Annotated Bibliography & Chicago Manual of Style Citations

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY goes one step further. An annotated bibliography provides a short paragraph of description/criticism/evaluation of each of your sources. Annotated bibs can help you remember specific information contained in your source and often act as a springboard to further research because you are able to see what has already been written about your topic (Ellison, 2010, p. 56).


What does an Annotated Bibliography look like?

Citations are listed alphabetically and are followed by a short paragraph providing information about the work.

About Chicago Manual of Style Citations

Citations can be cited for sources used in your research by consulting the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition. You can find the print issue at John B. Cade Library, location 1st Floor Ask Here Desk. You can also access Chicago Manual of Style Online for more information at https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Did you know citations for Chicago Manual of Style can be created by using the citation generator Bibme?

Bibme Website: http://www.bibme.org/chicago-17-author-date

What is Bibme? BibMe™ is an automatic citation creator that supports MLA, APA, and Chicago formatting. Other styles are powered by Citation Style Language.

Created by M. Payne 2019
Creating an annotated bibliography in Chicago style

General guidelines

Annotations can be merely descriptive, summarizing the authors' qualifications, research methods, and arguments.

Annotations can evaluate the quality of scholarship in a book or article. You might want to consider the logic of authors' arguments, and the quality of their evidence. Your findings can be positive, negative, or mixed.

Your professor might also want you to explain why the source is relevant to your assignment.

Sample Page: Chicago-formatted annotated bibliography


Ken Battle draws on a close study of government documents, as well as his own research as an extensively published policy analyst, to explain Canadian child benefit programs. He outlines some fundamental assumptions supporting the belief that all society members should contribute to the upbringing of children. His comparison of child poverty rates in a number of countries is a
useful wake-up to anyone assuming Canadian society is doing a good job of protecting children. Battle pays attention to the National Child Benefit (NCB), arguing that it did not deserve to be criticized by politicians and journalists. He outlines the NCB’s development, costs, and benefits, and laments that the Conservative government scaled it back in favor of the inferior Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB). However, he relies too heavily on his own work; he is the sole or primary author of almost half the sources in his bibliography. He could make this work stronger by drawing from others’ perspectives and analyses. However, Battle does offer a valuable source for this essay, because the chapter provides a concise overview of government-funded assistance currently available to parents. This offers context for analyzing the scope and financial reality of child poverty in Canada.


Sociology professors Kerr and Beaujot analyze the demographics of impoverished families. Drawing on data from Canada’s annual Survey of Consumer Finances, the authors consider whether each family had one or two parents, the age of single parents, and the number of children in each
household. They analyze child poverty rates in light of both these demographic factors and larger economic issues. Kerr and Beajot use this data to argue that

Rules! rules! rules!

The *Chicago Manual of Style* states the following formatting rules. Check your assignment description in case your instructor has other instructions.

- All bibliographic entries must be alphabetized by the author’s last names, and author’s names are inverted (last name first, first name last).
- Elements of a citation are separated with periods.
- The text should be double-spaced.
- Numbering starts on the first page of writing (*not* the title page), at the top right of the page.
- Reference list entries must have a hanging indent.
- There should be 1 inch (2.54 cm) margins all around (top, bottom, left, and right) on each page.
- Use Times Roman font, or a similar serif font.
- Each paragraph should be indented using the tab key.