



# Beyond the Summary: Writing a Good Abstract

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## Abstract

Abstracts are a crucial part of research papers, acting as a summary and a bridge to academic involvement. An abstract is used for many purposes, such as the evaluation of relevance, support in peer review, and academic dissemination. This article discusses the importance of the abstract, starting from the basic role of summarizing research to its utility in making academic visibility. It distinguishes between four types of abstracts: descriptive, informative, structured, and indicative, explaining their specific uses and appropriate usage scenarios. Subsequently, the anatomy of an effective abstract is analyzed in depth. Essential components such as introduction, problem statement, methods, results, and conclusions are examined. There are practical instructions on thematic coherence, logical sequencing, balance between specificity and generalization, while keeping the message clear and simple. Word length and style requirements are also discussed so the abstract will be at scholarly standards. Finally, the mistakes made in abstract writing, such as excessive detail, jargon or vague language, lack of presentation of findings and contribution are outlined. The broader role of the abstract is reflected to increase discoverability and use of academic databases to receive citations and be the tool for networking at a conference and interdisciplinary research. In conclusion, the article underscores that the abstract is more than a summary and is, in fact, a key tool to enhance scholarly impact and encourage academic collaboration.

**Keywords:** Abstracts · Research Papers · Academic Writing · Informative Abstracts · Peer Review · Scholarly Impact · Academic Dissemination

An abstract is simply a summary of a research paper, which comprises the summary of the most important elements of the study: methodology, results, conclusions, and significance. It acts as an entrance and guide for readers to have an idea about the study at hand and its relevance within a field (Andrade, 2011). As a research paper would delve deep into the subject, an abstract presents that in a snap. In other words, it provides the reader with just what is important in case the research is long-winded and too detailed. It does guarantee clearness and relevance (Alexandrov & Hennerici, 2007). This section, therefore, determines whether a person reads the full work or puts it aside.

The abstract has importance because it is the first content that readers, such as research students, intellectuals, and even laypersons, encounter. Therefore, its power to captivate and enlighten is of great importance. The abstract acts as a link between an attractive title and detailed contents of the research paper. The abstract serves to give direction to the reader toward further reading if it appears to be relevant, based on a clear summary of what the study is all about, its

methodology, its results, and its implications (Tullu, 2019). The abstract serves to give direction to the reader toward further reading if it appears to be relevant, based on a clear summary of what the study is all about, its Without an effective abstract, the best papers risk being missed entirely.

## Why Abstracts Are Critical in Research Papers

An abstract is the first impression the research paper may have, and its importance cannot be rivaled. Reviewers, editors, and readers often use abstracts to judge the contribution of a manuscript before examining a manuscript. According to Shah (2017), the abstract is the "face" of the research, briefly summarizing its substance for busy readers. The quality of an abstract influences manuscript acceptance; editors and reviewers can make preliminary judgments concerning the clarity, structure, and comprehensiveness of an abstract.

Besides impressions created directly, abstracts contribute dramatically to academic indexing and searchability. The process of making research accessible to audiences worldwide depends on well-written abstracts while indexed properly in databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar. An abstract that is not well written may lead to the limitation of your paper's discoverability and consequently reduce its impact and reach (LaPlaca et al., 2018). Abstracts also support citation tracking and analysis, which have assumed a critical role in academic referencing systems.

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Also, an abstract's benefits reach to interdisciplinary research, wherein practitioners from different fields need a rapid overview of studies beyond their research. An abstract that is clear and systematic creates interdisciplinarity, allowing researchers to find potential synergies (Drury et al., 2023). Hence, it is not only a formal call for writing an abstract but a strategic effort so as not to miss the essential connection for maximizing a study's academic and practical relevance.

## **Section 1: Understanding the Function of an Abstract**

### ***Abstracts as a Summary of Research***

An abstract is a distilled summary of what a research paper contains, encapsulated in a limited number of words. It distills the meaning of the full paper within those few words and presents, on its face, a succinct review of the research as follows: background, objectives, methods, findings, and conclusions. According to Alexandrov and Hennerici (2007), the structure of a good abstract follows the very paper itself, in the shape of IMRaD (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion). This way, an abstract will always have the shape of the whole work, and so the message conveyed is going to be quickly absorbed by readers.

Abstracts summarizing research are thus necessarily brief but adequately comprehensive. Abstracts are not secondary advertising features but integral parts that speak to the intellectual rigor and scope of a study. For example, Meade et al (2024) state that an abstract should summarize major findings in data-driven terms, without using or including too much speculation language. This precision allows readers to evaluate the applicability and validity of the work for their purposes and to engage with the paper knowledgeably.

Abstracts also play an important role in giving messages of research significance. They give priority to the impact of the study, so they locate the work within the greater academic discourse, showing how it fills gaps or develops further previous debates (Pierson, 2004). So an abstract is a summary statement, as well as a statement of value, articulating why the research matters.

