How to Prepare a Conference Abstract: Tips to Get Your Hard Work Noticed

ASMIRT Research Lead Committee

Your abstract…

… IS THE FACE OF YOUR WORK

… WILL DRAW IN YOUR AUDIENCE

… MUST CONVEY THE QUALITY & IMPACT OF YOUR RESEARCH

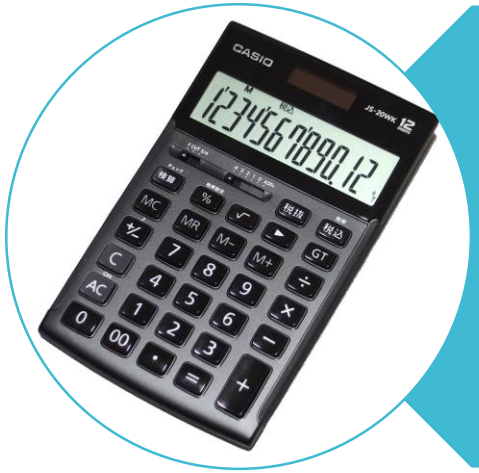
Conference Abstracts

- Differ from article or journal abstract.
- Only description of your research available to audience.
- Strict word limits: ~150-250 words.
- Need to communicate effectively.

Conference Abstracts

- Refer to formatting guidelines… and adhere to them!
- Refer to previous years for GOOD examples.
- **Remember: This is the only part of your paper that is published**

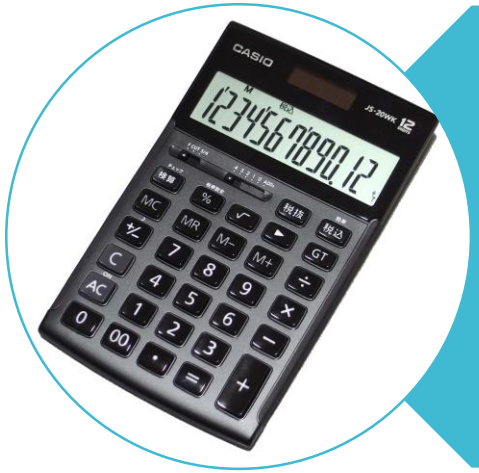
What type of abstract are you preparing?



Scientific Abstract

Non-Scientific Abstract

What type of abstract are you preparing?



Scientific Abstract

i.e. Research Study- 'Is Technique A better than Technique B?', Surveys, Quantitative Studies, Clinical Trials

Non-Scientific Abstract

i.e. Case Studies/Reports, Clinical Implementations, Protocols, Workplace 'experiences'

Title (Scientific & Non-Scientific)

- Title must be effective- a pull to read further:
  - **Short**
  - **Descriptive**
  - **Interesting**
  - **Inviting**
  - **Can I integrate the conference theme?**

Background/ Objective (Scientific & Non-Scientific)

- Should be the shortest part of abstract
- Establish study context in 2-3 sentences via:
  - Brief introduction
  - Establish the rationale behind your work
  - What is already known about the topic?
  - What is not known that will frame your hypothesis?
  - **Grab the reader's attention!**

Methods (Scientific)

- Describe the approach to test your hypothesis
- Include sample size, study variables
- This should also be brief, but descriptive
- Should contain enough information to enable reader to understand
  - Who participated?
  - What was done?
  - How was it done?
  - When was it done?

Results (Scientific)

- 3-5 sentences of results conducted
- State results clearly /concisely
- Limit results that answer your question/hypothesis.
- Limit to most important data
- State in a logical order
- Emphasize significant statistics/ highest impact results.
- May be presented in graph or table- place after the statement sentence/s.

Discussion (Scientific & Non-Scientific)

- Describe how results (if applicable) fit research topic described in background/introduction.
- Keep audience in mind.
- Experts audience: describe results in more technical terms
- General audience: describe results in more general terms understood in broader sense

Conclusion (Scientific & Non-Scientific)

Most important 2-3 sentences.

- Has the most impact on the average reader
- States take home message of your study.
- States the "what" or the " what does it really mean?" part of your work.
- Future directions or planned experiments/ studies
- Be honest- do not claim more than what your data demonstrates!

Final words of advice…

- Respect the event you're submitting to by:
  - verifying topic really fits the call for papers
  - stick to the word count
  - following the formatting instructions
  - including all the additional information required (such as basic personal data, keywords, exact level of study, etc.)
  - writing a text in correct English syntax and spelling
  - keeping to the deadline.

Good Luck!

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