an economic class hierarchy predicated upon individual wealth. Foster, Clark, and Holleman do this by examining the historical and legal justifications for common lands, contemporary peasant reactions to their enclosure, and the export of enclosure on a colonial basis; drawing from both Marx and Marxist historians such as E.P. Thompson and Eric Hobsbawm to support their assertions. The article is useful as a condensed summary of Marx's views on the privatization of common land espoused in *Kapital*, as well as an interesting commentary on how domestic British anti-commons policies would be applied throughout the empire to more effectively control and exploit land and its denizens.