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# Exercise 2: Find and critique an annotated bibliography

Scholarship Skills, Winter 2020

Andrew Black

Assigned 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020; due in class on 15<sup>th</sup> January

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In this exercise you will study several annotated bibliographies created by others, and critique both their style and content. To get started, visit each of the links below and study the annotated bibliographies.

- [Domain-Specific Languages](#), which has both a narrative section and comments on individual references.
- [Modula-3 Annotated Bibliography](#)
- This one on [Network Systems](#), organized by topic rather than paper.
- [Graph-Based Motion Synthesis](#), concerned with the origins and evolution of motion-synthesis techniques in computer graphics.
- [Standardized Handling of Digital Resources](#), produced by the American Library Association and concerned with electronic documents

Study each and answer the following questions.

- How is the bibliography organized?
- Are the annotations factual or opinionated? Does the annotation on one paper refer to other papers in the bibliography?
- Is the writing clear? Easy to follow? Informative?
- Do the *individual annotations* help the reader see the big picture?
- Does the *organization* of the bibliography as a whole help the reader see the big picture?
- What style are the citations reported in? Is the same style used consistently?

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

1. Using a search engine, find several annotated bibliographies on a topic of your own choice. Search for "annotated bibliography XXX" where XXX is your topic.
2. Choose one of the bibliographies you find (you may *not* use any of the ones listed above) and print out **one page** of the bibliography (or save it as a PDF).
3. Mark this page up, indicating what makes the bibliography good, and what makes it bad.
  - **Be specific**; for example, say *this organization using overhanging doodads make it hard to read since related items do not line up*, rather than *bad organization*.
  - Comment on both the content and the organization; point out where the core rules are violated, or where other good writing techniques are not followed.
4. Bring your marked-up page to class on 15th January, or upload it to Piazza as a private note.

We will discuss your comments in a future class.