What is an annotated bibliography?

- An **annotation** (n.d.) is “a critical or explanatory note or body of notes added to a text” (def. 1).

- An annotated bibliography includes both a reference entry and an annotation of that source.

What is the purpose of an annotated bibliography?

Purposes of annotated bibliographies

- To illustrate the scope and quality of one's own research
- To review the literature published on a particular topic
- To provide the reader/researcher with supplementary, illustrative or alternative sources
- To allow the reader to see if a particular source was consulted
- To provide examples of the type of resources available on a given topic
- To place original research in a historical context
Sample Annotated Bibliography

Analyze it!

- Read the sample annotation.
- Identify the function of each element.

Corn highlighted the innovative strategy of incorporating unicorns into nursing practice in order to ease patients’ anxiety and improve patient outcomes. Using a quasi-experimental design, Corn’s preliminary evidence from her research trial indicates that adult patients benefit from unicorn therapy.

Corn’s preliminary finding that unicorns have an equivalent therapeutic value for adult patients in addition to younger patients is an exciting area of research, but the reliability of these findings is questionable. While Corn’s research methodology appears to be sound, a level of bias is present. For example, Corn is one of the founding editors of Unicorn Therapy, a brand new journal. That said, the evidence is compelling, suggesting that further research is necessary, and Corn does cite a number of other independent researchers working at well-respected institutions. This article should be of interest for nurses and nursing researchers.

This paragraph of an annotation varies. Very brief annotations may include only the summary and evaluation portions, but longer annotations frequently include a third section. Always check the guidelines for your assignments to see if a third section is required. If it is required, this paragraph could be a reflection, a comparison to other research, or an explanation of how the source fits into the larger topic, paper, or project.
Summary


Corn highlighted the innovative strategy of incorporating unicorns into nursing practice in order to ease patients’ anxiety and improve patient outcomes. Using a quasi-experimental design, Corn’s preliminary evidence from her research trial indicates that adult patients benefit from unicorn therapy.

Evaluation

Corn’s preliminary finding that unicorns have an equivalent therapeutic value for adult patients in addition to younger patients is an exciting area of research, but the reliability of these findings is questionable. While Corn’s research methodology appears to be sound, a level of bias is present. For example, Corn is one of the founding editors of *Unicorn Therapy*, a brand new journal. That said, the evidence is compelling, suggesting that further research is necessary, and Corn does cite a number of other independent researchers working at well-respected institutions. This article should be of interest for nurses and nursing researchers.

Reflection, Comparison, or Relevance

This paragraph of an annotation varies. Very brief annotations may include only the summary and evaluation portions, but longer annotations frequently include a third section. Always check the guidelines for your assignments to see if a third section is required. If it is required, this paragraph could be a reflection, a comparison to other research, or an explanation of how the source fits into the larger topic, paper, or project.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NURS 251</strong></th>
<th><strong>NURS 372</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary/Description</strong></td>
<td>- Identify main points and purpose;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Summarize main points and purpose;</td>
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<td>- Provide overview of arguments, evidence, and conclusions;</td>
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<td>- Describe methodology/approach</td>
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<td><strong>Evaluation</strong></td>
<td>- Evaluate authority, background, or education of author;</td>
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<td>- Comment on intended audience;</td>
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<td>- Describe strengths and weaknesses, reliability, currency, accuracy, and if any biases;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reflection/Comparison/Notes</strong></td>
<td>- compare/contrast to another article</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Describe relevance, effectiveness, and usefulness for assignment</td>
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<td><strong>Max. 150 words</strong></td>
<td><strong>250-350 words</strong></td>
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How to write your annotations

1) Reference Entry
   - Write a complete entry for your source

2) Summary
   - Identify the topic, main points, purpose, and conclusions

3) Evaluation/Assessment
   - Explain strengths and weaknesses, reliability, bias, intended audience, and usefulness

4) Reflection, Comparison/Contrast, or Relevance
   - Follow your assignment guidelines
Additional Resources

- http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/cite-write/citation-style-guides/annotated-bibliography
- https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/
- http://wiki.ubc.ca/Library:How_to_Write_an_Annotated_Bibliography
- http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/write-an-annotated-bibliography
Need help?

Writing and Learning Services

MacEwan.ca/WLS
7-112

Library

Library.MacEwan.ca