

Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review

Annotated Bibliography due October 1:

Description: An annotated bibliography is an inventory of written and electronic resources available for your project. It is a list of books and articles (bibliography) on your topic, each followed by a brief description (annotation) of its contents. Annotations focus on the portion or aspect of the book or article relevant to your project and typically are about three sentences long.

- Whenever feasible, sit in front of your computer when you look through books and articles that you've selected for closer examination.
- Start by entering the full bibliographic citation (author, title, edition, city/publisher/date for books; author, title, journal, volume/number, pages for articles; website for electronic sources)
- Even though published bibliographies do not include it, include the call number (and when relevant, the library) of books so you can find them again easily.
- Since interdisciplinary projects draw upon more than one professional literature, organize your bibliography into sections by discipline or subtopic.
- Draw upon the table of contents, introduction, and bibliography for annotating books; the abstract for annotating articles. Skim, don't read, at this point.
- In your annotation, identify both the focus of the work and the approach it takes.
- Aim for 45 entries.

Literature Review due October 31:

Description: A literature review is an essay that reports an on-going "conversation" on a topic among scholars that has been taking place in published books and articles. It identifies major issues and positions of key participants, and presents our evolving understanding of the topic. While the conversation itself has taken place over several years and its topic and list of participants evolved, a literature review treats the conversation as a whole, giving it a coherence not apparent as the conversation proceeded.

- The participants and their published contributions may have discussed many issues. You need to focus your review on the ones most relevant to your topic.
- Do not try to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each book and argument. Discuss separately with your advisor how they relate to your project.
- You need to undertake several literature reviews, one on each of the clusters of topics that combine to form the interdisciplinary topic of your project.
- Aim for 12-15 double-spaced pages overall, broken in separate reviews of the literatures on which you expect to draw.

Finding books and articles is interconnected with reading them to learn about the conversations relevant to your evolving topic, but you need to concentrate first on finding resources and then shift to learning about the relevant conversations. Thus the annotated bibliography is separate from (and due before) the literature review.