

# Abstract & Abstracting Services

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# Learning Objectives

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- Be introduced to the basic concept and multiple types of Abstracts
- Be able to make distinctions between different types of abstracts
- Understand purposes of Abstracting
- Identification of some important abstracting sources

# Abstract

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- The American National Standard Institute (1979) defines an abstract as an abbreviated, accurate representation of a document which should be published with it
- In short An abstract is a -
  - a short, concise and accurate representation of the intellectual content
  - presenting its objectives, scopes and major findings

## Continued.....

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- The abstract as a concise statement of the central message of a document, has become an increasingly important tool for distinguishing truly relevant information from the bulk of information available (Pinto & Calvez 1999)
- An abstract should be a concise, accurate, comprehensive presentation of its original
- An abstract will provide an indication to the reader of the core themes discussed in the full text and to help searchers quickly decide if an article will be useful

# Types of Abstracts

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1. Titular Abstract
2. Annotation
3. Indicative or Descriptive Abstract
4. Informative, Informational or Comprehensive Abstract
5. Structured Abstract
6. Slanted Abstract
7. Author Abstract
8. Subject-specialist-prepared Abstract

# 1. Titular Abstract

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- It is also known as title-only abstract
- Applicable in case of many articles where titles are self-explanatory
- usually states subject and not findings

## ***Example***

Tamson, Rita. "Bibliography on medicinal plants and related subjects."  
Bibliography on medicinal plants and related subjects. 171 (1974).

## 2. Annotation

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- A clause or a sentence is added to amplify the title of an article
- Annotated and indicative abstracts differ only in length

### ***Example***

Bethel University. (2013). Creating APA style annotated bibliographies, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Retrieved from <https://www.bethel.edu/library/research/apa-annobib-sixth.pdf>

This is an excellent resource for creating annotated bibliographies in APA format, 6<sup>th</sup> edition and offers guidelines for writing annotations and a sample annotated bibliography.

### 3. Indicative or Descriptive Abstract

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- Short abstracts which describe the broad concepts covered in an entity in general terms are called indicative abstracts
- generally longer than an annotation
- Indicative abstracts only indicate what is covered in the entity - what is done, what is discussed, what is analysed, what is compared, and so on
- Indicative abstracts are presented in a single paragraph only
- Useful for state-of-art-report reviews, literary criticism, descriptive works etc.



## 4. Informative, Informational or Comprehensive Abstract

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- Acts as a substitute for the document
- It is a miniature version of document including the purpose, numerical data, methodologies, formula, conclusions and recommendations
- It is used most often for experimental work and for specific research report ( Pao,1989)
- bigger than an indicative abstract

### ***Example***

Sood, S. P. English-Hindi Dictionary of Technical Terms in Library and Information Science. Jaipur: Raj Publishing House, 2004. iv, 165p. ISBN 81-87248-25-4. (HB). Rs. 325. Print.

The dictionary lists about 4,000 terms in letter-by-letter alphabetical order giving their Hindi equivalents. The terms have been extracted from about 100 published books and periodical articles in Hindi. Some university/UGC question papers have also been used for this purpose. In some cases more than one Hindi equivalents are listed. Also includes some personal names and abbreviations, such as B C Vickery and FID. Some popular abbreviations such as IFLA, LCSH, etc. have only been transliterated in expanded forms in Devanagari script.

## 5. Structured Abstract

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- Structured abstracts have the same requirements as informative abstracts, but the content is written in separate paragraphs and under different headings
- They also guide authors in summarizing the content of their manuscripts precisely facilitate the peer-review process for manuscripts submitted for publication, and enhance computerized literature searching

