

# Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a compiled list of information about sources to include in a paper or other large assignment. Annotated bibliographies function almost like a reference page, except source listings include an **annotation** (a short paragraph that summarizes, evaluates, or does a combination).

While the sources included in a paper might seem straightforward, annotated bibliographies can help readers discover why an author chose sources they felt were important.



## Why Make an Annotated Bibliography?

By creating an annotated bibliography, writers practice critical thinking and reading comprehension through the process of summarizing and evaluating sources. This helps writers to become more confident and capable. Additionally, annotated bibliographies help work out how you plan to include sources when it is time to write the paper.

## Types of Annotated Bibliography Annotations

**1. Summary:** Sums up what a source is about. Summary paragraphs can include:

- Main arguments and findings
- Chapter titles
- Purpose of a word
- Intended audience
- Critical theories used (if applicable)

**2. Evaluative:** Explains how a source supports the overall argument of a paper.

Evaluation paragraphs can include:

- Author's credibility/qualifications
- Accuracy/objectivity, potential bias
- Relevance to the topic
- Put the source in conversation with other sources

**3. Combination:** Typically a two-paragraph annotation, one summary and one evaluation

## Creating an Annotated Bibliography

### STEP 1: Format your sources properly

- This stage is no different from gathering your sources for any other writing assignment in a references/works cited page.
- In general, each source should be listed in alphabetical order (by author last name) with a hanging indent at about half an inch.
- Make sure to check the requirements of your chosen citation style.

Student 1

Student's Name

Dr. Professor

ENGL-6XXX

30 February 20XX

#### Annotated Bibliography

Baker, Kasey Bass. " 'Oh, lift me over the threshold, and let me in at the door!': Boundaries and Thresholds in Mary Coleridge's Poetry." *Victorian Poetry*, vol. 48, no. 2, 2010, pp. 195-218, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/vp.0.0102>.

Jackson, Vanessa Furse. "Breaking the Quiet Surface: The Shorter Poems of Mary Coleridge." *English Literature in Transition*, vol. 39, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-62, <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/74/article/367367/pdf>.

# Annotated Bibliography (continued)

## STEP 2: Set up your annotated bibliography entries

- Create a new line below one of your sources and indent your new line by a full inch.

Jackson, Vanessa Furse. "Breaking the Quiet Surface: The Shorter Poems of Mary Coleridge."  
*English Literature in Transition*, vol. 39, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-62,  
<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/74/article/367367/pdf>.

- Annotations should be in alphabetical order.
- Annotations should be indented one inch from the start of your citation (only the author's name will be flush left). See example at the bottom of the handout, which is in MLA format.

## STEP 3: Write!

- There are different guidelines on how to best create annotated bibliography entries.
- Refer to the different types of annotations to determine which might best suit your project or ask your professor.
- Though word counts may vary, each annotated bibliography entry will likely be around 150-250 words.



Jackson, Vanessa Furse. "Breaking the Quiet Surface: The Shorter Poems of Mary Coleridge."

*English Literature in Transition*, vol. 39, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-62,

<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/74/article/367367/pdf>.

In this article, Vanessa Furse Jackson explores the life and poetry of Mary Coleridge, offering a detailed biography of who she was, what her writing was like, and how she is thought of and discussed in the present day. Specifically, Jackson examines a few key themes and motifs found in Coleridge's poetry, such as restraint, fear, and struggles with faith, which continuously inform her writing. Jackson also goes beyond poetry, looking at letters and other writing by both Coleridge and those around her to paint a more comprehensive picture of what Coleridge's focuses were on in her writing. For the purposes of my own writing, this article provides several key details about Coleridge and her work that will be able to serve as a foundation for further research. The themes that Jackson introduces offer a simple framework to think about Coleridge's poetry that can be easily applied to other poems for future analysis.