



# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## What is an annotated bibliography?

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** An alphabetical list of sources, such as books, articles, websites, and reports, for a research project.

**ANNOTATION** A summary and evaluation of each source and how it fits into your research project.

An **annotated bibliography** includes:

- A **citation** (in MLA or APA -- or another -- style)
- A **summary** of the source's main points
- An **evaluation** of the source
- An explanation of how the source **fits** into your research project

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## How do I start an annotated bibliography?

**RESEARCH** Consider visiting the SBVC Library in person or online ([library.valleycollege.edu](http://library.valleycollege.edu)) to start your research. Ask a reference librarian for help!

**TIP** The SBVC Library databases ([library.valleycollege.edu](http://library.valleycollege.edu)) allow you to save your research findings by emailing them to yourself.

**REVIEW** Review your sources; as you develop and focus your topic, some sources may no longer be relevant and you might need to find new ones.

**REPEAT** Return to the research and review stages if you need more or different sources.

**WRITE** For each source, create a citation (see the tip, below!) and write an annotation. **Check your assignment for your teacher's guidelines.**

**TIP** The SBVC Library databases have a "cite" tool to generate a citation in a variety of styles. Make sure you proofread.

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## How do I write an annotation?

**SUMMARIZE** **Write the source's main point or argument in your own words**

- Include the type of source (book; journal, news, or magazine article; report or document, etc.).
- Include the author or responsible organization.
- Include topics the source covers that are related to your research project.

**TIP** In the SBVC Library databases, read the source's detail page -- the abstract or summary, the table of contents, the subject terms or keywords -- for help writing your own summary.

**EVALUATE** **Demonstrate that this is a reliable source**

- Include the name of the journal, magazine, newspaper, or book where the source appears.
- If applicable, include the organization that published or funded the source.
- Explain why this is a reliable source.

**FIT** **Explain how the source fits into your research project**

- Explain how the source supports the argument or counterargument.
- Explain how the source fits in with other research in this area.



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## MLA Examples

**ARTICLE** Cancro, Polly. "The Dark(Ish) Side of Digitization: Information Equity and the Digital Divide." *Serials Librarian*, vol. 71, no. 1, pp. 57–62. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1080/0361526X.2016.1157424.

This peer-reviewed article was published in the journal *Serials Librarian*. It discusses digital and digitized information and how it can increase inequality to access because of the digital divide. It explores the idea of the digital divide in libraries and other institutions. The findings support my argument that libraries are instrumental in bridging the digital divide.

**BOOK** Landers, Craig S. *The Digital Divide: Issues, Recommendations and Research*. Nova Science Publishers, 2017.

This book provides recent research and recommendations on the digital divide in the United States and globally. It has chapters that address the digital divide for college students and for students in K-12 schools. It also extends the discussion of the digital divide's impact on students in a chapter that examines mobile technology in schools around the world. This book supports my discussion that mobile technology alone cannot bridge the digital divide successfully.

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## APA Examples

**ARTICLE** Cancro, P. (2016). The dark(ish) side of digitization: Information equity and the digital divide. *Serials Librarian*, 71(1), 57-62. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0361526X.2016.1157424>

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**BOOK** Landers, C. S. (2017). *The digital divide: Issues, recommendations and research*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers.

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**TIP** Alphabetize your annotated bibliography.  
Use hanging indents for the citations.  
Double-space

**TIP** Visit the Purdue Online Writing Lab for more information on annotated bibliographies, MLA style, and APA style.