Annotated Bibliographies: Hacking the Scholarly Literature

What is an annotated bibliography?

Essentially, an annotated bibliography is an **organized way of taking notes**. Dictionary.com defines annotation as:

1. The act or process of furnishing critical commentary or explanatory notes.
2. A critical or explanatory note; a commentary

and defines "bibliography" as:

1. A list of the works of a specific author or publisher.
2. A list of writings relating to a given subject: a bibliography of Latin American history.
3. A list of writings used or considered by an author in preparing a particular work.

Thus, an "annotated bibliography" is a compilation of sources related to a given subject which includes critical or explanatory information.

Annotated bibliographies have many uses...**First**, they provide a compilation of sources with intelligent commentary; meaning, that not only do you have a summary of the content of an article, but you also have some comment as to why the article is (or is not) of use. **Second**, ABs provide a quick reference for useful definitions and key ideas (if you've done your job). **Finally**, ABs help to provide you an overview of the field so that you are not repeating work that's already been done, but can make a genuine contribution (or at least get a better grade on your current project).

How do you write an annotated bibliography?

So glad you asked! The **four** components of an annotated bibliographic entry are as follows:

1. A discipline-specific appropriate reference
   - APA, AMA, IEEE, MLA, Chicago, etc.
2. A short summary paragraph or list indicating:
   - The question or problem addressed by the article (the "topic" and RQ);
   - The article's method of analysis (experimental? theoretical?);
   - The article's outcomes and conclusions
   - **Note**: do not just copy the abstract! Pull out this information into a list so that you can use the parts you need for your project. This information must be **cited**.
3. A list of useful definitions or key ideas relevant to the writing project
   - Pull out this information into a list so that you can use the parts you need for your project. This information must be **cited**.
   - Consider adding page numbers to each piece of information but do NOT copy/paste from the article
4. Your assessment of the article's usefulness (global and specific) to your research goals
   - For example, maybe you need only the bibliography or a specific discussion of a particular theory
   - Also use this section to speculate and muse; map similarities or differences to other material

Examples

[1] Goldman DP, Joyce GF, Karaca-mandic P. Varying pharmacy benefits with clinical status: the case of cholesterol-lowering therapy. *Am J Manag Care*. 2006;12(1):21-8

- BBC -- benefits-based co-payment scheme
  - Co-payments for meds are based on a mix of patient need and clinical efficacy such that the co-pay is *lower* for patients with high need taking a med with high evidence for efficacy
  - Logic: decreasing the cost of meds for patients who most need it and will benefit from adherence will increase compliance, and thereby decrease hospitalization and ED visits, thus saving $$
    - Also decreases pharmaceutical costs b/c Px not taking additional meds b/c of worsening condition + hospitalization-related meds
- Tested with cholesterol lowering drugs
- Retrospective data set: Looked at 5 years data (1997-2002) across 88 health plans, 25 employers, total: 62,774 adults' records
  - Px divided in low/mid/high risk groups
  - 2 BBC design prediction schemes tested
- Savings estimated at 1 billion; hospitalizations decreased by 80,000, ED visits by approx 30,000
- Not all drugs amenable to BBC design, but authors believe it is a viable alternative with better outcomes than a tiered-drug system b/c it lowers overall costs among the most expensive Px

[good example of one of the three approaches -- shows potential system-wide cost reductions by targeting the statistically most expensive Px and making it easier to increase adherence in this population; classic behavioral economics approach]

Garst, J., & Bodenhausen, G. V. (1997). Advertising's effects on men's gender role attitudes. *Sex Roles,* **36(9-10): 551-572.**

The authors in this article examine whether media images of men influence the gender role attitudes that men express soon after being exposed to the images. The study examined males between the ages of 17 and 46. The men observed male models in magazine ads that portrayed traditionally masculine vs. androgynous images, and men of different ages. The results suggest that men's gender role attitudes can be influence by the images of men they regularly see in the mass media. The authors conclude that:

"...nontraditional men's gender role attitudes may be unstable and susceptible to momentary influences." (567).

[This article is important to the topic of gender differences in media advertising because it reveals men's attitudes towards gender roles are affected just as easily as women's attitudes are in relation to gender differences in images in the media.]

Bennett, C.W., & Ling, D. (1977). Effects of Voiced-Voiceless Discrimination Training Upon Articulation of Hearing-Impaired Children. *Language and Speech*, 20(3), 287-293.

This article questions whether voiced-voiceless discrimination training will aid the articulation in hearing-impaired children. Six severely hearing-impaired children ranging from 8-10 years of age were the subjects. One group of 3 children received discrimination training on the /ba-pa/ distinction and the second group of 3 children received training on the /ba-pa/, /da-ta/, and /ga-ka/ distinctions. A vibro-tactile aid was used so the individuals could feel the voice onset time. Once the individual correctly distinguished between voiced and voiceless stops for a certain criterion, the vibro-tactile cue was reduced in intensity. The next step involved responding to voiced and voiceless syllables by producing them. The results showed that the training in audition alone does result in improved production. Subjects in the first group showed greater generalization perhaps due to the limited set in training. This may have helped the hearing-impaired children focus on the critical variable of voice onset time.

[there were no visual cues in this discrimination training therefore children needed to focus on voice onset time to determine target sound. Supports the auditory method of teaching hearing-impaired children.]

"Our hypothesis was that by providing training through audition alone we could change the perceptual strategies of children who relied heavily upon vision in such a way that their articulation would be improved with regard to the voicing dimension." Page 288.

Napoli C, Balestrieri ML, Sica V, et al. Beneficial effects of low doses of red wine consumption on perturbed shear stress-induced atherogenesis. *Heart Vessels*.2008;23(2):124-33.

This study looks at how red wine affects perturbed shear stress-induced artherogenesis by examining human coronary artery endothelial cells and male hypercholesterolemic low- density lipoprotein receptor-deficient mice. The cells were exposed to four levels of laminar shear stress (0, 1, 5, 15 dyne/cm3) and three types of liquid flow (two red wines differing by polyphenolic content and an ethanol control) giving 12 groups of cells tested. 36 mice were randomly separated into three groups that all underwent a progressive swimming exercise over four weeks in addition to receiving, in proper quantities, one of the three test liquids used in the endothelial cells. After this normalization, the researchers accelerated the mice's disease by inducing a high fat diet over the next 24 weeks. After the study protocol was completed the mice were dissected and several quantities were measured. The researchers found that the total cholesterol and triglycerides were significantly decreased in the mice model after red wine treatment in comparison to the placebo. NOx content increased for both red wines in comparison to placebo and more so for the wine with higher polyphenolic content. In the endothelial cells (EC) both red wines induced increase of eNOS activity, with the Aglianico (higher polyphenolic content) having the greater effect.

[Very involved study, need to pick apart more to figure out exactly what to include in report. However, it found some very interesting information on the increase of eNOS activity and NOx content after red wine exposure. NOTE: mice and in vitro model used.]

Key Concepts/ Terms:

Shear stress: The force exerted by blood as it flows through vessels

eNOS: endothelial nitric oxide synthase, which is an enzyme responsible for nitric oxide production in endothelial cells.

"Perturbed flow alone or high shear stress associated with other classical risk factors of atherosclerosis may trigger signal transduction events that in turn may lead to endothelial dysfunction and enhanced atherogenesis." (125)