

CS 6402 – Advanced Data Mining

What is an Annotated Bibliography?¹

Explanation

- An **annotated bibliography** is a list of **citations** to books, articles, and documents **PLUS** a brief (~250-300 word) **descriptive paragraph for each citation**; the purpose of the annotation is to note the **relevance, accuracy, and quality** of the document
- An annotation is **NOT an abstract!!!**; an abstract is simply a descriptive summary whereas an annotation is **BOTH** a descriptive summary **AND** your own critique of an article

Process

- First decide on how you want to **maintain** your annotated bibliography; you can simply maintain it as a MS Word or Latex document, or use citation management software (e.g., EndNote)
 - Each entry in your annotated bibliography should properly cite the article; use **IEEE citation format** (<http://www.ijsst.info/info/IEEE-Citation-StyleGuide.pdf>)
 - **ALWAYS INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS** unless you are referencing an entire book, which is unlikely! **This won't always be on the papers posted on Canvas; you might have to go look it up on the Internet!!!**
- Write a concise annotation that **summarizes the central theme and scope of the article**; focus on parts of the article that are of particular interest/relevance to your studies and/or this course; do **NOT** just paraphrase the abstract that is given in the article!
- Write complete sentences. Don't have misspellings, improper grammar, foul language, etc.
- You must also critically appraise the article; maybe note the following:

How well written was the article? (Mostly important to note if article was poorly written!)

Were there technical mistakes in the article?

Were background and related work sufficiently covered in the article?

If theories were given, were proofs also given in the article?

If algorithms were given, had those algorithms been implemented?

If algorithms had been implemented, had they been benchmarked?

If claims of benefits for users were made, had user testing been done?

How significant/novel were the ideas presented in the article?

What was the quality of the conference, journal, etc. in which the article was published?

¹ Much of the information presented in this lecture is taken from <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography>

- You also can include **informal notes** on how the article might be of interest to your own studies (e.g., “This is the only research where they’ve implemented a GUI for their graph data mining system and included comprehensive user testing results.”)

Examples

- Given below is a fairly good example:

K. Battle, “Child Poverty: The Evolution and Impact of Child Benefits,” in *A Question of Commitment: Children's Rights in Canada*. K. Covell and R.B. Howe, Eds. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2007, pp. 21-44.

Ken Battle draws on his research as an extensively-published policy analyst, and a close study of some government documents, to explain child benefits in Canada. He outlines some fundamental assumptions supporting the belief that all society members should contribute to the upbringing of children. His comparison of Canadian child poverty rates to those in other countries provides a useful wake-up to anyone assuming Canadian society is doing a good job of protecting children from want. He pays particular attention to the National Child Benefit (NCB), arguing that it did not deserve the criticism it received from politicians and journalists. He outlines the NCB’s development, costs, and benefits, including its dollar contribution to a typical recipient’s income. He laments that the Conservative government scaled back the program in favor of the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), and clearly explains why it is inferior. However, Battle 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 the perspectives of others’ 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.

Main points covered in the article

Quality of the source

How the person who wrote this annotated bibliography felt about the content

Critique of the work

- Here are some links to more examples, although these examples are briefer than yours are expected to be (i.e., yours should each be ~250-300 words):

<https://awc.ashford.edu/PDFHandouts/SampleAnnotatedBibPDF.pdf>

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/annotated-bibliographies/mla-examples/>

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/annotated-bibliographies/cbe-examples/>