

# Annotated Bibliographies

Vincent A. Cicirello, Ph.D.  
<https://www.cicirello.org/>

## What is a Bibliography?

- I'm assuming you know what a bibliography is, but just in case....
- Bibliography: The list of references at the end of a paper.
- A couple examples:



## Annotated Bibliographies

- An annotated bibliography is rather different than a bibliography.
- A bibliography is a **part** of a paper.
- An annotated bibliography is a **type** of paper.

## Purpose and Content of an Annotated Bibliography

- Annotated bibliographies are useful for organizing background research.
- Usually starts with an introduction that describes what the annotated bibliography is about.
- It contains entries, where each entry includes:
  - The full citation of an article (e.g., the way it would be listed in a bibliography)
  - Description: A summary of the article's content, main points, main results, etc.
  - Evaluation: **Your** evaluation of the article.
    - If this is background research for a project, evaluation would be in the context of that research project.

## Annotated Bibliography Assignment

## Topic

- You will pick your own topic. Any **specific** topic of computing of your choice.
- Examples that are far too general:
  - Artificial intelligence, operating systems, or cybersecurity
- Examples that are better, but still too general:
  - Machine learning, kernels, or encryption
- Examples that are sufficiently specific for this assignment:
  - Deep learning with neural networks, memory management, or public-key cryptography
- Even better examples (more specific than above)
  - Medical image analysis with deep neural networks, paging, or the public-key crypto of blockchain

## Introduction

- Start with a descriptive title.
- Follow title with an introduction that:
  - Explains what the topic of your annotated bibliography is
    - The common theme of the articles you read
    - Why that topic is important
    - Optionally why you chose that topic
  - Two to three paragraphs should be sufficient for this (around a page)

## Articles / Conference Papers

- You must have at least 5 entries in your annotated bibliography.
- Each entry must be a journal article or a paper from the proceedings of a peer-reviewed conference.
- The following doesn't count:
  - Conference poster papers, demo papers, and other similar papers that are really just extended abstracts (long summaries). These are usually 2 pages or less.
  - Conferences that just publish abstracts.
  - If it is less than 4 pages in length, it isn't a full article or full conference paper.
  - Informal articles (of any length), such as blogs, websites, wikis, newspapers, etc.

## Content of Each Entry

- Entry begins with full citation in the style of the ACM.
- After a blank line, you'll have 3 to 5 paragraphs, paragraphs separated by blank lines (rather than using indentation), and all text indented.
- The 3 to 5 paragraphs includes:
  - 2 to 3 paragraph summary of what the article was about, including its main points
  - 1 to 2 paragraph evaluation of the article that includes a discussion of what the potential impact of that research is on individuals, organizations, or society as a whole.
  - This is approximately 1 page to 1.5 pages per entry

## Ordering the Entries

- Sort the entries in your annotated bibliography alphabetically by the lastname of the first author of the articles.

## Important Resources

- ACM citation style: <https://www.acm.org/publications/authors/reference-formatting>
- ACM Digital Library: <https://dl.acm.org/>
  - Good place to find articles
  - If you're on campus, ACM will detect that you are allowed access to full-text of articles
  - If you're not on campus, find the link via the Stockton library site, which will have you authenticate
- Template in Blackboard (as a Word file) which shows the expected format of your Annotated Bibliography