Theme 02: Defining the Research Problem

**Annotated Bibliography Examples**

**Imagine the student below was writing a Proposal for a project evaluating water management solutions for arid regions. Read each annotation and decide if it is well written.**

* **‘No’ means the criterion is not met.**
* **‘Ok’ means it is met but could be done better.**
* **‘Gd’ means the criterion is well met, and that this is a good piece of work.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Obode, E., Royle, J. and Yuan, J. (2014). Water Management in Arid Regions. *The British Journal of Environmental Engineering*, 56 (3), 362-380.** | | | | | | | | |
| In this article, Obode *et al* (2014) present an overview of common water management techniques and processes used in arid regions. They begin by defining “arid” and include a clear map to help identify the areas under discussion. The main topics they cover are: desalination, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling. They justify the omission of water conveyance by emphasising that they only intend to examine localised water management (*ibid*: 364). However, it could be argued that most techniques are not “local”, as the water has to be transported from the source to wherever it is needed.  As this is an overview, the authors do not recommend one technique in particular. In fact, they suggest that different regions will need different solutions. In order to choose the appropriate solution for each area, a number of criteria are suggested. These are: cost, technical practicality, and sociological considerations. Their criteria are similar to ones suggested in similar studies by Smith and Green (2012) and Faulkner and Law (2013). Nevertheless it is striking that the authors omit environmental issues and the ecological effects of the different techniques. Further research, using the general framework of this article, could include more details of this important aspect. | | | | | | | | |
| **Your evaluation?** | **No** | **Ok** | **Gd** | **Your evaluation?** | **No** | **Ok** | | **Gd** |
| Is the source relevant to the research topic? |  |  |  | Does it evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the source? |  |  | |  |
| Is it a reliable academic source? |  |  |  | Does it explain how the source is relevant to your project? |  |  | |  |
| Does the annotation include full bibliographic details of the source in APA/Harvard style? |  |  |  | Does it indicate how the source relates to other sources in the field? |  |  | |  |
| Does it include a brief summary of the aims, methods, and conclusions of the research in the source? |  |  |  | Is this a good example of an annotated bibliography entry for your proposal? |  |  |  | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bale, G., Rodriguez, J. and Ronaldo, C. (2014). Maintaining Football Pitch Quality: The Importance of Fresh Water. *Mediterranean Journal of Water Management and Sport*, 1 (1), 1-10** | | | | | | | | |
| Bale *et al* (2015:1) claim that the quality of water used on the grass on a pitch has a significant effect on the quality of the football played. Their research is a case-study conducted on the pitches in twenty professional football stadiums in Spain during October 2014. Publically available government documentation and surveys of stadium staff were used to confirm the source and composition of the water. This data was then compared with the sports page ranking of certain players’ performance (a score of 1-10) during the game on each particular pitch.  The main findings were that (of the three players assessed) the quality of their play was consistently higher on pitches supplied with freshwater from the Lozoya River (which provides water to Madrid) than on those where the water used had been treated and combined with desalinated sources (as is the case in Barcelona). The authors suggest that, due to certain areas of Spain suffering from freshwater shortage, a system of water conveyance should be implemented in order to ensure that all pitches can be of equal quality. They mention the high cost of this idea, but do not give any exact figures. However, they do suggest that the funding could be met by a 10% tax on players’ salaries. | | | | | | | | |
| **Your evaluation?** | **No** | **Ok** | **Gd** | **Your evaluation?** | **No** | **Ok** | | **Gd** |
| Is the source relevant to the research topic? |  |  |  | Does it evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the source? |  |  | |  |
| Is it a reliable academic source? |  |  |  | Does it explain how the source is relevant to your project? |  |  | |  |
| Does the annotation include full bibliographic details of the source in APA/Harvard style? |  |  |  | Does it indicate how the source relates to other sources in the field? |  |  | |  |
| Does it include a brief summary of the aims, methods, and conclusions of the research in the source? |  |  |  | Is this a good example of an annotated bibliography entry for your proposal |  |  |  | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EssayTyper (2015). *Rainwater Harvesting*. Retrieved 21st January 2015 from: http://www.essaytyper.com/** | | | | | | | | |
| This article is a very good summary of rainwater harvesting. Rainwater harvesting is the accumulation and deposition of rainwater for reuse on-site, rather than allowing it to runoff. Uses include water for garden, water for livestock, water for irrigation, water for domestic use with proper treatment, and indoor heating for houses etc. In many places the water collected is just redirected to a deep pit with percolation. The harvested water can be used as drinking water as well as for storage and other purpose like irrigation.  The author mentions that Rainwater harvesting provides an independent water supply during regional water restrictions and in developed countries is often used to supplement the main supply. It provides water when there is a drought, can help mitigate flooding of low-lying areas, and reduces demand on wells which may enable ground water levels to be sustained. It also helps in the availability of potable water as rainwater is substantially free of salinity and other salts. | | | | | | | | |
| **Your evaluation?** | **No** | **Ok** | **Gd** | **Your evaluation?** | **No** | **Ok** | | **Gd** |
| Is the source relevant to the research topic? |  |  |  | Does it evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the source? |  |  | |  |
| Is it a reliable academic source? |  |  |  | Does it explain how the source is relevant to your project? |  |  | |  |
| Does the annotation include full bibliographic details of the source in APA/Harvard style? |  |  |  | Does it indicate how the source relates to other sources in the field? |  |  | |  |
| Does it include a brief summary of the aims, methods, and conclusions of the research in the source? |  |  |  | Is this a good example of an annotated bibliography entry for your proposal? |  |  |  | |

**Only one of these annotations fulfils all the requirements. Which one is it?**