Annotated Bibliography

**What is an annotated bibliography? An annotated bibliography is a:**

* summary of the resources used in researching a question or issue
* short description which informs the reader what a particular text is about by summarising the main information or ideas
* comment or critique of a text or texts

**Processes for writing an annotated bibliography**

* **Finding resources and recording of bibliographic details**
  + Locate a number of readings or articles. They may be grouped around a topic or question.
  + Look through your course reading lists. Search for books and journal articles in the Library catalogue and databases.
  + Record the bibliographic details following the conventions for writing a reference list entry
* **Write the summary**
  + To write an effective summary for an annotation you need to read for the main ideas and write them clearly and concisely in your own words
  + Ask yourself the following questions to focus on the main ideas:
    - What point is the author actually making?
    - What ideas and evidence are used to support this point?
  + When writing your summary, follow the same order in which the article is organised. For example, use the chapter headings of a book or the subheadings of an article as a framework.
  + You do not need to reference the author of the material as you would normally do when summarising or paraphrasing for an essay.
* **Write the critique**
  + The critique is your critical response to the item you have read and comes after the summary
  + To write an effective critique you need to draw on your extended reading of the topic by asking yourself questions like:
* What does it contribute to my understanding of the topic?
* What does it add to the existing field of knowledge?
* How does this item 'fit in' with other works on the topic?
* Would I recommend it to someone interested in the course? Why?   
   Why not?

Source adapted from: L3 Division of Business 2012, Annotated bibliography, Language, Literacies and Learning, University of South Australia, viewed 15 January 2014, <http://resource.unisa.edu.au/course/view.php?id=3813>