

# Reflection on Annotated Bibliography

Andrea Hayes

For my academic product, I elected to complete a full annotated bibliography on my action research paper that I wrote on workplace pragmatics. This included reading in their entirety all sixteen sources I used including various books and articles and then summarizing and providing an analysis. This reflection highlights the benefits I realized throughout the process of creating the bibliography. Some of the advantages include gaining a better understanding of my own research, developing my ability to analyze and evaluate sources I used in my research, and preparing for future research and presentations.

The first benefit I experienced in completing the annotated bibliography was that I came to better understand my own research. Previously, I saw the texts in a more siloed fashion, however, now I see the information in a more holistic, synthesized way and have made more connections across the data than I did prior to writing the bibliography. This is essential so that I am better able to see the whole picture and have more of a global understanding of the information. Additionally, through the process of creating a bibliography I am able to come to more conclusions of my own when I begin to see patterns emerging in the articles and the books.

Another advantage to completing an annotated bibliography was to further develop my ability to analyze and evaluate the sources I use in my research. It is key that the references I utilize are credible and reliable. Anne Burns (2010, p. 43) summarizes four key points from Schwalbach for researchers to consider: quality, objectivity, timeliness, and quantity. Within these four areas, I reviewed all of my sources for both breadth and depth of information, whether or not evidence was provided, if different perspectives were shared, whether the article was timely, and whether or not participants were treated ethically. Another area I realized the

annotated bibliography highlighted about my research was that it makes clear the balance between more theoretical and more “practical” sources. This can serve as a helpful tool in regard to writing research papers, especially depending on the intended audience.

The third benefit in doing an annotated bibliography is that I am better prepared for conducting future research on this topic. Coming from a background of human resources, the subject matter of workplace pragmatics has interested me ever since I learned about it in Sociolinguistics. Taking the time to more fully explore all of the sources and study them all in greater detail has given me an even deeper understanding of the topic and I would like to write an article for publication or present at a conference again. Additionally, the process helped me to organize my thoughts better on the subject so that I will be able to speak to the subject and answer questions more thoughtfully. Lastly, my annotated bibliography will serve an excellent guide for me to reference as I build my own personal library of research.

Overall, the process of completing an annotated bibliography was a worthwhile experience and I see the value in going through the process. There are multiple benefits to completing one including having a better understanding of my own research, further developing my ability to analyze and evaluate the sources I used and preparing for future research and presentations. When I conduct research in the future, I plan on continuing to follow the same principles of quality research. While an annotated bibliography may be time-consuming initially, I believe there are many benefits in the long-term making it a worthwhile undertaking.

#### References

Burns, A. (2010). *Doing action research in English language teaching. A guide for practitioners.* A guide for practitioners. New York, NY: Routledge.