**Environmental Economics**

**ECON 2505**

**Fall 2014**

**Prof. S. MacDonald**

**Developing an Annotated Bibliography of your research:**

**A preliminary annotated bibliography is due on Wed. Oct. 29**

WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. *(Source*: Cornell University Library, Research & Learning Services, Olin Library, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, NY, USA “How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography: The Annotated Bibliography.” <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography>)

THE PROCESS

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.

Cite the book, article, or document using the appropriate style.

Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. 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. (*Source*: Cornell University Library, Research & Learning Services, Olin Library, Cornell University Library Ithaca, NY, USA “How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography: The Annotated Bibliography.” <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography>)

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Composing an annotated bibliography helps a writer to gather one's thoughts on how to use the information contained in the cited sources, and helps the reader to decide whether to pursue the full context of the information you provide.

(Source: Carleton College, (2014) General Research Guides, Annotated bibliography guide. Retrieved from <http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/library/help/help/researchit/general/?guide_id=132945#definition>

**Format of the Bibliography**

All of the citations in an annotated bibliography should be formatted according to one chosen style. For this assignment, you will choose the APA format.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association  
Ready Reference BF76.7 .P83 2001

**Elements of the Annotation**

A typical annotation follows this outline:

1. **Author information**: Who is the author? What is her/his background? Is the author qualified to write this document?
2. **Author's purpose**: What is the author's purpose in writing this article or doing this research? Is the purpose stated or implied? Does the author have a particular message?
3. **Audience information**: To what audience is the author writing (scholars, teachers, the general public, etc.)? Is this reflected in the author's style of writing or presentation?
4. **Author bias**: Does the author show any biases or make assumptions upon which the rationale of the article rests? If so, what are they?
5. **Information source**: What methods did the author use to obtain the data? Is the article based on personal opinion, experience, interviews, library research, questionnaires, laboratory experiments, empirical observation, or standardized personality tests?
6. **Author conclusion**: What conclusions does the author draw? Are these conclusions specifically stated or implied?
7. **Conclusion justification**: Are the conclusions justified from the research or experience? Are the conclusions in sync with the original purpose of the research and supported by the data? Are the conclusions skewed by bias?
8. **Relationship to other works**: How does this work compare with others cited? Does it conflict with conventional wisdom, established scholarship, government policy, etc.? Are there specific studies or writings cited with which this one agrees or disagrees? Are there any opinions not cited of which readers should be aware? Is the evidence balanced or weighted in favor of a particular perspective?
9. **Time frame**: Is the work current? Is this important? How does the time in which it was written reflect on the information contained in this work?
10. **Significant attachments**: Are there significant attachments such as appendices, bibliographies, illustrations, etc.? Are they valuable or not? If there are none, should there be?

**Example**

The following example is taken from Cornell University Library's "How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography" ( <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm> ).

*This example uses the APA (American Psychological Association) citation style:*

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 (4), 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.

Source: Carleton College. (2014) General Research Guides, Annotated bibliography guide. Retrieved from <http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/library/help/help/researchit/general/?guide_id=132945#definition>