

ARC Writing Lab Worksheets:  
**Annotated Bibliographies**

Final draft version, compiled February 9, 2007, by J. Hines, Ed Prgms Intern

***Annotated Bibliographies Answer Three Major Questions:***

What was the source about?

- Specifically, what relationship did it have to your subject? Was it experimental data, opinion, or something else?
- What kind of resource was it? How did its format or presentation affect the material?

How useful was the source?

- Tell why you used it (for example, you could not conduct your own experiments). Avoid adding “filler” sources: a professional’s main rule is, “Write efficiently.”
- If you found yourself using the source extensively throughout your paper—whether you agreed with it or because you found so much to disagree with that it made you write—then you would describe the source as more useful *for those reasons*.
- If it was useful for only one quote, or said something important, but in an awkward way, you might note it as a less useful resource.

Why was the source relevant to your paper?

- What kind of resource was it? How did its format or presentation affect its use as a source?
- Did the source back up your argument or your other sources, or did it present opposing points? Did it make you change your argument?

***Problems with Annotated Bibliographies Can Be Fixed by...***

Being careful, accurate, and intentional with your annotations:

- Avoid any kind of “filler” statements like, “I liked this book” or “This was a useful book” or “So-and-so has created an excellent resource.” The latter is barely passable only if (1) it is absolutely true and (2) you actually say why.
- If you cannot actually read the source, as when you are creating a tentative annotated bibliography before the final due date, make sure if possible to look at the opening pages, last section or chapter, table of contents, and abstract. If you are creating an annotated bibliography as part of a project or paper, do not include any sources you have not read or at least actually used in your paper.

# Source / Research Log

include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Date</li><li>• Author(s)</li><li>• Title (Article and/or book, website)</li><li>• Publisher &amp; date</li><li>• Website address</li></ul>	Give specific page #'s for each quote or note