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Core 2: Research Methods for Writers, Spring 2010

Annotated Bibliography

Assignment Overview

Annotated bibliographies play an important research role because they give researchers the opportunity to engage with their sources in a detailed manner early in the research process. They ask researchers to narrow their focus, to think more expansively about their topic(s), and to filter sources based on their quality and overall purpose. For our purposes, they will also help us get to know the library databases and checkout options.

Annotated bibliographies contain two parts: the citation and the annotation. When placed together they are called an entry. One line separates each entry. Entries are listed in alphabetical order. The whole document is single-spaced.

The citation consists of the bibliographic record of the source. For this annotated bibliography we will be using APA (6th edition) citation styles. Citations are an exact science; they are either done correctly or they are wrong. Pay close attention to comma and period use, capitalization, and italics. Note that if the citation runs over 1 line, the second line is indented 1 tab.

The annotation consists of a detailed summary (8 – 10 sentences) of the text and often what role you think it could play in your research process and/or final paper. Quotations are not to be used. Do not merely replicate a journal abstract or book cover summary. The annotation is indented 1 tab.

Here is a sample annotated bibliography entry in APA format:

Aarseth, E.J. (1997). *Cybertext: Perspectives on ergodic literature*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Aarseth argues that digital technologies make possible now new forms of cultural expression that are similar to traditional literature, but are also different in fundamental ways. He posits an approach to literature that he calls “ergodic,” from the Greek words ‘work’ and ‘path’. The author argues that new forms of cultural expression such as hypertexts, and Multi-User Domains, which are the text-based precursors to today’s virtual worlds, should be deconstructed as “texts” not in the traditional sense, like literature, but in way that respects their similarities and differences to traditional literature. Some of Aarseth’s examples are slightly dated, but his approach, which seeks to draw parallels between static and digital texts (without arguing that a text’s “digitality” is its central difference) have been very important to scholars of games since this book’s publication in 1997. I hope to at least use this work as part of the literature review, and possibly use it in conjunction with Bogost’s text below to explain the approach I want to take when deconstructing games. This text takes a fairly rigorous, comparative approach to literary theory that I think will help provide that all-important “scholarly heft” to a discussion that may at first appear to lack much weight.

Assignment Specifics

Your annotated bibliography should contain 12 entries relating to your research, with 8 entries being scholarly sources and 4 being creative/journalistic sources. Some specifics:

- At least 4 entries must be journal articles.
- At least 2 entries must be books.
- Two entries must come from EZBorrow or InterLibrary Loan (EZBorrow is faster than InterLibrary Loan, but InterLibrary Loan handles journal articles very well).
 - These can overlap. That is, you can have 2 books from EZBorrow and that will satisfy this requirement.
- Journalistic sources can come from newspapers, magazines, and/or in-depth blog posts
- Books of photographs and/or images count as creative sources

To learn about the differences among scholarly and other sources please see Unit 7 - Critical Evaluation of Research Sources of the Rowan University library orientation guide (<http://j.mp/cIHxsH>). Please also see the Purdue OWL's Evaluating Print vs. Internet Sources (<http://j.mp/aTLQkE>). If you have questions about a particular source, please let me know.

A full sample annotated bibliography is available online.

The Zotero Portion

In order to enhance the collaborative nature of our research, we will be sharing our research sources and annotations through the use of a Zotero group. Zotero groups allow multiple users to share specific citations which all group members will see when they go to the group page or click on the group in their Zotero panel.

Some specifics:

- For each of your research sources, add a Zotero citation
- Share each of these sources with the course group
- For the sources you are including in your annotated bibliography, add the annotation to the Notes section of your citation
- You can see the course group at <http://www.zotero.org/groups/wolffcore2s10>

Please see the Zotero tutorial I created to set up your Zotero account, join the course group, and learn how to share citations to the course group.

Due Dates

2/24: Paper-based version due via email to BW by 11:00pm

2/24: Annotations in Zotero notes section and shared with the course group due online by 11:00pm