



School of NURSING

Annotated References & Bibliographies

What? An annotated bibliography is a **summary** and **evaluation** of references you will be using for a research paper. The length and content will depend on your specific assignment, but it typically is in paragraph form and includes:

- 1) The reference citation (in APA 7th edition format)
- 2) 2-4 sentences summarizing the main ideas of the source
- 3) 1-2 sentences to evaluate the reliability, objectivity, and quality of the study.
- 4) 1-2 sentences to reflect on the source (For example: Was the source helpful? How you will use it in your paper? Has it changed how you think about the topic?)

Why? An annotated bibliography is **preparation** for a research paper. When you have to write annotations for each of your sources (an annotated reference), you are required to read each potential source carefully. Annotated references are **descriptive, critical, and reflective**. Writing one helps you **organize** and **assess** the sources you have found, in order to support the overall argument or thesis of your work.

Example annotation

Rinds, G. (2017). Exploring recent developments in manual handling. *Nursing and Residential Care*, 11(6), 312-315. <https://doi.org/10.8956/48759-1823>.

This article is appropriate for the health care professional because the author is employed as an independent occupational therapist, with various professional qualifications. The layout is easy to understand: bullet points and clear headings are used to enable the reader to develop knowledge of the topic. There is also a diagram which enables the reader to have a better understanding and awareness of how to use different respective manual handling equipment. The information is in language that is appropriate for all readers to gain a general understanding of recent developments in manual handling. The article is up-to-date (2017) and advises on current developments for manual handling, for example, a Japanese Robot suit being tested (HAL 5) and how other additional developments are being introduced. Although informative, it could be argued that the article could be more specific regarding whether the equipment being used is of definite benefit to the patient.

Reference in APA format

Statement on the reliability of the source (Here, it's the author's qualifications)

These next few sentences speak to the relevance, clarity, and organization of the article and summarize the topics covered.

Final sentence: A critical appraisal of the article.

*Adapted from: <https://www.slideshare.net/Hollis/what-is-an-annotated-bibliography>

For more tips, tricks, and ideas to develop your writing skills, don't hesitate to contact the SON Office of Learning & Writing Support (www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/learning-writing-support/request-consultation).