

Annotated bibliographies and literature reviews are both collections of sources but that is where the similarities end. Be sure you have discussed both with your instructor and fully understand what you are to do. Below I have created a chart with some important differences and characteristics of both.

	<b>Annotated Bibliography</b>	<b>Literature review</b>
What does it do?	It provides the reader with an <i>alphabetical listing</i> of the sources used; provides a list for further reading AND evaluates the sources for relevance and utility with regard to the one essay in a few short sentences.	It provides the reader with theoretical perspective of a particular topic; summarizes and explains all significant contributions in that field of study. Exhaustive and comprehensive. Analysis of arguments is present.
What does it look like?	An alphabetical by author <i>list</i> ; easy to read so that sources can be located quickly; each source mentioned once.	Sources are embedded in entire <i>paragraphs</i> that discuss the topic; topics may be mentioned more than once.
What parts does it have?	Formal citation adhering to the citation rules (APA, MLA etc) followed by a brief personal evaluation (100 words) explaining the source's usefulness and relevance to your research	Each paragraph contains several sources; it looks more like a mini essay and serves as a guide to the subject/topic including an introduction, synthesis, discussion and conclusion.
Key characteristics	Alphabetical by author	Ordered by topic
	Invites the reader to check sources if desired	Informs the reader and assists with a greater understanding of the topic
	One – three pages at the end of your paper (depending upon how brief or long your annotations are)	Can be an entire article for further reading in itself. In PsycINFO it is a methodology.
	Annotations discuss the source's usefulness for a specific research assignment	Multiple sources are brought together and carefully examined for content.

Need more information?

Literature Reviews: <http://guides.library.ubc.ca/litreviews>

Annotated Bibliographies: <http://help.library.ubc.ca/planning-your-research/how-to-write-an-annotated-bibliography/>