**Assignment: Annotated Bibliography**

**FYRES: Dunes**

**Objectives:**

1. Select appropriate literature resources for scientific thinking and communication.
2. Improve your ability to read and understand primary literature.
3. Critically evaluate hypotheses and methods in scientific writing.
4. Learn to construct an annotated bibliography.

**Assignment Description and Requirements**

For this assignment you are asked to read 8 or more pieces of primary literature and construct an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography includes a citation and a brief review (the annotation) for each reading.

Your readings should be related to the topic of your team research project, so that you can contribute information and understanding to the team research.

1. Readings:
   1. All readings should be primary sources that are peer-reviewed (such as journal articles, chapters in edited books, etc.). One unpublished report (such as a FYRES report) is permitted.
   2. Three readings will be provided by the team research mentor for all team members to read.
   3. You are responsible for finding and reading 5 other sources **related to your topic**.
2. Constructing the Annotated Bibliography:
   1. Record the bibliographic information using the Chicago Style for each source.
   2. Start your brief review by summarizing the key points of the reading. Include the purpose and main results or conclusions.
   3. Briefly describe your own assessment of the reading’s value. Questions to consider are: Was the content of the article good? (Was it worth reading?) Was the content communicated well or poorly? Is the reading relevant (useful) to your research project? Be specific in your description of strengths or weaknesses.
   4. An example annotated bibliography entry is on the back of this sheet.
3. Professional Requirements (Formatting):

Use Chicago Style for bibliographic information and list entries in alphabetical order.

1. Timeline and deadlines:
   1. Complete the three required readings by the **beginning of Lab 7** so that you can participate in team research discussions.
   2. For feedback on your annotation style, hand in 1 completed entry to D. van Dijk.
   3. Work on 2-3 readings per week in the next two weeks.
   4. The full annotated bibliography is due by 5pm on **Friday, 1 November 2013.**
   5. Working ahead and completing extra readings is encouraged because you will have more to contribute to your team research during the project design stages.
2. Evaluation

The annotated bibliography is worth 10% of your final grade for the course.

**Example of an Annotated Bibliography Entry  
(written by D. van Dijk\*)**

**van Dijk, D. 2004. “Contemporary geomorphic processes and change on Lake Michigan coastal dunes: An example from Hoffmaster State Park, Michigan.” *Michigan Academician* 35: 425-453.**

In this journal article, van Dijk describes an investigation of the geomorphic processes shaping a beach-foredune-blowout system on the west coast of Lake Michigan. Study methods included erosion pins, sand traps, microclimate data collection, and observations of surface conditions, with weekly measurements from October through April. Study results show a distinct seasonal pattern of dune change with the largest amounts of change measured in the fall and winter seasons. Van Dijk describes many of the mid-latitude variables that affect sand transport patterns and geomorphic changes on Great Lakes dunes.

This brilliantly-written article describes a study that will surely transform the scientific understanding of Great Lakes coastal dunes. Study methods are not only appropriate for the research question, but they demonstrate the creativity and ingenuity of the author. The results are clearly presented and brilliantly interpreted. The only weakness of the article is that it is much too short.

\*Some of the opinions in the entry might reflect bias by the author.