An annotated bibliography lists sources alphabetically. Because IEEE does not address annotated bibliography format, we suggest following CMS. Always defer to your instructor’s guidelines when formatting annotated bibliographies.

**COMPONENTS OF AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY** List all sources alphabetically according to the appropriate style guide (i.e., MLA, APA, CMS).

**SUMMARY** Describe the main idea, argument, and purpose of the source.

**ANALYSIS** Evaluate whether the source is credible by describing qualities of the author, publication, and sources the author cites; point out the source’s strengths/weaknesses.

**REFLECTION** Identify how the source fits into the larger context of your research.

**STYLE**

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**EXAMPLE**

Underlined terms (i.e., SUMMARY) are included only for illustration and should NOT appear in your annotations.


In her article about how mythical creatures fit into the discussion of evolution, Heather Brink-Roby presents the mermaid as the battleground for conflicting responses to Charles Darwin’s evolutionary theories during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Some scholars considering Darwin’s work thought the mermaid was biologically possible because of the extensive biodiversity already recognized at the time, yet Darwin’s ideological opponents saw representations of mythological creatures as clear evidence of the absurdity of his claims concerning adaptation and evolution (SUMMARY). Brink-Roby’s article is credible because her research includes sources dating between 1850 and 1900 rather than contemporary sources that only comment on the scientific culture of the nineteenth century. She includes research from both sides of the debate surrounding Darwin’s evolutionary theories, and her essay was selected as the 2007 winner of the William T. Stearns Student Essay Prize from the Society for the History of Natural History and published in a peer-reviewed publication, The Archives of Natural History (ANALYSIS). This source will be used to demonstrate the fluidity of scientific thought and how new evidence contributes to conversations in natural history. The source demonstrates that while reactions to Darwin based on mythological creatures may seem comical today, such interpretations represented serious scientific thought in the late nineteenth century (REFLECTION).