**Annotated Bibliography**

**What is it?**

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph and a paragraph that draws connections to other sources, i.e. the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

**Sample Annotated Bibliography Entry in MLA 8:**

Smith, Charles G. "Spenser's Theory of Friendship: An Elizabethan Commonplace." *Studies in Philology*, vol. 32, no. 2, Apr. 1935, pp. 158-69. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable.4172271. Accessed 22 May 2018.

Full source citation in MLA format

This source gives a general overview of Spenser’s theory of friendship as one of concord and discord. According to Smith, Spenser views discord as chaos always threatening to overtake the earth. Concord on the other hand is seen as a unifying principle of cosmic love that operates in the world to promote friendship and overcome all social and political problems that are the children of discord. Smith asserts that Spenser was not unique within his time with these views, citing Shakespeare and Chaucer as both holding similar ideas.

Descriptive and evaluative paragraph

This source provides a broad overview of a topic which Koller then looks at in depth. Taken together, the two form a more complete picture of Spenser, his values, and his virtues. This source will be useful in providing the general context for Spenser’s relationships. One area that needs further investigation is whether Spenser believed that concord could exist between the sexes, or if it was better suited in a man’s world.

Connections to other sources used in the research process