

## WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

### Chicago Manual of Style format

Waite, L. J., F. K. Goldscheider, and C. Witsberger. "Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." *American Sociological Review* 51 (1986): 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of living.

Each annotated bibliography entry should begin by identifying the source in correct Chicago Manual of Style documentation. You will then provide the following:

- A brief description of the author's topic, thesis, and methodology. In other words, in what academic discipline does the author locate him/herself (history, literature, social science, women's studies, cultural studies, etc)? What kind of evidence does the author draw upon?
- A concise outline of the main points in the text.
- A statement about the author's goals and his/her intended audience.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY--Your critical evaluation of the text's usefulness for the investigation of your topic.
- Did the article help you to further understand the topic. If so, explain how it did. If not, explain what information might have been helpful.
- Explain how each article compared to the others. In addition to your summary of the general trends you see in your selected books and articles (approximately 150-200 words), each of your entries should be about 150 words.