

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

by Geoff Zylstra



Part of an in-archives exercise at <http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/scaffolded-research>

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of works that also summarizes, and reflects on the importance of those works to the larger research topic.

Creating a short annotated bibliography is the first step in your larger research process. You will build on the research you conduct here when you go to the archive and write your papers.

How to Create Your Annotated Bibliography

You need to list five secondary sources (complete with publishing information) that you might use in your paper and then annotate (or describe the importance of) them. These sources can be either books or articles from academic journals.

Using either the sources listed in the assignment description or sources that you find, create a bibliography that describes the importance of each source to your larger research project. This means you need to go through each source to determine its importance. List the sources with a complete citation in Chicago style. Then follow the citation with a short paragraph describing how the information or ideas in that source contribute to the research project.

Name, course number, and research topic need to be at the top of page one or on the cover page.

Sample Citation (Chicago Style)

Berger, Molly W. *Hotel Dreams: Luxury, Technology, and Urban Ambition in America, 1829-1929*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins: 2011.

Berger's book provides an in depth look at the creation of modern luxury hotels in the nineteenth century. Her examination of hotels covers the entire United States, but deals primarily with cities and not hotels or inns in rural areas. Focusing on both the size of the buildings, and the various technologies inside the hotels, she shows connections between urban change, the idea of "modern," and the experience of new technology. This book helps show how hotels and new technologies changed the shape and meaning of urban areas in the nineteenth century.