

How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography

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.

ANNOTATIONS VS. ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are the purely descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or in periodical indexes. Annotations are descriptive and critical; they expose the author's point of view, clarity and appropriateness of expression, and authority.

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. (MLA)

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.

Books:

Andy Warhol Museum. Andy Warhol Photography. New York: Stemple Publishers, 1999.

Good source that provides extensive background on Andy Warhol. Designed to give reader better understanding on roots of Pop Art through learning about Warhol. Information arranged chronologically throughout Warhols life. Directed towards anyone interested in learning about artist. Extensive visual images add to clarity of source.

Chu, Petra ten-Doesschate, and Garriel P. Weisberg. The Popularization of Images: Visual Culture Under the July Monarchy. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1994. 10-36.

Brief history on development of Pop Art movement. Source is a collection of essays with no specific arrangement. Lack of footnotes makes text hard to read and follow. Utilization of visual graphics would greatly contribute to source. Text however does come from very reliable source, in Princeton Press.

Internet Sites:

Berman, David. No Date Given. Available [Online]:
<http://www-st.towson.edu/~dberma2/> [27 February 2001].

Brief but succinct history of Pop Art movement. Designed to introduce student to topic. Color images help to understand work of this period. Author lacks credentials, as he is only a college student. Good index of links provided for further research.

Catherall, Virginia. 13 August 1997. Pop Art and Biography of Andy Warhol.
Available [Online]: <http://www.utah.edu/umfa/warhol.html> [5 March 2001].

Excellent source that goes into great detail on history of movement in the United States. Traces back to Warhols founding of pop art. Gives examples of social impacts of other major artists of time period. Short biography on Warhol also given. Text very easy to navigate through utilization of large text headings. Examples of artwork from movement would improve site.

Connolly, Randy, and Frank Harks. 1998. INDS 3307 Warhol. Available [Online]: <http://scitech.mtroyal.ab.ca/modernart/artists/warhol.htm> [3 March 2001].

Source provides historical background on leading Pop Artist: Andy Warhol. Traces his life history and significant accomplishments. Gives visual examples of some of his artwork. Links are provided to view artwork in a large window. Source is easy to read with large text headings.

Journals:

Leighen, Patricia. Réveil anarchiste: Salon Painting, Political Satire, Modernist Art. Modernism/Modernity 2.2 (1995): 17-47.

Extremely in-depth article that traces history of Pop Art. Goes into depth about how movement shaped society. A few references to artists, but not many. End notes explain text in great detail. Minimal images in black & white help site somewhat, but more would improve. Comes from Johns Hopkins journal, very reliable source. Author is Professor of art at Queens University.

Roeder, George H. Jr. What Have Modernists Looked At? Experiential Roots of Twentieth-Century American Painting. American Quarterly 39 (Spring, 1987): 56-83.

Excellent source that traces roots of art movement through an extensive essay. Article is arranged chronologically. Major figures of art movement are mentioned and biographies are given. Article goes into extensive detail on how pop art shaped society, and major social impacts it has had. Several examples of artwork add ease to text. Journal is released quarterly. Author is professor of art at School of the Art Institute of Chicago.