

How to Compile a Bibliography

<http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/bibliography.pdf>

Introduction

What is a bibliography?

A bibliography is a listing of books, articles and other sources used in finding information for your term paper. A bibliography can also be a list of sources compiled by someone else but which might help you to find information.

A bibliography is judged by its **content** and **form**.

Content

Quality, quantity and variety are important.

Quality - a good bibliography should include the most important standard works on the topic and other works which support your arguments.

Quantity - a good bibliography will have enough sources to support your arguments.

Variety - a good bibliography will usually include books and articles.

Form

The bibliographic form should be correct and consistent.

Correct - there are guidelines and style manuals to follow.

Consistent - once you decide on which style to use, that style should be used throughout the bibliography.

The steps to compiling a good bibliography

1. Find Relevant Materials

Once you have decided on a researchable topic, check the following sources for relevant materials:

1. the Library Catalogue
 - for books in the Memorial Library System
2. Article indexes
 - for journal or magazine articles on your topic
 - different indexes cover different subjects
 - remember that not every article you find in the article index is available in this library
 - check the Library Catalogue to see which magazines and journals

Memorial

owns.

3. Bibliographies (book length lists of articles and books on a subject)
 - for comprehensive lists of what has been written on a topic
4. Encyclopedias
 - for a concise overview of your topic
 - check the end of the article for a bibliography

2. Choose A Bibliographic Style

Believe it or not, there is more than one way to write up a bibliography! Ask your professor which style you are expected to follow. Copies of the major style manuals are available for consultation at the Research Help Desk. Here is a list of the major style manuals. Each book is cited according to its own bibliographic style.

"APA" American Psychological Association. (1994). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (4th ed.) Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

"Handbook" Moore, Michael, D., Jim W. Corder, and John J. Ruszkiewicz. A Writer's Handbook of Current English. 3rd ed. Toronto: Gage, 1988.

"MLA" Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 5th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1999.

"Turabian" Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 6th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Whichever style you choose, be CONSISTENT!

Doing an annotated bibliography

The following sources are useful to consult if you are constructing an annotated bibliography.

How to Write Annotated Bibliographies.

Fitzpatrick, Vicki. Creating an Annotation. QEII REF Z 693 F57 1979
Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Located at the Research Help Desk 1979

Harner, James L. <u>On Compiling an Annotated Bibliography</u> . New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1985.	QEII REF Z 1001 H33 1985 Located at the Reserve Desk
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