

## WRITING THE APA ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### What is a bibliography?

- Most simply, it is a list of information sources.
  - A list of items relating to a given subject. [articles, books, websites . . . ]
  - Description and identification of the editions, dates of issue, authorship, and typography of books or other written material.
  - A filmography is a list of motion pictures by an actor, a director, or on a topic.
- A discography is a list of musical recordings by a composer, performer or group.

### What is an annotation?

- An annotation is a critical or explanatory note.
- Annotation is the act or process of adding commentary or notes.

### What is the difference between an annotation and an abstract?

- An abstract is a brief factual description of a specific article or book, often written by the author.
- An annotation will reflect the personal judgement and opinion of the person compiling the bibliography. In an annotation, you may compare that work to others you viewed, comment on your rating of that source, criticize or extol the value of the document.

Therefore, an annotated bibliography is a listing which contains both the citation information, as well as a critical evaluative description of the item.

### How long are annotations?

Depends on your assignment. Your instructor will specify the required length of the annotations. Typically, annotations are around 150 words [or about 10 lines in 12 pitch font, normal margins].

### To get started:

- Select a topic
- Select the books, articles, or other resources you will write about.
- Read the selected items; it is a bit difficult to write descriptively about something you haven't read.
- Arrange the list in alphabetical order by the main entry (usually authors).
- Note any useful information or characteristics you like or dislike about the source.

A sample annotated bibliography is listed on the back. It is a subject bibliography, containing a variety of sources [books, articles and websites] on the same topic, in APA format.

### **Treating PTSD Symptoms in Returning Veterans: An Annotated Bibliography**

*Finley, E.P. (2012). Fields of combat: Understanding PTSD among veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Focusing on PTSD.*

By interviewing numerous combat veterans of recent wars, as well as their families, the author provides a vivid description of what it is like to be haunted by symptoms of PTSD. The veterans surveyed had been treated at the VA and represent a population who have sought treatment. Finley approaches the book from perspective of a medical anthropologist and provides examples of medical based treatment that have helped treat veterans.

*Dickstein, B.D., Vogt, D.S., Handa, S. Litz, B.T. (2013). Targeting self-stigma in returning military personnel and veterans: A review of intervention strategies. Military Psychology 22 (2), 654-673. Retrieved from PsycArticles*

The article discussed issues of veterans who have a negative concept of mental health care and are not seeking treatment for mental illness. The authors reviewed a range of literature and examined adverse stigmatization in the military toward receiving mental health treatment. A section discusses the stigma of mental health illness in the military, providing a detailed explanation that would be useful for a quotation. On page 231, the authors suggest five areas of focus to help reduce stigmatization of mental health illness in the military.

*Byrnes, A. (2014, June/August). From Korengal to the kitchen. DAV Magazine, 64-67.*

The story of Army veteran and chef, Robbie Myers, who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan is highlighted in this magazine article. Myers, who was a cook in the Army, was medically discharged with symptoms of PTSD and a traumatic brain injury. Nevertheless, he won a competition on Food Network and was given his own television show, which is produced by an all-veteran crew and staff. His success is credited with his initial decision to attain help for the PTSD symptoms that afflicted him since leaving the warzone. Profits the show generates will be used to promote employment opportunities for Veterans and PTSD treatment.

Waugh, R.R. (2016). *That which I love destroys me* [Motion picture]. United States: Cadre Filmworks.

This film provides an intensely personal look into the lives of the American Armed Forces and the physical and mental trauma many deal with after returning from combat. A social issue often overlooked in society is the extremely high suicide rate amongst veterans. Filmmakers provide the viewer firsthand interviews with people actually suffering from PTSD in order to help humanize the issue.

Kresge, J. (2015, July 15). *Coloring books and welding help vets cope with PTSD*. *The Seattle Globalist*.

The success of art therapy is examined in treating symptoms of PTSD. The article extensively uses quotations from veterans and experts in the field who have firsthand experience with art therapy and coloring books. A veteran provides a useful quote about how coloring between lines of a mandala helps clear his mind of traumatic thoughts. This source is useful because it demonstrates how simple and extremely inexpensive treatment options exist for those suffering from PTSD.