

# BCSS : Annotated Bibliography

Library Resource

## What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources that you used to complete your research. It also includes descriptive and/or evaluative comments on each source.

## What is in an Annotation?

Some are descriptive, giving a summary of the main ideas and arguments. Others are evaluative, looking at the quality of the source. These can be positive, negative or a mix of both. Depending on your assignment requirements, it may include:

- ☐ A correct citation (MLA or APA) of the source
- ☐ A summary of the content of each source, which may include:
  - main argument and conclusions
  - method of investigation
  - organization of the book
  - overview of key points
- ☐ Description of why the source is useful or relevant to the topic (e.g., frames concept, connects to bigger problems, gives insight, provides body of evidence, conclusions support your thesis)
- ☐ An evaluation of the source (e.g., value, limitations, bias, omissions, impact, effectiveness of evidence)

Nicholson, Helen. "Women on the Third Crusade." *Journal of Medieval History* 23.4 (1997): 335-49.

In this article, Nicholson explores the controversial question of whether, and to what extent, women participated in armed conflict during the Third Crusade **[This sentence identifies the central question of the article]**. After reviewing different historians' views on the issue, she examines the widely different depictions of women's participation in the crusade given in Muslim and Christian accounts **[This sentence explains the sources that she used]**. Nicholson exposes the biases within both Muslim and Christian accounts to examine how Muslim sources tended to exaggerate women's participation in armed conflict while Christian sources tended to conceal women's roles. Ultimately, she argues that while women played many important support roles during the Crusades, their participation in armed conflict was limited to extremely dire battles **[The previous two sentences explain the thesis of the article]**. This article provides an excellent overview of the primary and secondary sources associated with the debate over the participation of women in armed conflict during the Crusades; it will help to support my argument that, while they were essential to the Crusades, women were limited in the roles that they could play within them due to social stigma **[This sentence explains how the article will be relevant to your essay]**.

Adapted from:

"How to Write an Annotated Bibliography." Trent University. Web. 30 October 2015.

"Writing an Annotated Bibliography." Writing at the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto. Web. 30 October 2015.

"Annotated Bibliography." Brandon University. 10 Sept 2015. Web. 30 October 2015.

# How is an Annotated Bibliography formatted?

General formatting:

- Page includes a title
- Sources are cited correctly according to the format (MLA, APA) with proper indentation
- Sources are listed alphabetically and double-spaced
- Each annotation is around 100-200 words long and usually 3-7 sentences
- The annotation is meant to be concise and to the point (do not add extra description)
- Do not play with the fonts, colours or add graphics (this is not the place to make it look pretty)

**Annotated Bibliography**

Battle, K. (2007). Child poverty: The evolution and impact of child benefits. In Covell, K., & Howe, R. B. (Eds.), *A question of commitment: Children's rights in Canada* (pp. 21-44). Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Ken Battle draws on his research as an extensively-published policy analyst, and a close study of some government documents, to explain child benefits in Canada. He outlines some fundamental assumptions supporting the belief that all society members should contribute to the upbringing of children. His comparison of Canadian child poverty rates to those in other countries provides a useful wake-up to anyone assuming Canadian society is doing a good job of protecting children from want. He pays particular attention to the National Child Benefit (NCB), arguing that it did not deserve the criticism it received from politicians and journalists. He outlines the NCB's development, costs, and benefits, including its dollar contribution to a typical recipient's income. He laments that the Conservative government scaled back the program in favour of the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), and clearly explains why it is inferior. However, Battle relies too heavily on his own work; he is the sole or primary author of almost half the sources in his bibliography. He could make this work stronger by drawing from the perspectives of others' analyses. However, Battle does offer a valuable source for this essay, because the chapter provides a concise overview of government-funded assistance currently available to parents. This offers context for analyzing the scope and financial reality of child poverty in Canada.

Kerr, D., & Beaujot, R. (2003). Child poverty and family structure in Canada, 1981-1997. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 34(3), 321-335.

Sociology professors Kerr and Beaujot analyze the demographics of impoverished families. Drawing on data from Canada's annual Survey of Consumer Finances, the authors consider whether each family had one or two parents, the age of single parents, and the number of children in each household. They analyze child poverty rates in light of these demographic

## Useful Verbs and Phrases

Account for	Clarify	Describe	Exemplify	Indicate	Question
Analyze	Compare	Depict	Exhibit	Investigate	Recognize
Argue	Conclude	Determine	Explain	Judge	Reflect
Assess	Criticize	Distinguish	Frame	Justify	Refer to
Assert	Defend	Evaluate	Identify	Narrate	Report
Assume	Define	Emphasize	Illustrate	Persuade	Review
Claim	Demonstrate	Examine	Imply	Propose	Suggest

The evidence indicates that...

The author identifies three reasons for...

The author points out that...

The author addresses the issue of...

The article assesses the effect of...

The article questions the view that...

With this in mind...

The author concludes that...

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S.Quan-D'Eramo, YRDSB, 2015