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?