

# How to write an Annotated Bibliography

## ***What is an Annotated Bibliography?***

A standard bibliography lists all the resources you have cited in your assignment. An annotated bibliography is a list of the resources in which each item is summarised and evaluated.

## ***What's the purpose of an annotated bibliography?***

The annotation should provide a critical evaluation of the text, including a summary or description. It gives the reader insight into the relevance of the resource.

## ***How much do I need to write?***

The average annotated bibliography is a short paragraph of three to six sentences, roughly about 150 words.

## ***What do I write in it?***

Always write your resource information first as per standard bibliography rules, then follow with your annotation. Include the following information:

- a brief description of resource
- how up-to-date it is
- author's credentials
- intended audience
- value and significance of the resource as a contribution to your assignment
- any significant features
- your own impression (brief)

## Two examples of an annotated bibliography:

1. Radloff, A. Hermann, A & Fox, R. 1999, Successful Learning Skills: Your guide to tertiary studies through open, distance and flexible learning, Bobby Graham Publishers, Wagga Wagga.

This book contains strategies to help students studying in the distance mode to become more effective learners and covers areas such as: taking charge of your learning process, achieving your learning goals, becoming a more effective learner and developing your reading and writing skills. The book covers a similar range of topics to many other study skills books. It does, however, focus particularly on the needs of students studying at a distance who will find this a valuable resource for getting started and developing tertiary learning skills. In particular, students returning to study after a long break will find working through the checklists and key questions a useful strategy to identify their strengths as learners.

2. Sabine, James ed. 1995 **A Century of Australian Cinema**. Melbourne: William Heinemann Australia.

A stylish coffee table collection of essays mostly on the first seventy years of Australian filmmaking. Contains an array of beautifully reproduced historical photographs, stills, news clippings and period advertisements which give a feel for its subjects. As well as films and film production, the book explores cinema architecture and non-theatrical exhibition and distribution. It is less an overview of filmmaking than an illumination of aspects of Australian film downplayed in previous scholarship. It deliberately complements previously published anthologies. The collection reaches into the present too with essays on the film revival and the future of cinema respectively.