In this video we will cover what an annotated bibliography is, how to format one, as well as how to write an annotation.

At its core, an annotated bibliography is a list of resources on a specific topic, followed by a brief paragraph that critically assesses the source.

An annotated bibliography typically consists of two components: the citations for your sources, and the annotations. To format an annotated bibliography, you will want to list your citation followed by the annotation for that source followed by your next source. Like all bibliographies, sources should be listed in alphabetical order.

The citations should be formatted consistently and based on the required style and guidelines of your class or assignment. Make sure to read the assignment carefully to ensure you are following the correct style. It's always a good idea to ask your instructor if you're not sure which style to use.

Once you have your citations formatted, you can then move onto writing your annotations.

Annotations are typically between 150-250 words and will critically evaluate your source. In your annotation you will summarize, assess, and reflect:

- **Summarize:** you will want to begin the annotation by summarizing the findings of the source. This may include discussing the source's research question, hypothesis, methods of research, or results.
- **Assess:** Next, you will want to assess the source's credibility. Here you can discuss why the authors are reliable on this topic, the verifiability of the source's claims, the currency of the information, compare the source to others on the same topic, and identify any gaps in the research.
- **Reflect:** Finally, every annotation should include how this source is relevant to your research. You may wish to reflect on how this source relates to your topic and how it answers some, if not all, of your research question.

To make the process smoother here are a few tips:

- **Start early:** don't wait until the last minute. Annotating takes time and critical thinking.
- **Take notes as you read each source**: highlight key arguments, evaluate credibility, and jot down how the source relates to your topic. This will make writing your annotations much easier.
- **Always double check your assignment guidelines:** Your instructor might have specific requirements for the length, content, or style of your annotation.

Remember to reach out to your subject librarian if you have any questions about this process – we are here to help!