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Core 2: Research Methods for Writers, Spring 2011
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. **Citations are an exact science; they are either done correctly or they are wrong**.

The annotation is indented 1 tab. One line separates each entry. Entries are listed in alphabetical order by first author last name. The text is left justified. The whole document is single-spaced with 1-inch margins all around. The font is Times New Roman size 12. Add page numbers in the bottom center of each page. **These specifics are required and must be adhered to.**

The citation consists of the bibliographic record of the source. For this annotated bibliography you will be using the most recent version of the citation guide that is use for the genre in which you are composing. For example, poetry and short-story would be MLA (7th edition), multi-genre would be APA (6th edition--revised), and feature would be Chicago (16th edition). (You might also look into the specific formatting guides for particular publications so you can see how they vary and often tailor the guidelines to their specific use.) I strongly recommend that you purchase and/or check out of the library the complete manual for the style you'll be using. Online resources are more often than not incomplete and unclear as to which version the format is in. The manuals are complex, illusive, and mind-boggling, but they are essential for writers to learn how to use.

Pay close attention to comma and period use, capitalization, parenthesis, spacing, and italics. MLA, APA, and Chicago structure the layout of the citation portion differently (first line indented, second line indented, and so on); be sure to adhere to their layout structure.

The annotation consists of a detailed summary (8 – 10 sentences) of the whole 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; when you do it is called plagiarism**. It should be clear from the annotation that you have read the whole text**, not just the abstract, intro, or summary. It is quite clear when someone has read it and when someone hasn't.

Two full sample annotated bibliographies are available online. 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 6 entries being **scholarly** sources, 4 being **journalistic** sources, and 2 being **book-length examples** of genre in which you are writing on a subject similar to your research. Some specifics:

- At least 4 entries must be journal articles.
- At least 4 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. Note
    - Note in the final sentence of your annotation that the source was accessed via EZBorrow or InterLibrary Loan
- Journalistic sources can come from newspapers, magazines, and/or in-depth blog posts **written by experts in the field**

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/clHxsH). 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.

Due Dates

2/15: Rowan Library databases tutorials must be completed (begin at http://j.mp/gtK2j9)
3/22: Rough draft due in class (bring citation guide[s] with you to class)
3/29: Final draft due via Dropbox in .doc or .docx format by 11:00pm

Filename must be written in this format: "core2s11-annotatedbib-yourlastname"
Under your name list the citation format used and the source(s) you used to learn how to compose the citations.