

**CMSI/ELEC 601 GRADUATE SEMINAR**  
**Annotated Bibliography**

The *Annotated Bibliography* is one component of Progress Report #1. It consists of the citation for each major reference to be used on your project and a brief analysis of the paper. For example,

August, Stephanie E., and Dolan, Charles P. (1992). Hughes Research Laboratories: Trainable Text Skimmer for MUC-4, System Description. Proceedings of the Fourth Message Understanding Conference (MUC-4). Mc Lean, Virginia, 16-18 June, 1992.

The Trainable Text Skimmer (TTS) is a statistical system which uses a set of Bayesian classifiers to extract data from free text input and to select and complete the slots of an appropriate event template. First, a set of frequently used phrases is identified in a training corpus. Next, a text is skimmed to determine which category of event template it most closely matches. Finally, relevant data is extracted from the text and used to complete the template. TTS is effective for the majority of slots, but it is thought that performance cannot be improved significantly without including language- or domain-specific processing, of which it currently contains very little.

Use the citation style recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA) or a similar consistent style. See the LMU Style Manual 2000 for details. References should be cited using the author's surname and the year of publication.

Each reference should be accompanied by a two to three sentence description of the reference. Ideally, the annotation will summarize the article, state the main issue(s) raised in the article, and show how the article is related to other work you have read. Here are the key points to identify for each reference read. They provide a useful perspective overall for any kind of reading or research:

1. What was the work's contribution to the field?
2. What did the work leave undone?
3. How is the work related to what I want to do?
4. How does what I want to do build upon this work?

Note how (1) and (2) place the work in context of the grand scheme of things, and have nothing to do with a specific project. However, after answering (1) and (2), one is better prepared to answer (3) and (4), which now focus a student's particular work. The best place for crystallizing this information is typically the annotated bibliography, for each reference encountered. It may be useful in other places too.

It is also completely possible to answer (3) and (4) with "This work has nothing to do with my project" and "My project does not build on this work at all," respectively. This serves as a good way to explicitly scope one's project, and makes students realize that many readings simply build one's knowledge of the field, without necessarily having a direct influence on a specific project.<sup>1</sup>

When you reference one of the articles in your annotated bibliography within the body of your paper, include the author(s)'s name and the date of publication. For example, the article mentioned above would be cited as (August and Dolan, 1992).

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<sup>1</sup> Comments by Dr. Alfonso Cardenas at UCLA to Dr. J.D.N. Dionisio during the course of his PhD work at UCLA.

The idea is to provide enough information about the paper to (a) have the citation ready to use in your Bibliography and (b) have enough information available for you to compose the Motivation and Related Work sections of your paper. It describes how your work builds on and contrasts with the related or background work you have identified. It clearly identifies where your project fits among others' work. There should be at least ten references in your annotated bibliography; you are encouraged to add to this set as the semester progresses.

Turn in a copy of the published abstract of each of the papers you are referencing. These should be included on an attachment with the appropriate citation. Feel free to use a program like Grab to cut and past the abstracts from PDF files if needed.