

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of books, articles and other sources used in your research. Each citation is followed by a paragraph which describes and evaluates the information. An annotation should inform the reader of the quality and relevance of the source.

Elements of an Annotation:

Your annotations must include the following elements:

- A brief summary (2-4 sentences) of the article, including the author's name and what you think is the author's primary point or thought.
- A description of the intended audience.
- An evaluation of the source's usefulness, reliability, strengths and weaknesses and its value for your research.
- Your annotations should be detailed but also succinct: typically about 150 words.
- You may use MLA, APA or other style, depending on the discipline.

Example of an Annotated Citation in MLA style:

Booker, Susan M. "Dioxin in Vietnam: Fighting a Legacy of War." Environmental Health Perspectives 109.3 (2001):116 InfoTrac Onefile. InfoTrac. Cannell Library, Vancouver, WA. 2 Nov. 2005

Booker reports on the launch of a joint research program on the human and environmental health effects from spraying Agent Orange and other herbicides during the Vietnam War. The extent of Agent Orange exposure among the Vietnamese, identification of highly contaminated areas and monitoring migration of dioxin are assessed. The author asserts the government is not doing enough to help the Vietnamese people who still suffer from Agent Orange. This is written for people with little prior knowledge of this subject, and is easy to understand. It was a useful starting point for writing this paper, and because of its currency this is a valuable source for my research.