

Annotated Bibliography.

(Word count: 1094)

Introduction:

My annotated bibliography investigates my underway research into the themes surrounding identity, disability and community, which has been the focus over my time at university. Said research has and will continue to explore the importance of my three themes in modern day media and art. Furthermore, the current general knowledge and stigma surrounding the themes of disability and identity which has in itself created communities within the online world where people can accept and understand each other. Overall, my three themes directly link fluently, with them all impacting each other in a domino effect. Meaning my research flows nicely together surrounding these topics.

Riley, C.A. (2005). Disability and the media: Prescriptions for change. University Press of New England.

Disability and the media by Charles A Riley a book exploring the disability scene in the modern-day media. Covering how in the past decade the mass media has 'discovered' disability, influenced by actors, celebrities and household names such as Michael J Fox and Stephen Hawking and their box-office appeal. While the depictions of disabilities haven't seemed to change much since around the 1920s, corporations within the media are more likely to display actors, actresses and famous people with disabilities. Riley states the use of disabled people is rooted in prejudice and pity, having the representation to be able to claim they are being inclusive. While the publishers enjoy being able to say they are fully inclusive, they are also are manufacturing self-help books and articles that draw on the disability theme for pathos; the compassion and pity in the audience. The final point made by Riley is about how the disabled community is a niche consumer and there is need for better representation and less stereotypical vocabulary to represent the whole community.

This book has an overall strong argument for my research, talking about exactly what I am researching within the two topics of disability and community. Being a useful piece to research further. Bringing up the points of how the depictions of the disabled scene hasn't changed much over the last decade, which is something I can further investigate.

Walker, H. (2023). *The representation of mental and physical disabilities in the media: A literature review*. [online] Available at: <https://annamaria.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Haylee-Walker-Fall-2023.pdf> [Accessed 17 Oct. 2026].

Haylee J. Walker wrote this literature review in 2023 apart of her studies at the Anna Maria College. Overall, this review covers three main points these being: Medical media vs Social modern media, Tropes within the media and the digital media within self-representation. The first point of medical vs social talks about how historically the media has labelled disabilities as something in which can and should be fixed or cured, mainly with movies and tv shows, especially medical dramas. While the social modern media advocates the ideas of disabilities being environmental, a direct link between everyday life, surroundings and upbringing with disabilities. The second point about media tropes mentions the recurring ideas of 'supercrip' which is the idea that you can live with a disability and live everyday life normally, an unrealistic trope to show. 'Tragedy' where a main character becomes disabled due to a horrific event to further the plot and "Villain arc" where said event then triggers the characters want to seek revenge, for example Deadpool. The third and final point made is how self-representation on social media is important to curate communities.

This review is like the book by Charles A Riley, both having parallel points about disabilities. Both being strong points that coincide with my work. Haylee J. Walker makes good points about communities within social media and the joint outrage and anger about the representation of mental and physical health.

V Pitts (2015). *In the flesh: the cultural politics of body modification*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Victoria Pitts noticed the huge rise of body modifications throughout the 90's including the typical tattoos and piercings but also the neo-tribal practices such as scarification, body suspension and play piercings, etc. Over many years Pitts interviewed many body modifiers across the U.S, to gather a range of research about the topic and subcultures of the over body modification 'craze', how everyday life and culture can also affect this area as well as it does with everything else. Overall, most of the interviews entailed the reclaim nation of the body from the modern machine and control, while also covering the connection between the choice of modification as something empowering but also giving confidence to those who struggle with body image and expectations surrounding their bodies.

The interviews are very fascinating to read and give incites about this area I personally didn't consider before, the book overall added an extra layer of personal human experience that my other sources don't which I love. But at the same time, it fits in with my research of identity and having choice over your own body, something that people with disabilities struggle with.

Coburn, P. (2026). *How having a disability became cool*. [online] The Telegraph.

Available at: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2026/09/05/disability-became-cool/> [Accessed 18 Oct. 2026].

Instead of a book, this is an opinion-based article written for The Telegraph by a British journalist, Poppy Coburn. The article has one main premise, that the younger generation of women are "turning chronic illness into a lifestyle trend and entrenching a culture of economic inactivity" Coburn goes into details about modern day disabilities and how they are costing the U.K too much in benefits, while putting a heavy strain on the NHS, when according to her disabilities are something, younger people can overcome, with better sleep, exercise and a heathier diet and weight. The whole article is quite repetitive with these points, without giving much fact or referencing where she got these 'facts' from.

This article is a completely flipped view of everything else I have investigated which is quite important to do, find different perspectives. But as it's an opinion-based article

with lack of evidence to back her statements it's hard to take this seriously. But unfortunately, this has gained a following from people with similar views as something to reference to be ablest.

Block, P. (2009). *Community*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Finally, covering the theme of community strongly, Peter Block wrote a book about modern society and its links with community. Which at the book's core, he writes about how community is a pattern of communication and society is too focused on fixing what is "broken" and the fears that come along with that. He goes deeply into the sense of belonging within a community, where someone stands in groups of people and concludes that there are three terms of belonging. 1. The idea of being a part of something. 2. To be an owner or co-owner of something. And 3. The longing to be. All three of these terms are important in reason, when it becomes extreme that's when communities can start to fail.

Finding a book about the idea of community alone was quite difficult as it's a very wide subject matter, but this one is quite interesting and has helped me think more about community as a psychological aspect.