# Example:



The image shows a screenshot of a PubMed abstract page. At the top, the PubMed logo and "U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health" are visible. A search bar contains "PubMed" and "24792780[uid]". Below the search bar, there are links for "RSS", "Save search", and "Advanced". The main content area starts with "Display Settings: [x] Abstract" and a "Send to:" button. The citation information is "Clin Toxicol (Phila). 2014 Jun;52(5):525-30. doi: 10.3109/15563660.2014.913175. Epub 2014 May 5". The title is "Evaluation of dexmedetomidine therapy for sedation in patients with toxicological events at an academic medical center." The authors are "Mohom PL<sup>1</sup>, Vakkalanka JP, Bushton W, Hardison L, Woloszyn A, Holstege C, Corbett SM." There is an "Author information" link. The abstract text is structured with sections: "Abstract", "INTRODUCTION: Although clinical use of dexmedetomidine (DEX), an alpha2-adrenergic receptor agonist, has increased, its role in patients admitted to intensive care units secondary to toxicological sequelae has not been well established.", "OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of this study was to describe clinical and adverse effects observed in poisoned patients receiving DEX for sedation.", "METHODS: This was an observational case series with retrospective chart review of poisoned patients who received DEX for sedation at an academic medical center. The primary endpoint was incidence of adverse effects of DEX therapy including bradycardia, hypotension, seizures, and arrhythmias. For comparison, vital signs were collected hourly for the 5 h preceding the DEX therapy and every hour during DEX therapy until the therapy ended. Additional endpoints included therapy duration, time within target Richmond Agitation Sedation Score (RASS), and concomitant sedation, analgesia, and vasopressor requirements.", "RESULTS: Twenty-two patients were included. Median initial and median DEX infusion rates were similar to the commonly used rates for sedation. Median heart rate was lower during the therapy (82 vs. 93 beats/minute, p < 0.05). Median systolic blood pressure before and during therapy was similar (111 vs. 109 mmHg, p = 0.745). Five patients experienced an adverse effect per study definitions during therapy. No additional adverse effects were noted. Median time within target RASS and duration of therapy was 6.5 and 44.5 h, respectively. Seventeen patients (77%) had concomitant use of other sedation and/or analgesia with four (23%) of these patients requiring additional agents after DEX initiation. Seven patients (32%) had concomitant vasopressor support with four (57%) of these patients requiring vasopressor support after DEX initiation.", "CONCLUSION: Common adverse effects of DEX were noted in this study. The requirement for vasopressor support during therapy warrants further investigation into the safety of DEX in poisoned patients. Larger, comparative studies need to be performed before the use of DEX can be routinely recommended in poisoned patients." At the bottom, it says "PMID: 24792780 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]".

Figure 1: PubMed Abstract Display for a Structured Abstract.

## 6. Slanted Abstract

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- Information or description reported in a document is oriented to a specific discipline
- An abstract written to represent a specific portion of a document, or a particular perspective on its content, usually for the benefit of a specialized audience
- *For example*, an abstract of a research paper on the Global economic impact of Covid-19, written for the benefit of Industrial Economy”

## 7. Author Abstract

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- An author abstract is prepared by the author herself/himself
- Journals like *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, *IASLIC Bulletin*, etc. are providing author abstracts with all original articles

## 8. Subject-Specialist-Prepared Abstract

- These abstracts are prepared by subject experts
- Abstracting services have a panel of abstractors who specialize in various subjects
- According to their specialization they are assigned articles for abstracting

# Purposes of Abstracting

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- The **purpose** of an **abstract** is to provide prospective readers the opportunity to find the relevance of the longer work to their projects
- It also include the key terms found in the work including its **purpose** and methods of the research
- Find out that if a piece of writing interests the researchers or relates to a topic they are working on
- Index articles for quick recovery and cross-referencing

## Abstracting Sources

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- **Biological Abstracts:** It provides the latest information in life science discipline, and contains more than 13.2 million archival records most of the records include informative abstracts written by the author
- This database is produced by Thomson Scientific, Inc. Now Biological abstracts is accessible through Thomson Reuters Web of knowledge platform

Source: <http://thomsonreuters.com/web-of-knowledge/>

- **Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS):** A division of the American Chemical Society, is the world's authority for chemical information
- CAS delivers the most current, complete, secure and interlinked digital information environment for scientific discovery

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- **Library and Information Science Abstracts:** It is an international abstracting and indexing tool designed for library professionals
  - The online version of LISA is hosted by ProQuest



# References:

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1. Cleveland, A. D., & Cleveland, D. B. (2013). Introduction to Indexing and Abstracting (4th Edition). *Libraries Unlimited*.
2. Ryan Splenda (2014). Introduction to Indexing and Abstracting, 4th ed., *Technical Services Quarterly*, 31:3, 307-308, DOI: 10.1080/07317131.2014.908653
3. Lancaster, F. W. (2003). Do indexing and abstracting have a future?. *Anales de Documentación*, vol. 6, 2003.
4. Pao, Miranda Lee (1989). Concepts of Information Retrieval. *Libraries Unlimited*.

# Assignment-1

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1. Prepare a list of online abstracting databases with short description of each in the field of:
  - Library & Information Science and
  - One more discipline of your interest (*For example: Social Sciences or any other* )

All the students of B.L.I.Sc & M.L.I.Sc. have to submit their assignment on or before **10/04/2020** through E-mail mode only.

*Note: Assignment submitted on WhatsApp will not be considered.*

**Thank You**

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