Oceanography
Annotated Bibliography
100 points

Geologists, as well as other professionals, must be able to retrieve information from the library. They must also be able to communicate effectively in writing. The purposes of this assignment are fivefold:

1. To introduce students to the library to find various types of reference materials.
2. To introduce students to some of the types of geological literature that are available to the general public and to professionals.
3. To acquaint students with one good way to write a bibliography.
4. To provide a means for students to develop good writing skills.
5. To familiarize students with geological topics and issues.

You will write an annotated bibliography on a topic of your choosing. You may choose any oceanographic subject.

What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources of information on a particular topic, for example, fossils of Ohio; the eruption of Mount Pinatubo; or environmental problems in Australia. Annotated bibliographies are especially useful when you would like to research a particular topic and discover that the literature on that topic is vast. If someone has made an annotated bibliography on your subject, you can scan through the entries and pick out the references that seem best for your project. Annotated bibliographies are often found in textbooks, biographies, monographs, or other scholarly works so that interested readers can select additional references that will provide them with more information on the subject.

The sources in an annotated bibliography are listed in standard bibliographic format, in alphabetical order. Following each reference is a paragraph describing the reference. This paragraph should convey several types of information, including:

1. A brief summary of the general contents of the source.
4. A discussion of the nature of the illustrations. Are the photographs clear? Are charts and tables clear and easy to read? Do the captions convey sufficient information to understand the illustration? Are line drawings or other artwork of good quality? Are there enough illustrations or too many?
5. Any other relevant information, such as the availability of the reference, the cost if it is extraordinarily inexpensive or expensive, etc.

*Here are some examples of entries in an annotated bibliography, with entries written in the Journal of Paleontology format:*


This technical paper describes new species of crinoids, which are echinoderms related to starfish, and revises an entire superfamily of these animals. This work is detailed and well-illustrated, and professionals and serious amateurs working in Ohio and elsewhere will find it a useful reference. The paper should be included in any study of the group of crinoids including the Glyptocrinacea. The article is available in paper copy at the Kent Campus library and can be downloaded from the web.


This comprehensive book provides descriptions and illustrations of fossils that are found in Ohio. The descriptions and illustrations are excellent and very detailed. In addition to providing descriptions of fossils, the book includes a section on the rocks of Ohio, fossil preservation modes, an overview of major groups of fossil organisms, and fossil preparation techniques. Each chapter is written by a recognized authority in the field, so that this book is equally useful to amateurs and professional paleontologists. Anyone who has an interest in fossil collecting in Ohio or in prehistoric life will find this book well worth the modest cost of under $25.00.


Conulariids are a bizarre, extinct phylum, and Feldmann and Babcock are authorities on these animals. This article, written for a general audience with some paleontological background, provides new insight into the morphology of the conulariids. This paper is the first that introduces the idea that the conulariids comprise their own distinctive phylum. Readers who would like a more technical treatment should refer to the authors’ other papers on the subject.

This interesting and detailed article describes several of the environmental problems plaguing Australia. The article, while written for a general audience, provides ample information about these problems and the steps that are being taken to address them. Because of its recent publication date, the information is recent and relevant. As is customary for this magazine, the article is beautifully illustrated.


The western United States was plagued by at least 68 large forest fires at the time of writing of this article. This article provides information from the point of view of loggers, environmentalists, and the government about how and why the fires started. The overly dry conditions this summer undoubtedly contributed to these fires, and the author details other conditions that led to these fires. The article includes timely photos of the fires but would have been enhanced by a map showing the location of all of the fires.

Research: Your bibliography should be appropriately and adequately researched and should have 10 references. Only 2 of these may be websites. Bibliographic entries must be written in the style I will give you, unless you have a compelling reason to use another style. Papers not using an approved style consistently throughout will receive no higher than a AD.®

Sources: Only 2 of your sources may be websites. Articles from magazines, newspapers, or journals downloaded from a website do not count as a website. Your references must include at least 1 book; 5 journal, magazine, or newspaper articles, at least 2 of which must be from a technical journal, also referred to as scholarly, peer-reviewed, or refereed journals; 1 internet address; and 1 reference source that is NOT on-line (e.g. an encyclopedia, glossary, atlas, manual, the Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, Index Fossils of North America).

The other references are up to you. Scholarly journals include Science, Nature, Geology, Marine Ecology, Ecology, and Journal of Marine Science. These journals are written for the academic and industrial community, not for a general audience. The topics will be very specific and will be exhaustively explained, tested, and interpreted. Science News, Earth Island Journal, National Geographic, Christian Science Monitor, National Wildlife, Scientific American, American Scientist, Discover, Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report and any newspaper are NOT scholarly journals. Papers that do not adhere to these rules will receive no higher than a AD.®

The Kent Campus subscribes to numerous journals and newspapers, and the Stark Campus subscribes to some. Many journal and magazine articles are available as full text to download. The Stark Campus library as well as the Kent Campus Library have numerous books useful for this project. Do not limit yourself to only those articles that are able to be downloaded as full text; you will miss many important papers.

Library and Writing Instructions: At least one class period will be spent discussing use of the library and bibliographic styles.