### ***Abstracts in the Context of Relevance Evaluation***

For researchers, abstracts are invaluable tools for evaluating the relevance of a study to their own work. In the vast sea of academic literature, time and resource constraints often necessitate quick decision-making, making abstracts the primary filter for relevance assessment. As Shah (2017) points out, abstracts enable readers to determine whether the full paper warrants further exploration, thus optimizing their research efforts. This is especially crucial in citation analysis, where abstracts often provide the first exposure to a paper's content and context.

Abstracts play a very important role in academic referencing. Abstracts categorize and connect research outputs, making it possible for scholars to trace intellectual lineages, track key contributions, and study a field's development by citing data contained in indexing systems and citation databases. A well-crafted abstract, therefore, amplifies a paper's exposure and academic impact by ensuring that it gets to the right audience (LaPlaca et al., 2018). In doing so, abstracts represent an individual researcher's guiding map but also are connective tissue within the larger academic network.

### ***Role in Peer Review and Academic Dissemination***

Abstracts are also strategically crucial for peer reviewing. By the time the first section reviewers get to read, their opinion of the quality and relevance of the study may already be set in the abstract. An abstract should be clear yet concise - even being considered one good proof to clarify the value proposition to market it better (Tullu, 2019). On the other hand, a lousy abstract may raise questions about how the study was constructed and carried out, even though the study itself is good.

Beyond peer review, abstracts facilitate academic dissemination by promoting visibility across disciplines. Interdisciplinary research often involves audiences unfamiliar with the paper's specific jargon or methodologies. A well-crafted abstract bridges these gaps, presenting the study's key insights in an accessible yet academically rigorous manner (Drury et al., 2023). This fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing, underscoring the abstract's role as a linchpin of academic communication.

## **Section 2: Types of Abstracts and Specific Usage Scenarios**

Abstracts serve diverse purposes in academic writing, and their format often reflects the nature and goals of the research they summarize. Recognizing the specific types of abstracts and their appropriate use cases enhances a researcher's ability to effectively communicate their work. There are four primary types of abstracts: descriptive, informative, structured, and indicative, each with their own characteristics, applications, and relevance across various research contexts.

### ***Descriptive Abstracts***

Descriptive abstracts are summary abstracts that provide concise, coherent summaries of a research study and consist of its purpose and scope, methodology, but not usually the detailed findings or conclusions. Their brevity and generality make them particularly useful in exploratory or theoretical research, where this type of research focuses on introducing the topic of the research rather than presenting empirical results (Pierson, 2004). For example, for philosophical inquiries or conceptual analyses, the use of descriptive abstracts will encase the discourse without aiming at specific outcomes. A prime characteristic of the descriptive abstract is

its focus on "what" the study is to explore, rather than on "how" or "why" it is going to achieve its objectives. This kind of abstract is usually short enough to not exceed 100–150 words and tells the reader exactly whether the paper will interest them or not (Pierson, 2004).

### ***Informative Abstracts***

Informative abstracts give a more balanced view of a study that covers background, methods, findings, and implications. Unlike the descriptive abstract, it presents detailed results and conclusions, making it inevitable in empirical and quantitative research. According to Meade et al. (2024), informative abstracts are the most frequently used ones in scientific disciplines since the precision and completeness of the information determine the judgment of readers regarding the relevance and applicability of the study. It not only keeps the reader abreast of the study's contribution but also lets them judge its methodological rigor and validity without reading the full paper (Alexandrov & Hennerici, 2007). As an example, a study on the experimental efficacy of a drug would report its statistical findings, such as p-values or confidence intervals in the abstract. Informative abstracts are particularly useful in fast-paced academic and professional environments where readers need to gauge the relevance and quality of a study from abstracts (Shah, 2017).

### ***Structured Abstracts***

Structured abstracts typically have four sections: Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions or the IMRaD, standard format of structured abstracts. They have become more popular in the journal sector for their clarity, consistency, and readability, making it easier to compare different studies. The IMRaD format ensures that each aspect of the research is characteristically presented, thereby avoiding ambiguity and enhancing readability. For example, the "Objectives" section will clearly state what the purpose of the study is, the "Methods" section clarifies the research design and analytical approach, and the results along with the conclusions are differently presented to denote the findings and its implications without overlapping the two (LaPlaca et al., 2018). This level of detail not only helps the peer reviewers make an informed evaluation of the paper but also aids researchers in finding studies related to their interest.

