The Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a list of the various sources (books, articles, websites, and interviews) that you consulted on a particular topic. To prepare an annotated bibliography, you should first carefully read and annotate each source that you intend to include in your bibliography. (For more information on annotation, please refer to our *How to Annotate Sources* resource.) You then need to prepare a bibliographic entry for each source. The bibliography entry should include the source's author, title, publisher (or sponsor), and publication date, and (for MLA) medium. You will then format this information according to the type of source and the style guide you are using. For instance, if you are using MLA (the Modern Language Association) style guide for a book written by a single author, you would format the book's bibliography entry likes this:

Last name of Author, First Name of Author. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of

Publication. Print.

For more information on individual style guides, please consult the following OWL Purdue resources:

Modern Language Association (MLA) Style Guide
American Psychology Association (APA) Style Guide
Chicago Style Guide
General Information on Style Guides for Various Disciplines

After formatting your bibliographic entries, you then need to summarize each source. A source summary should be focused and concise, highlighting only the source's most important information. In some cases, your professors may also ask you to indicate in your summary how that source is relevant to your research. You should not, however, include any directly quoted material from the original source in your summary; your summary should be written entirely in your own words. After finishing the summary, place it below the source's bibliographic entry. Please refer to the model below for a sample annotated bibliography entry.

Sample Annotated Bibliography Entry (MLA)

Westlake, Jane E. "Friend Me if You Facebook: Generation Y and

        Performative Surveillance." *MIT Press* 52.4 (2008): n.pag. *JSTOR.*

        Web. 2 Nov. 2010.

This paper was originally published in the *MIT Press*. Titled "Friend

Me If You Facebook: Generation Y and Performative Surveillance," the

article is written by Jane E. Westlake. The author explains how a

person's "online persona" helps him or her to develop and cultivate real-world relationships. She speaks of "Generation Y," the generation following Generation X; Westlake claims that the members of Generation Y are much more proficient in accessing online information and that they use these skills to cultivate and bolster their personal relationships through online social interaction. She also examines the complexities of online privacy issues by discussing the "News Feed" controversy when it first appeared on Facebook. Westlake mentions that online users initially opposed the addition of this Facebook application, considering it a violation of their privacy. Gradually, the application was embraced by the Facebook community.