

Example 1: Annotated bibliography assignment

1. Mbanyele, W., Huang, H., Li, Y., Muchenje, L. T., & Wang, F. (2022). „Corporate social responsibility and green innovation: Evidence from mandatory CSR disclosure laws”. *Economics Letters*, 212, 110322.

In their article, Mbanyele et al. (2022) examine the impact of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) performance on green innovation using CSR disclosure laws from different countries. Overall, the results of the study demonstrate that corporate engagement in CSR activities increases social welfare through the production of sustainable technologies. Furthermore, the results show that the impact of CSR disclosure laws is more significant for companies with weaker corporate governance and for companies that had lower CSR disclosure standards prior to CSR disclosure laws. A strength of this study is that it circumvents problems in measuring CSR activities by using laws on mandatory CSR reporting in different countries. The study is valuable because it provides consistent evidence that the quality and quantity of green patents by companies are increasing in countries that have enforced mandatory CSR disclosure laws. Moreover, the study provides evidence of the positive side of regulatory change, which is important for future research.

2. Jackson, G., Bartosch, J., Avetisyan, E., Kinderman, D., & Knudsen, J. S. (2020). „Mandatory non-financial disclosure and its influence on CSR: An international comparison”. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 162(2), 323-342.

In their study, Jackson et al. (2020) examine the impact of non-financial disclosure (NFD) on corporate CSR activities using two ideal types of regulation - government regulation and corporate self-regulation. The study focuses on 24 OECD countries. The results show that companies in countries that mandate non-financial disclosure engage significantly more in CSR activities. Furthermore, NFD regulation does not lead to lower levels of corporate irresponsibility. Lastly, it is shown that mandatory NFD is only effective in conjunction with stronger external scrutiny and stakeholder rights, which can be seen as an important implication for public policy and corporate ethics. A weakness of the study is that there is no finer measurement used regarding the specific NFD requirements. This paper can still be useful because of its relevance by giving empirical and theoretical contributions, as well as important implications for policy.

3. Ren, S., Wei, W., Sun, H., Xu, Q., Hu, Y., & Chen, X. (2020). „Can mandatory environmental information disclosure achieve a win-win for a firm’s environmental and economic performance?”. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 250, 119530.

Ren et al. (2020) investigate whether mandatory disclosure of environmental information can have a win-win effect on the environmental and economic performance of companies, and to what extent it affects it. The study focuses on Chinese companies from pollution-intensive industries between 2004 and 2015. The results show that environmental information disclosure improves companies’ environmental performance by increasing environmental management activities and costs. In contrast, a negative effect is found in terms of economic performance. In addition, a stronger effect is found for governmental as well as small and medium sized companies than for non-governmental and large ones. The study is valuable for considering mandatory CSR activities of companies and giving precise implications for policy on this, for example, that it is necessary to complete and strengthen mandatory environmental disclosure laws. Weaknesses of the study include the exclusive focus on Chinese companies and the limitations of the data, which make it difficult to apply the findings to other countries.