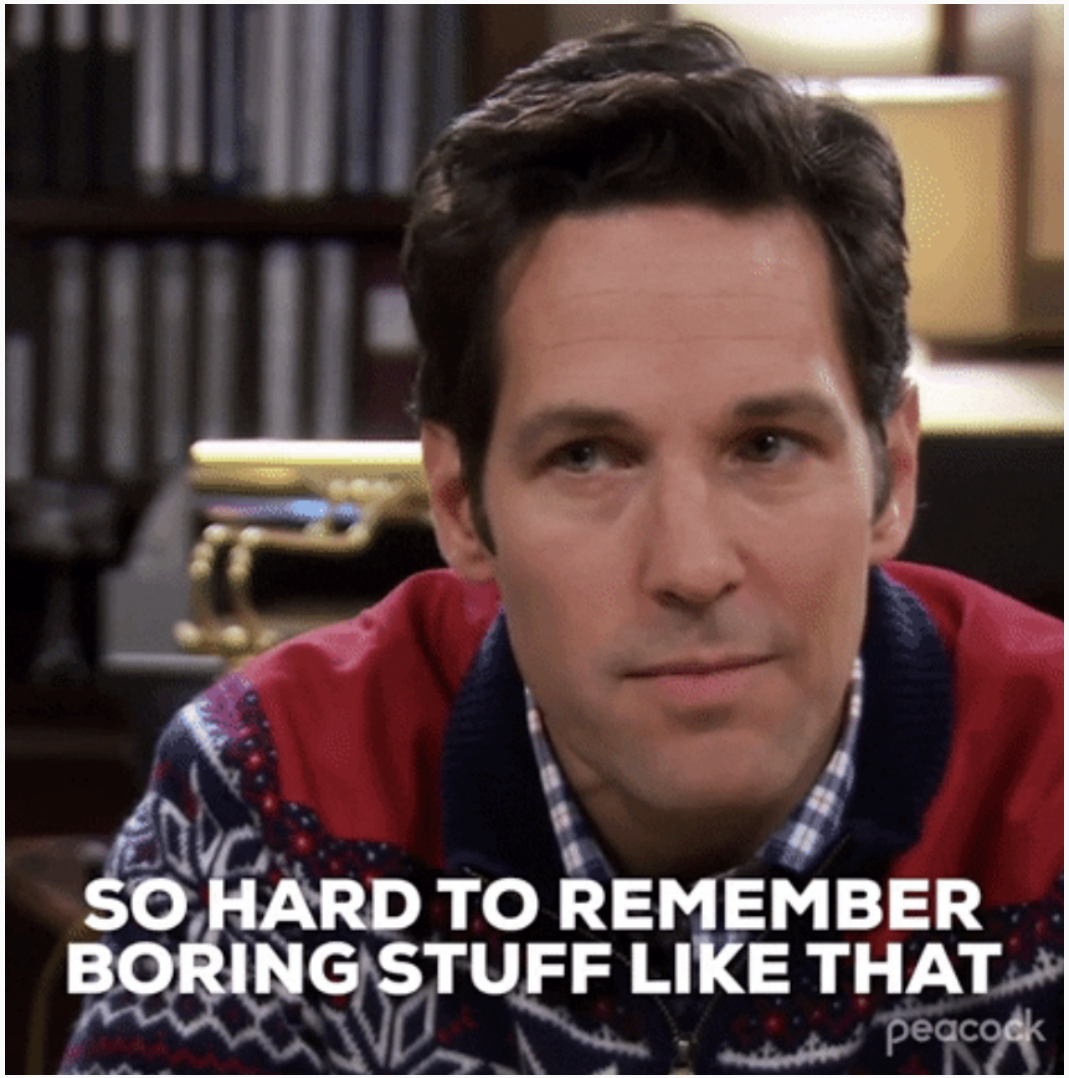
Annotated Bibliographies: A brief how-to

February 12, 2023

Why are we creating an annotated bibliography?



Why are we creating an annotated bibliography?

- Provides one place for all your sources to live
- Requires you to analyze the sources you are using and what they bring to the policy brief
- Organizes your thoughts (and prevents you from forgetting important information!)

Reading a paper effectively

- Do not read the entire thing linearly
- Start with abstract, introduction, and conclusion
- Skim data, methods, and results next
  - How generalizable is the data?
  - What are their main outcomes?
- Skim background last*
  - Should clarify the topic
  - Good place to find other papers

*Depending on how much you know about the topic

Reading a paper — questions to answer

- What is their research question(s)?
- What are their findings?
- Are there any gaps in their findings?
- How generalizable are their findings?
- What are the conclusions of the papers?
- **How does this apply to your policy brief?**

What is an annotated bibliography?

Corredor-Waldron, A., & Currie, J. (2022). Tackling the Substance Use Disorder Crisis: The Role of Access to Treatment Facilities. Journal of Health Economics, 81, 102579

This paper studies the effect of openings and closings of substance abuse treatment facilities on drug-related ER visits in New Jersey between 2005-2020. They find that drug-related ER visits decreased by 6.5% with the first opening of a clinic in a zip-code tabulation area (ZCTA). Drug-related ER visits increased by 7.4% even when there are other clinics in the ZCTA. Suggestive evidence that less costly outpatient treatment is just as effective as residential medication-assisted treatment. Largest effects for proximity to treatment is for people ages 15-24, larger effects are seen for people on Medicaid, and there is suggestive evidence that the closures affected Black people to a larger extent — *which means that WHO we want to target with a policy matters*

Resources for finding/organizing papers

- National Bureau for Economic Research (NBER)
- Google Scholar
- Econ-lit through Emory library
- JSTOR

Resources for finding/organizing papers

- Research Rabbit
- Zotero
- Bib file in Overleaf/Latex
- EndNote integrated with Word
- Excel table