WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

A bibliography is an organised list of sources consulted when researching assignments and reports. It contains the publisher’s details about each item, which is called a bibliographic citation.

An annotated bibliography is an organised list of bibliographic citations. Each citation is followed by a brief 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.

CONTENT OF AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

These annotations do one or more of the following:

- describe the content and focus of the book, article or website
- suggest the source’s usefulness to your research/studies
- evaluate its method, conclusions, or reliability
- record your reactions to the source

LENGTH OF ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The most important thing to understand is that entries should be brief, usually only 100 – 150 words in length. Only directly significant details will be mentioned and any information apparent in the title can be omitted from the annotation.

The annotation may immediately follow the bibliographic information on the same line, or it may begin on a new line, two lines below the publication information.

Check with your lecturer about required form, spacing, consistency and length.

FORMAT OF AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The most commonly accepted format used in bibliographic preparation is called the Harvard style.

Each part of the bibliographic citations listed below are linked by comma’s, like a sentence. The title of the item needs to be highlighted by italics (or underlined if italics are not
possible). The citations are organised in alphabetical order by author or by title if there is no author.

EXAMPLES OF ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FORMATS

A book:


This anthology of sixteen essays explores specifically the world of Zuni oral narrative, but with implications for all who work collecting, translating or retelling folktales. Tedlock sees the speaking storyteller not as “a writer who fears to make use of the shift key, but an actor on a stage” with the sound and pacing as vital as the words he speaks. Chapters of special interest to storytellers are: “On the translations of the style in oral narrative”, “Learning to listen: oral history as poetry”, “Ethnology as interaction: the storyteller, the audience, and the fieldworker and the machine” and “The story of how a story was made”. This book concludes with an excellent bibliography of related readings.

A journal:


In educational institutions there appear to be three stages in developing equal opportunity. In the first stage, problems are recognized and dealt with through existing structures. The second stage comes when institutions seek organisational change as a response to new demands. In the final stage, mainstream acceptance is achieved. The article concentrates on elements of the second stage, including making of policy statements, dealing with past and indirect discrimination, and dealing with the outside community.

A video/TV/radio:


One segment from the program aired 29 July 2003. Reporter Kerry O’Brien pays homage to comedian Bob Hope who died on the 29 July, just months after his 100th birthday. He chronicles BH long career in movies, television and radio, and his extensive involvement in the USO, entertaining troops throughout the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars. The program is predominantly comprised of excerpts of BH performances and interviews.

From the Web:


Contains Australian Business Excellence Awards framework, awards and publications, Management competency standard, organizational self-assessment, Australian benchmarking edge. The starting point for libraries looking to learn more about a quality improvement program
that fits within recognized Australian guidelines, and that has been successfully adopted within the sector.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON PREPARATION AND EVALUATION:**
http://core.ecu.edu/engl/snyderh/1200/how2annbib.html
http://www.lib.umd.edu/UES/annotate.html
http://libweb.sonoma.edu/assistance/subject/annotatedbib.html
http://www.delta.edu/library/evaluating_sources.html