### ***Indicative Abstracts***

Indicative abstracts concentrate on the scope, purpose, and theoretical framework of the work conducted, leaving the detailed findings or results in the background. Their main function is to help the reader guide himself through the paper's general direction and relevance without getting into details. This type of abstract is particularly suitable for review

papers, theoretical discussions, or exploratory studies that intend to give a general overview of a topic rather than presenting some new empirical findings (Pierson, 2004). A review of advances in machine learning, for example, might use an indicative abstract to summarize the major themes and trends of a study in the article itself and leave the more details for the main text. This helps especially with interdisciplinary audiences, where one would be more interested in general implications of the research rather than its specific methodological undertones (Shah, 2017). The limitation in the use of indicative abstracts, though, is that no specific findings or conclusions appear within them, which can limit their utility for readers seeking actionable insights or detailed evaluations (Meade et al., 2024).

## **Section 3: Anatomy of a Well-Crafted Abstract**

An effective abstract is a cornerstone of academic writing, encapsulating the content of a research study into a format that is at once concise and accessible. To accomplish this, an abstract has to include particular elements, have a logical flow, and respect the peculiarities of disciplines.

### ***Core Elements of a Quality Abstract***

A quality abstract generally has four basic elements: introduction, methods, results, and conclusion. Taken together, these elements should give the reader a good sense of the study's scope, methodology, and contribution.

### ***Problem Statement and Research Gap***

The abstract starts with an introduction that should clearly articulate the significance of the research. The introduction provides the backdrop as it posits the research question or, alternatively, the gap in the literature (Ohri, 2009). For instance, an abstract of a public health paper will have a highlight on the increasing diabetes problem around the globe and how there is a desperate need for a new treatment approach. Meade et al., 2024 posited that any problem statement captured the reader's attention since it contextualized the study's relevance.

### ***Methods***

The methods section of an abstract summarizes the research approach, including the design, data collection techniques, and analytical methods used. This component is critical for establishing the study's credibility and reproducibility (LaPlaca et al., 2018). For instance, in quantitative studies, specifying the sample size, experimental design, and statistical tests employed provides readers with a snapshot of the study's rigor. Shah (2017) highlights that this section must strike a balance between brevity and informativeness, ensuring that readers understand the methodology without being overwhelmed by technical detail.

## Results

The results section is the heart of the abstract, presenting the study's main findings in a clear and concise manner.

This section must provide supporting quantitative measures, such as percentages or P-values (Alexandrov and Hennerici, 2007). By reporting the key results, the abstract proves why the research matters for its domain. For example, a study on climate change mitigation can report a substantial carbon emission cut realized from a new policy intervention, which will have practical implications.

## Conclusion

Finally, the abstract should be concluded by summarizing how the study contributes to the field and its broader implications. This component brings together the research's objectives and findings, emphasizing its potential impact (Pierson, 2004). For instance, the conclusion could be that the research expands theoretical understanding, informs policy-making, or identifies areas for future investigation. An effective conclusion is not only to sum up the research but to leave an impression on the reader (Ohri, 2009).

## Thematic and Structural Considerations

Apart from the literal components, a good abstract also needs to demonstrate thematic coherence and clear structural outline. A logical flow will make it easier for readers to follow the progression of the ideas while clarity and concision facilitate readability.

## Logical Flow and Sequence

The abstract must then structure the information in a logical sequence with which the full paper is structured. According to Meade et al. (2024), it facilitates the easy understanding of the research aims, methods used, results, and implications by the audience. In that case, allowing the readers to know the research question before the methodological section shows the relevance of the study. As Alexandrov and Hennerici (2007) note, such logical flow in a piece is critical while doing interdisciplinary writing where readers do not know the specialism or the terminology used by the study.

## Simple English

Abstract words should be simple and uncomplicated, free of jargon or long, drawn-out sentences. Shah (2017) asserts that clarity is relevant in the abstract because an abstract needs to be communicated among a broad group of audience, which may comprise researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Tullu (2019) emphasizes that concise language not only enhances readability but also helps authors adhere to word limits.

## Balancing Specificity and Generalization

An effective abstract must strike a balance between specificity and generalization, providing enough detail to inform readers without overwhelming them with extraneous information. Overly broad abstracts may fail to convey the research's unique contributions, while narrowly focused abstracts may exclude important contextual information. Pierson (2004) suggests that authors should focus on presenting the most significant aspects of their study, such as key findings or innovative methodologies. For example, an abstract on a new cancer treatment should emphasize its clinical efficacy rather than providing an exhaustive list of experimental procedures.

## Word Length and Appropriate Style

Finally, a good abstract must be within the word limits and discipline appropriate in style for its intended audience - journal, conference, or funding agency. Most journals and conferences require a strict word count limit for abstracts that varies between 150 to 300 words. According to LaPlaca et al. (2018), these restrictions compel authors to cut unnecessary information that would translate into a concise abstract. For example, the Humanities journal will focus on the 'theoretic contribution' made by the research while a medical journal will focus on its clinical relevance.

