Annotated Bibliography Assignment

One of the assignments for this course is to prepare an annotated bibliography, which will provide the background for the research paper. Prior to preparing your bibliography, and in consultation with the instructor, each student is required to:

1. Select a topic (along with title of your project) that is relevant to bioarchaeology and the Pacific-Asia region (see course syllabus for suggestions). Your topic should also address the major research objectives of your planned bibliography/research paper.
2. Select the appropriate literature (8-10) for this assignment.

WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and other documents. Each citation is followed by a descriptive and evaluative annotation (500-750 words). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

THE PROCESS: IDENTIFYING WORKS TO INCLUDE IN AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

• Locate and record citations to books, articles, and reports that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic.
• Examine and review the actual text of each work.
• Choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.
  • If you have located your citations by searching a periodical database you may find that the database includes an abstract or summary of the article. This abstract may help you select the most appropriate articles.
  • Do not confuse "abstracts" with "annotations". An "abstract" is just descriptive; an "annotation" is descriptive and critical.
• Critically evaluate each work to determine if it is suitable for your topic.
• Cite the book, journal article, or document using the reference style for American Journal of Physical Anthropology.

WRITING ANNOTATIONS

An annotation, by nature, is brief; approximately 500-750 words. It summarizes the central theme and scope of the book, article, or report. First, include one or more sentences that:
• State the main idea and argument of the article.
• What is the author(s) methodology – Can you comment on the adequacy of the methods?
• Describe the important facts or examples (evidence) that the author uses to support the main idea.
• Discuss the author(s) conclusions and whether you think they have adequately supported them.
• Explain how this work relates to your theme or topic
• You may further wish to evaluate the authority or background of the author(s) and comment on the intended audience

CRITICALLY APPRAISING THE BOOK, ARTICLE, OR DOCUMENT
Critically appraise and analyze the sources for your bibliography. For help finding reviews of books, information on the author's background and views, ask a librarian at the reference desk for suggestions of appropriate biographical reference materials.

**NUMBER OF REFERENCES FOR ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?**

8-12 references should be sufficient for this assignment. You may want to augment this number for the essay assignment. The quality versus quantity will be taken into consideration in marking this assignment.

**INCLUDE A GENERAL REVIEW PEWADING YOUR ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Include a 1-2 page (500 words max.) general review that includes what you found in the literature and how this relates to your chosen topic.

**EXAMPLES OF AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE**


This article provides the most comprehensive discussion of the social and political Fore world, the very human backdrop for the kuru epidemic of the 1950s. Although kuru provided early data for the understanding and handling of numerous prion diseases, the cost of the kuru epidemic (as well as the potential costs of CJD and vCJD) in terms of human lives and disrupted social patterns should not be forgotten. Because of particular discrepancies between the social behaviors and life histories of males and females among the Fore, the disease wiped out so many Fore and neighboring women that around half the men by the 1960s had never had a mate. Worse, many men became single fathers and had to simultaneously adapt to working both the male and female roles in parenting and in maintaining the household, all while attempting to adjust to ever-changing economic methods imported from the West. This article also serves to highlight the usefulness of anthropological research among the Fore in terms of arriving at the correct conclusions about the epidemic.


The authors wrote this article to highlight not only the importance of dental caries in human remains but also how recording of dental caries can affect the interpretation of the results. In living population dental caries show as strong correlation with age. Cheek teeth are more susceptible to caries than the anterior teeth, though first molars (the earliest erupting teeth) generally have the lowest caries rate in populations. Although lower teeth are generally more affected than upper teeth, upper anterior tooth crowns are more frequently affected than lower anterior tooth crowns. No difference between left and right side teeth was found. A relationship was found between carious lesions and dental wear. For this study both archaeological and living samples were studied. Comparisons for each tooth type, sex, age group, lesion type and lesion position were made. In Australian Aboriginal samples caries were uncommon in children but there was a large increase in older adults mostly occurring on the molar crowns. An increase in carious lesions was associated with increased tooth wear, tooth chipping, and abrasion at the neck of the tooth (possibly due to using teeth as tools). Rapid tooth wear among Australian Aborigines is associated with chipping of the enamel. High rates of caries could be due to a diet high in carbohydrates. This article will be particularly helpful for looking at dental caries among archaeological Australian Aboriginal populations. It helps in understanding the interpretations of the rates of carious lesions in archaeological remains.

This is a report on paleopathological findings in a single subadult individual from Tinian, Marianas Islands. The main point is to describe the first case of yaws in a precontact population in the Pacific, establishing significant antiquity for this modern endemic illness and this goal is achieved. The descriptions of the long limb bones and skull in this incomplete skeleton are exemplary and include supplemental photographs and radiographs. Each specific lesion in each element is measured and described. There is no discussion of differential diagnosis. The establishment of yaws as the diagnosis relies primarily on the precontact temporal position of the burial and the subadult age.

At this time, case studies such as this were the norm – there was no epidemiological or population perspective, no examination of associated pathological processes or signs of biological stress. In spite of this, this paper stands as an example of the kind of thorough, by element descriptions of pathology in an individual skeleton. With this depth of description any modern day reader can render an opinion on the diagnosis, rather than having to rely on the experience and judgment of the recorder.


This article is a review and evaluation of the evidence for the differences between the expression of enamel hypoplasia between males and females. In addition this article examines possible etiological factors contributing to this difference. The authors focus on two main factors that may contribute to the inequalities seen in the expression of enamel hypoplasia in males and females. One factor is the proposed inherent vulnerability of males to physiological stress. The other factor is the possible sex difference between male and female enamel composition and development. To address the first issue, frequencies of enamel hypoplasia were examined in samples which had high environmental stress. In such environments males would be expected to have higher rates of enamel hypoplasia due to vulnerability. This expectation is examined in light of cultural differences that may act as a buffer against environmental stress. In addition cultural practices that may add sex-based stressors were also taken into account. Defects that form prenatal allowed for an examination of how stress affects both sexes. Enamel defects were examined in both the permanent and deciduous dentition of modern (including a recent study conducted on school children in India) and archaeological remains. To address the second issue the differences between male and female enamel were evaluated for their potential impact on the expression of enamel hypoplasias. The authors conclude that differences in the development and composition of male and female enamel had little or unknown impact on the expression of enamel hypoplasias. Only duration of canine crown formation was suspected of having any impact on the expression of enamel defects. Samples with either direct or indirect evidence of physiological stress did not have higher rates of enamel hypoplasias in males. Female buffering was not found to be a strong influence in the expression of enamel hypoplasias. Rarely were statistically significant differences found in the expression of enamel hypoplasias in males and females, when significant differences were found they were higher in males than in females. This is interpreted by the authors as being a weak influence of male vulnerability. This article will help in understanding the factors which impact enamel hypoplasia formation. In addition, when a difference in the expression of enamel hypoplasias is found between the sexes correct interpretation of this data can be applied.