The Annotated Bibliography

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The Annotated Bibliography is a series of References-style bibliographic citations, each accompanied by a brief summary of the source. The purpose of the document is to familiarize yourself with research on a topic and/or introduce readers to a selection of related sources about a topic.

In an Annotated Bibliography, the bibliographic citation for each source follows the same order and gives the same information about author, title, and publication as is required in an APA-style bibliography. The entries are typically arranged in alphabetical order.

Following each bibliographic citation in the Annotated Bibliography, write several sentences that summarize, assess, and/or reflect on the source. Your annotation should be written in paragraph form and should provide information about the author’s central point(s). Each entry might also include: the disciplinary or professional context of the source; the probable audience the source is aimed at; a brief evaluation of the source; or a reflection of how the source fits in with your research. Keep in mind that you can only write the annotations once you have carefully read each source. The examples which follow are for an Annotated Bibliography taking up the topic of urban development.


Bezold and Hancock’s article examines the possible impacts that work of the Healthy Cities and Communities movement—a network of organizations active worldwide—might have over the coming decades. Bezold and Hancock outline “forces” that will change cities in future, including technological, economic, and environmental variables, and then explore
scenarios for what urban changes might look like. The authors consider the differences between likely futures and preferable futures, noting, for example, that marginalized populations are likely to experience further marginalization in urban centres of the future. With support from local organizations, municipal, provincial, and national governments, and international groups, Bezold and Hancock believe that healthy cities—ones that enable the majority to participate and that build social, environmental, and economic sustainability—are achievable.


Binney’s article proposes that water system upgrades and redevelopment should be prioritized in urban centres and reports that water infrastructure models are not functioning at their fullest capacity in many cities. Binney discusses water in the context of urbanization, noting that globally, urban populations continue to grow rapidly; experts state that cities worldwide will increase in size by a million people a week until 2050. She notes that population and sanitation problems make issues around water worse in developing countries. To address the issues around water infrastructure and rapid urbanization, Binney describes, water experts have proposed in recent years that water should be produced “fit for purpose,” so that purified water is available for drinking, but water for lawns and gardens could be drawn from storm water or reused water. Binney’s article argues that the future of urban water development lies in saving energy and trying to use current resources in the best possible way.