

ASSIGNMENT #2

The Annotated Bibliography

After you have selected your topic and have begun to think about the various kinds of focused research questions— Assignment 1 & Study Guide 1-- your next task is to review what other people have written about topic. One of the tools that you will find extremely helpful as you wade through the rivers of resource materials available to you through the Mansfield Library is an *annotated bibliography*.

General information - An annotated bibliography is an inventory of sources of information on a specific topic. The bibliography itself is made up of an alphabetical series of brief entries about sources you are considering using in your research projects. Each entry is made up of two parts: a complete citation of the source listed and a narrative paragraph summarizing what that source is all about.

- ◆ The Johnson text describes the precise citation formats I want you to use in this class.
- ◆ The narrative paragraph(s) or **annotation** should include an informative summary of the work, the study design (if appropriate), findings (if appropriate), and comments regarding how the source might be useful to your research.

As a **working tool**, an annotated bibliography enables you to keep an organized and systematic written record of the information sources that might be helpful to you as you interrogate your topics from a variety of research perspectives.

Please Note - an annotated bibliography is not included in any published research article, report, or proposal. I will ask you to attach annotated bibliographies to the research reports you write in this class, so that I can help you use them to write more narrative reviews of the literature.

Please use the example printed on the other side of this sheet and the example in the Johnson text as guides for your own annotated bibliographical entries.

Example (adapted from Neuman 1997:102)

Pierce, John, M. Stenger, N. Lovrich, B. Steel. 1988. "Public Information on Acid Rain in Canada and the United States." *Social Science Quarterly* 69:193-202.

Based on a prior study, the researchers note that education alone does not lead to knowledge about a public policy issue. Knowledge can be based on characteristics of the individual, which works in general regardless of a specific policy, or on motivation due to the relevance of a policy for individual self-interest. They are interested in how knowledge on public policy issue results from a person's motivation to acquire information. They mailed 1000 surveys each to samples of people in Michigan and Ontario, Canada. They compare knowledge and motivation about acid rain policy from people of a more collectivist Canadian culture to people from the more individualist U.S. culture. They found that motivational factors such as personal sensitivity and relevance led to greater knowledge of the acid rain issue than did general characteristics such as gender and SES. Motivation was stronger in Canada, where the national context heightened sensitivity. I found this study easy to read and quite helpful to my research on social activism.

What to do for this assignment

1. Compile an annotated bibliography on the general topic you have selected for this class.
2. **Your annotated bibliography must contain at ten entries from at least four different types of resource materials.** Two of the sources must be from sociology journals. Types of resource materials include books, journal articles, articles from anthologies, newspapers, newsletters, resource indices, and the Internet. You may **not** use any general encyclopedias, dictionaries or electronic encyclopedias.
3. Make an entry for each item you include. Use the ASA citation style detailed in the Johnson text. Determine the type of resource material you are using (i.e., book, journal, newspaper article) and follow the format of the examples **EXACTLY**.
4. Read or skim your each item you have selected and write your annotation .
5. Your entries must be listed in alphabetical order, just like any other bibliography or list of references. Your work must be typed, proof read, and edited before you submit it to me for a grade.