Annotated Bibliography – A How to Guide

What is an annotation?

- Short description of an item.
- Annotations describe (summarize important content)
- Evaluate (critically analyze) the resource based on standard criteria.

What is the function of an annotation?

- Inform the reader about the item of interest
- Provide a critical analysis or evaluation of its content.

How do I write an annotation?

An annotation should include the following:

- complete bibliographic citation information using an appropriate citation style (APA)
- a brief summary of the item's content and the main purpose of the work
- an annotation should also include evaluative comments such as:
    o the qualifications of the author
    o any biases that are detected
    o the intended audience/reading level
    o the item's relationship to other similar works or areas of study
    o special features about the item (e.g. bibliography, graphics, appendices, etc.)
    o other evaluative comments about the item (what was useful, what was missing, how it compares to similar items on the same topic, etc.)

- ➤ Written in the third person – NO PERSONAL PRONOUNS
- ➤ Do not begin each annotation in the same way

Examples of annotations:

Note: The bibliographic citation information for the annotations below use the <u>APA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</u>, 6th ed.

Book

Barber, Benjamin R. (1996). *Jihad vs. McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism are Reshaping the World*. New York: Ballentine Books.

In this book, Benjamin Barber discusses globalism, tribalism, democracy, and capitalism. Part I discusses McWorld and its invasion throughout the entire world. Barber writes that this global overtaking has been accomplished through music, various service industries, and the media. Part II focuses on Jihad, in opposition to McWorld, as

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people and countries struggle for their own individual and cultural identities. Part III describes the clash of McWorld and Jihad and the resulting disorder. Capitalism and democracy are debated as working against each other. Two appendices are included at the end of the book. The first appendix describes energy use and population by country in 1990 and the second lists the twenty-two countries' top grossing films in 1991. The book also includes an extensive notes section. The book was well-organized and the material covered presents globalization in a new way.

Scholarly Journal Article

Speckmann, Bettina and Snoeyink, Jack. (2001). "Easy Triangle Strips for TIN Terrain Models."
    International Journal of Geographical Information Science 15:379-386.

This technical communication discusses the triangulated irregular network (TIN) model to represent feature terrain. A major problem with this model is the amount of data required in transmission. To reduce the amount of data transmitted, many systems use triangle strips or tristrips. A tristrip is created be starting with a triangle and then adding a new vertex and dropping the oldest vertex from the original triangle. The goal of the tristrip concept is to find the minimum number of vertices to accurately represent the terrain. Two methods to create this tristrip representation are described. The first involves the use of a spanning tree following the tree using depth first and creating a zigzag pattern to create new tristrips. The second method uses the spanning tree method and an algorithm to construct the tristrips. The authors determined several different ways to reduce the number of tristrips. The first is to allow swaps by changing the vertex when creating new triangles. The second method is to combine two tristrips. The third way combines strips using non-tree edges. The most significant reduction in data was through the use of swaps. The paper contains a variety of figures and table to assist the reader in understanding the concept of tristrips and ends with a short list of references. The authors, Speckmann and Snoeyink, work in the departments of computer science at the University of British Columbia and UNC Chapel Hill, respectively.

Popular Magazine Article in an Article Database

Thompson, Stephanie. (2000) "Targeting Teens Means Building Buzz." *Advertising Age*. Academic Search Premier.
        EBSCO. Weber State U, Stewart Lib., Ogden, UT.

This brief article talks about marketing to teens without their knowing that they are directly being targeted. Different strategies used to market products are described including those used for Cornnuts and Nabisco's Bubble Yum gum. The article describes this marketing as "anti-advertising" and portrays how teens react to various tactics. Although short, this article provides a current overview of how companies market to teens.

Web Site

"Caffeine". (2002). *McKinley Health Center*. Retrieved from http://www.mckinley.uiuc.edu/health-info/
        drug-alc/caffeine.html

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Web site which discusses the ingredient caffeine. On the site many questions are answered about caffeine including its effects and safety, reducing caffeine consumption, and whether or not it helps with studying. The amount of caffeine in common foods is listed in a table at the bottom of the page including various types of coffee and teas, chocolate, cocoa, and soft drinks. Medications that contain caffeine are also listed. The page is well-organized, contains useful information, and includes appropriate documentation.

Help in preparing this handout came from the Web site: "How to write annotated bibliographies" Retrieved May 17, 2002 from http://www.mun.ca/library/research_help/qeii/annotated_bibl.html