

Designing Your Research Project: Part I: Creating an Annotated Bibliography

A. Conduct Background Research on Your Research Topic

- In order to find literature, you need to identify **keywords** related to your topic. Write some down off the top of your head.
- As you find articles, look at their keywords and references sections, and use them to search for related articles
- *Download and save full-text PDFs* of articles so you can read them fully later. Upload your PDFs to the Drive.
- **Read these papers and use the information in them to revise your research topic(s) and/or question(s)!**

B. Create an Annotated Bibliography on your research topic

- Your bibliography should contain **at least 10 peer-reviewed scientific papers** relevant to your research topic(s). If you decide to search for literature on more than one topic, include a minimum of 5 papers for each one.
- Your Annotated Bibliography will include the citations of all the papers you find in *alphabetical order by first author*, and **an in-depth summary of 6 papers total**. Please follow the formatting guidelines below for your document:
 1. **TITLE:** Begin your Annotated Bibliography with a title related to your topic(s). The title should read “Annotated Bibliography:...” with a concise and descriptive title that indicates the specific topic of your bibliography. Include your name on the document.
 2. **SYNOPSIS:** Start your bibliography with a one paragraph introduction (**max. 250 words**) that briefly describes the topic and states your *revised* research question. Include a brief synthesis of the scientific background that provides the *rationale* behind your question. **This should be written after you’ve read your papers!**
 3. **KEY REFERENCES:** For this section, select **six papers** that provide the most relevant background to your question, provide key results that helps you clarify or refine your question, demonstrate a key method you could employ to address your research question, or otherwise provide pivotal information that underlies the rationale for your hypotheses. For each of paper, give the full citations followed by 2 paragraphs of annotations that must include the content listed below:
 - I. **Article Summary:** Below each citation, summarize the article *in your own words*, including the following information (**max. 300 words**):
 - **Research question and hypothesis addressed:** What is the purpose of the research: What question is being addressed by the paper? If the authors state a specific hypothesis, you may quote it here (but always use quotation marks and give page number of any direct quote).
 - One to three sentences summarizing the *methods* used.
 - One to three sentences summarizing the *key results or findings*. **This part must include numbers** if numbers such as summary statistics are given in the results section.
 - A synopsis of how the authors interpreted the results and any new insights gained or questions raised.
 - List of keywords the authors provide in the paper
 - II. **Relevance:** Write a paragraph (**max 250 words**) describing how this paper informs, justifies, substantiates, or otherwise helps clarify your own research question. Be specific!
 4. **OTHER REFERENCES:** List your remaining four or more references, as full citations.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Citations **must** be in the required format, as per the examples on the reverse side of this page. You do not need to include the DOI.

C. Working with more than one topic: If you decide to prepare a bibliography on two research topics, follow the same instructions as above for *each topic*, including a minimum of 5 references for each, summarizing 3 of them in the Key References section.

D. Upload your literature review in **.docx** or **.rtf format**, as well as **full-text PDFs** of all your articles to the “Annotated Bibliography” folder on the Google Drive. **Please create a folder with your name in which to put files.**

USEFUL DEFINITIONS:

Reference: A work used as a source. That which is referred to.

Citation: A mention or identification of a book, paper, or author, esp. in a scholarly work. May be found within a reference list (full citation) or within a text following a quote or extract from a specific work.

et al.: abbreviation of the latin *et alii* meaning “and others”

URL: Uniform Resource Locator. A specially-formatted string of text used by Web browsers and other network software to define a location on the internet.

DOI: Digital Object Identifier. A unique identifying number for an individual published article. Not always required in bibliographies.

How to Format Citations

How to Format Citations to Various Types of References

Note that some journals may require specific variations to the general format conventions listed below, however **we request you put all citations *exactly* in the format described below.**

1. Full citations must be given in your Annotated Bibliography, and in the Literature Cited or References Section of your research papers:

Scientific articles

Formatting order:

Author(s) by last name and first initial, different authors separated by commas. Year. Article title in sentence case. Journal Title With All Words Capitalized, Volume(Issue):Page-range.

Example:

Amidzic, O., Riehle, H. J., & Elbert, T. 2006. Toward a psychophysiology of expertise: Focal magnetic gamma bursts as a signature of memory chunks and the aptitude of chess players. *Journal of Psychophysiology*, 20(4):253-258.

Books

Formatting order:

Author(s). Year. *Title of the book*. Publisher. Place of publication.

Example:

Arking, R. 2006. *The biology of aging: Observations and principles* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press. New York, NY.

Online Resources

Formatting order:

Page Author or Institution. Publication Year. Title of article. Retrieved from *mm/dd/yyyy* from website URL.

Example:

Sea Turtle Restoration Project. 2006. Threats to sea turtles. Retrieved on 10/28/2016 from <http://seaturtles.org/section.php?id=104>

2. Inline Citations: These are citations within the text of a paper (regardless of source) to support statements you make.

Formatting order: (Author(s) Year)

Examples:

One author example: (Collins 2004)

Two author example: (Collins and McNamara 2010)

Three or more author example: (Collins et al. 2008)

More than one citation example: (Collins et al. 2008, Collins and McNamara 2010) – *order from oldest to newest and separate citations by commas.*

DON'T FORGET TO UPLOAD FULL-TEXT PDFS OF YOUR ARTICLES TO YOUR FOLDER ON THE GOOGLE DRIVE!