

Semester Project - Annotated Bibliography

The goal for the Semester Project is for you to develop and share a story about the ecology and environmental challenges of your focal community. The basics of this story should be well-researched and supported by solid underlying sources.

The goal of this annotated bibliography activity is to help you start building up a bank of reliable references for you to turn to as you build your project. You will also be asked to evaluate the sources themselves, to ensure that you are drawing on high-quality, reliable information.

Activity

This activity has **two components**:

1. Identify **Eight sources** that help you learn about your focal ecological community.
 - Of these eight, five should be sources from the primary literature (peer-reviewed research papers), and up to three can be from other sources.
2. Identify **two sources** that help you think about your intended project format.

Part 1: Sources about your focal community

The first part of your assignment is to identify eight sources that help you learn about your focal ecological community. Of these, at least *five* should come from the primary literature (i.e. peer-reviewed publications in reputable international research journals). The other three can come from other types of sources (see below).

1.1. Peer-reviewed (primary) sources

For each of the five published scholarly research papers, please answer the following questions:

1. Link to source:
2. Basis of the source:
 - What is the full title?
 - In what journal was this paper published, and in which year?
 - What kind of research does this journal generally publish? (You can find out about the scope of the journal by going to its main website and reading the “About” or “Aims and Scopes” page.)
 - Who are the authors, and what are their institutional affiliations? Can you find other information about the lead authors online?
3. In this paper, what did the authors set out to study?
4. How did the authors attempt to answer their questions?
5. What did the authors find?
6. How does this finding improve or change your understanding of the system? What aspects of this finding (if any) can you see incorporating into your project?

1.2. Other sources

You can also explore three additional sources about your ecological community that are from beyond the primary literature. For example, you can draw on information from news articles, non-fiction books, documentaries, government websites, university/institute websites, etc. For each of your three sources, please answer the following questions:

1. Link to source:
2. Who are the author(s) behind this source?
3. What are the authors' credentials for discussing this topic? (If you are choosing something like a radio interview as your source, feel free to discuss the credentials of the person being interviewed)
4. What is some information about your system that you learned from this source?
5. How can you see this information shaping your project?

Part 2: Sources about your format

For the second part of this assignment, identify at least two sources that will help you to shape your project format. These can be other examples in your same medium, but I also encourage you to consider sources that are *about* your medium of choice. (For example: If you are planning to record a podcast episode, I encourage you to engage with sources that discuss podcasting as a format).

For each of your sources, please answer the following questions:

1. Link to source:
2. Who are the authors/creators behind this source?
3. What are the authors' credentials to be discussing about/creating in this format?
4. What are some things you learned from this source?
5. How can you see this learning shape your project?