The purpose of the bibliography at the end of an essay or journal article to allow the reader to follow up any ideas from the sources the writer has used. All that the reader needs is the author's name, the title, the date of publication, and the publishing details (see IEEE style handout).

An annotated bibliography, on the other hand, may stand alone, or be attached to an essay or journal article. Its purpose is to give the reader additional information for his or her own research. Thus it is often used as preparation for researching a topic. This is the context for BME 100 students since you will be undertaking this task in preparing your end-of-semester project.

Form

The bibliographic entry is the same as the entry for a standard bibliography in IEEE (Chicago) format. Beneath it, indented for ease of reading, are the notes, which can be up to a paragraph or even two or three paragraphs long. The notes can be sentences or fragments. A common pattern is to start with a descriptive fragment, followed by complete sentences (see the examples below). The notes should be consistent: use the same form for all them.

What goes into the notes will depend upon their purpose and audience. What is the annotated bibliography for? Who will read it? What does the reader want to know? How will he or she use it?

Examples [1 - 4] are from the kind of bibliography you might prepare for yourself, or for someone else who was beginning research into a topic. (This kind of research bibliography is often given as an assignment.) The purpose here is to indicate not just the content of the book, but its strengths and weaknesses, perhaps the point of view or professional qualifications of the writer, and any other relevant information, so that the reader can decide whether to read the book at all, whether to read it early or late in research, and how it is likely to relate to other books he or she has read.

[1] F. Birrell, *The Man, His Career, His Times, His Contemporaries*, NY: Collier, 1962. A masterly biography of the Victorian prime-minister evaluating his political achievements and his weaknesses in only 125 pages. Birrell says very little about Gladstone's personal life. He also assumes the reader has considerable knowledge of political events in the nineteenth century; he does not explain them. Thus this is a book for advanced students, rather than beginners. (NB APA prefers underlining to italics, but this is for clarity, when the text is going to be published. If your professor does not object, you can use italics instead of underlining to show the title of a book.)

[2] A. Raimes, *Grammar Troublespots: An Edited Guide for ESL Students*, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1988. An excellent resource for ESL students writing university essays. It is divided into 21 sections, each covering the most frequent grammatical difficulties students encounter, such as verb tenses, articles, and agreement. Raimes' explanations are clear, often in the form of charts or steps for self-checking. Raimes herself teaches ESL at university level.

[3] C. Chevallereau, D. Djoudi, and J. W. Grizzle. "Stable bipedal walking with foot rotation through direct regulation of the zero moment point". *IEEE Transactions on Robotics*, vol. 24, no. 2, April 2008, pp 390–401. This paper examines the control of bipedal robots using the traditional Zero Moment Point (ZMP) method. By controlling the ZMP's position on the ground in a specific manner, periodic motion of the entire robot is achieved. The primary author, Christine Chevallereau, conducts research on the modeling and control of robots, primarily that of robot manipulators and legged robots. She is based at the Institut de Recherche en Communications et Cybernetique de Nantes, France.

[4] S. K. Au, J. Weber, and H. Herr. "Biomechanical design of a powered ankle-foot prosthesis", in *Proceedings of the IEEE 10th International Conference on Rehabilitation Robotics, Noordwijk, Netherlands, April 2007*, pp. 298–303. The authors examine the issue that while many powered prostheses have been proposed, none have shown improvement in the walking gaits of amputees. Using specific design elements, including springs, the authors overcome instantaneous power delivery design constraints to produce a light-weight, high-performance ankle prosthesis. The authors work at MIT's Biomechantronics Laboratory and the work was sponsored by the US Department of Veteran's Administration.

Resources

* Forget how to format? Use the online tool at the U of T Engineering Communication Centre "Bibliography Builder": http://www.ecf.toronto.edu/~writing/bbieee-f2.html
* IEEE Citation Style Guide from Dalhousie University.