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Pre-Conference Writing Webinar

Writing your abstract

Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Balyejusa Kizito
Uganda Christian University

What is an abstract?

- Shows the major aspects or summary of the paper you want to present
- It acts as a "snapshot" or is the "first impression" of the entire study
- It appears at the beginning of a paper
- Usually a paragraph made of 150- 300 words
- A well-written abstract is independent. Your reader should understand the essence of the study even if they never get to read the rest of the paper.

Why does an abstract matter?

- Abstracts are essential for academic visibility
- It increases discoverability in research databases- Search engines, research databases, librarians, students, and scholars rely on abstracts to decide whether to continue reading the article
- Automated systems use abstracts to sort and categorize research
- It helps reviewers understand your study quickly.
- It gives other researchers a reliable summary to cite
- A weak abstract hides the value of the study and reduces engagement, and often lowers the chance of acceptance during peer review.

Standard Structure of an abstract

Abstract title: How will your abstract convince the conference organisers that you'll add to the discussion on a particular topic at their event?

Background/ Motivation: Why should your readers care about the problem and your results? This section should include the background to your research, the importance of it, or the difficulty of the area.

The problem: What problem are you trying to solve? Are you using a generalised approach, or is it for a specific situation?

Structure

Study design: How did you approach solving the problem or making progress on it? What was the extent of your research or work?

Results: What findings or trends did your analysis uncover? Were they as you expected, or not?

Conclusions: What do your results mean? How will they contribute to your field? Will they shake things up, speed things up

Tips

- **Be concise**, choose your words carefully, keep sentences short
- **Find example abstracts**: Familiarise yourself with conference abstracts. Look for examples of abstracts submitted by early-career researchers especially, and try to pinpoint what made each one successful.
- **Edit with fresh eyes**: Once you've written your abstract, give yourself at least a day away from it. Editing it with fresh eyes can help you be more objective in deciding what's essential.
- **Get a second eye to read through it**: Have your supervisor read through your abstract

Thank
you

The poster features a purple background with a woman in a colorful patterned dress carrying a baby on her back, and a close-up of a baby's face in the upper right. The text is white and yellow. The title 'Annual Conference' is large and bold. The theme is 'Every Change Project Matters - Multidisciplinary Collaborations in Reaching Every Woman and Every New-born Everywhere'. The date is 'APR. 24TH 2026' and the location is 'NKOYOYO HALL Uganda Christian University'. Logos for 'SAVE the MOTHERS.org' and 'UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY' are at the bottom.

Save The Mothers 2026

Annual

Maternal & Child Health

Conference

Theme

Every Change Project **Matters** -
Multidisciplinary Collaborations in Reaching
Every Woman and Every New-born
Everywhere

**APR.
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