Annotated Bibliographies: Shining a Light on Source Evaluation with the BEAM Method

**Learning Outcomes(students will be able to):**

* Execute searches for book reviews
* Describe the purpose and structure of an annotated bibliography
* Analyze an information source for its ability to help answer a research question and articulate that in an annotation.

**ACRL Framework:**

* Searching as Strategic Exploration
* Authority is Constructed and Contextual
* Research as Inquiry

**Lesson Plan (60-75min):**

* **Welcome and overview (5min)**
* **Discussion of book reviews and search demo (10min) [Optional]**
  + What are book reviews? How are scholarly book reviews different from popular reviews in the news or on Goodreads?
  + Locating book reviews in the library and databases.
* **Introduction to Annotated Bibliographies (10 min)** 
  + Basic components
  + Example from Purdue Owl
* **BEAM method for using information sources (10 min)**
  + Example research question **“**What was the role of activism on working conditions for Latinos in Los Angeles the 1990s?”
  + examples from the Janitors for Justice movement
* **Annotations using BEAM with example (15min)**
  + Students take turns reading the parts of the annotation. For each part, what is the writer communicating? What BEAM area does the source satisfy?
  + Handout or link to the Sample Annotated Bibliography
* **Activity (20-30min)**
  + Students will write an annotation for a book/article they read for class based on two separate research questions.
  + This lesson uses *Whitewashed Adobe* by William Deverell (2004)
  + Have students split into groups of 3 or 4
  + Assign groups to one of the two research questions

**Handout or online worksheet**

* + Q1:Locate a book review of *Whitewashed Adobe,* take a few moments to read the review and refresh your memory about the book.
  + Q2: Choose a research question:
    - How did concreting the Los Angeles river affect the city’s neighborhoods and their social, cultural, or economic status?
    - How was quarantine used to segregate, control, or remove people of Chinese and Mexican descent in California?
  + Q3: Write a 1-2 sentence overview of the book
  + Q4: Write a 2-3 annotation describing how the book would aid in answering the research question.
* **Discuss answers as a group (10min)** 
  + Ask students to read their annotations aloud to the class
  + How did you use the BEAM Method when considering your source?
  + How are the annotations different? These annotations are for the same book, but different research questions- is that obvious?
  + Do they address the research question? Could they go further?