**Annotated Bibliography: Sample Format**

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.

***1. 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.

***2. Sample Annotated Bibliography Entry for a Journal Article***

**(i) The following example uses the APA format for the journal citation:**

Goldschneider, F. K., Waite, L. J., & Witsberger, C. (1986). Non-family living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review,* *51,* 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 non-family 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 non-family living.

**(ii) This example uses the MLA format for the journal citation:**

Goldscheider, Frances Kobrin, Linda J. Waite, and Christina Witsberger. "Non-family Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." American Sociological Review 51 (1986): 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 non-family 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 non-family living.

**Reference Style**

Choose the appropriate format for your bibliography.

**The Basic Format**

Author’s surname, given name or initials, year of publication, *title of book*, publisher, place of publication.

***One Author***

Scullard, H.H. 1998, *A History of the Roman World*, 6th edn, Routledge, London.

***Two Authors***

If a book has two authors, put both names in the order they appear on the title page, linked with an ampersand (&).

Cary, M. & Scullard, H.H. 1999, *A history of Rome down to the reign of Constantine*, 5th edn, Macmillan, London.

***Three or More Authors***

If a book has three or more authors, their names should be placed in the order they appear on the title page, linked by commas and a final ampersand.

Smith, J.S., Jones, M.R., Brown, A.C. & White, P.L. 1997, *How to write a novel*, Longman, Sydney.

***Chapter in an Edited Book***

Grant, Michael 1997, ‘Roman Roads’, in *The Spread of the Roman Empire*, eds N, Wakefield & S.Browne, Finnemore Press, New York.

***Magazine Article***

Dalton, T. 1999, ‘The homework crisis’, *Australian Student Issues*, vol.3, no.2, pp.1-6.

***Newspaper Article with Author***

Lunn, Hugh 1992, ‘*Annerley of the past*’, The Courier Mail, 21 Mar., p9.

***Newspaper Article with No Author***

“Can Cyberclaus deliver his cheer?”, *Weekend Australian*, 12 Jun. 1999, p7.

***WWW Site with Author***

Fowler, Michael 2001, *Aristotle*, [Internet], Available from:

<<http://www.phys.virginia.edu/classes/109N/lectures/aristot2.html>> [Accessed 18/10/2004]

***WWW Site with No Author***

Citing web sites and web pages 2004, [Internet], Available from:

<<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/library/citeweb.html>> [Accessed 11/09/2004]