# The Emotional Personality of Psychotherapists: A Pilot Research with Gestalt-Therapy Clinicians

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Or Key Findings

Implications

## Abstract

Since the discovery of "countertransference", it was recognized that the therapist's personality plays an important role in determining the course of psychotherapy. However, systematic empirical works on this topic have been sparse compared to the enormous amount of theoretical literature. Therefore, in the following pilot study, the emotional profile of psychotherapists was investigated using the Affective Neuroscience Personality Scales (ANPS), a quantitative measure of the basic emotional foundations of human personality based on Jaak Panksepp's neuro-ethological studies. More specifically, we submitted the ANPS to a population of Gestalt-therapists to ascertain if they share a characteristic emotional profile (1) and if the emotional traits of personality are related to specific intersubjective competences (2). Our results show that, compared with normal population, the personality of therapists is characterized by higher expression of PLAYFULNESS/joy, CARE/nurturance and Spirituality, as well as a significant decrease in the expression of the RAGE/anger disposition. Such emotional traits, that are not influenced by the experience of training, correlate with important relational skills such as empathy, reflective functioning and interoceptive awareness. Therefore, unlearned emotional dispositions have high relevance in the development of the therapist's sensitivity to the phenomenological intersubjective field, a competence recently called "Aesthetic Relational Knowledge" in a contemporary Gestalt approach. Our findings may have implications for training therapists and optimizing treatment outcomes.

Figure 1  
Core Aspects of a Good Abstract

### ***Differences in Abstract Expectations across Disciplines***

Abstract conventions are in wide variation across academic disciplines and reflect the unique priorities and methodologies of different disciplines. According to Alexandrov and Hennerici (2007), for example, the abstracts of the natural sciences tend to give over more space to publishing quantitative findings and technical precision, while those in social sciences tend to favor theoretical frameworks and qualitative insight. Recognizing these differences is important for adjusting the abstract to its intended audience. For instance, the abstract of an economics paper might be focused on policy implications, while an anthropology abstract could focus on cultural significance.

Incorporating these the main elements-thematic concerns and disciplinary tradition- enables the researchers to write meaningful abstracts that communicate the very substance of the work. Whether one is summarizing a groundbreaking work or framing a theoretical discourse, the well-written abstract forms an invaluable tool for engaging a readership and fostering scholarly communication.

### **Section 4: Common Mistakes and Pitfalls in Writing an Abstract**

Abstract writing is one of the essential skills a researcher should adopt in academic writing. Even established researchers may fall into common pitfalls that prevent clarity, accessibility, and impact in writing an abstract. In this section, several common pitfalls in abstract writing have been discussed, including overloading with details, use of jargon, failure to remember target audiences, downplaying results, and waiting until the last minute to write an abstract. All of these carry a detrimental impact on the abstract: they may make the reader lose interest and fail to fulfill the academic requirements fully.

#### ***Overcharging the Abstract with Information***

The most common abstract writing mistake is overloading the abstract with too many details. Though it is important to summarize the core items in the study in a compact manner, there should not be too much data or analysis to overwhelm readers and drain the meaning from the abstract. Tullu (2019) emphasizes that the abstract should give a concise overview, focusing on the most important discoveries and conclusions, instead of going into the fine print of how the study was carried out or raw data. Over-including specific details, like complicated statistical results or utterly exhaustive protocols for experiments, may confuse the reader, rather than engaging him (Shah, 2017).

Pierson (2004) explains that the purpose of an abstract is not to give a mini-version of the whole paper but to give a

snapshot overview of the studies' contributions. Hence, an abstract summarizing research on cancer treatment should be about the most important findings such as the effectiveness of the treatment rather than giving a whole description of every clinical trial phase. Further, Meade et al. (2024) propose that authors take to writing the cream of their research into abstracts in a few key points, and detailed data should be reserved for the full text of the paper.

#### ***Use of Jargon or Ambiguous Language***

Using jargon and ambiguous language is also a pitfall in abstract writing. Technical terminologies are, however, required in specific research fields. But they may cut the broader audience, which limits the accessibility of the abstract. Ohri (2009) advocates for writing in clear, crisp language readily understood by readers from outside the immediate discipline. For example, while terms like "heteroscedasticity" in statistical analysis may be familiar to experts in econometrics, they may be confusing to a general reader. Alexandrov and Hennerici (2007) insist that clarity is particularly important when conducting interdisciplinary research, in which the abstract needs to convey ideas to scholars in different fields.

Additionally, vague language can dilute the power of the abstract by leaving one guessing in terms of what the study actually found or concluded. In fact, LaPlaca et al. (2018) recommend avoiding such vague statements as "the results were significant," since no meaningful information is conveyed using this approach. Instead, authors should report the major findings with direct language-for example, stating that "the treatment reduced symptoms by 30%-leaving the reader with clear implications. A good abstract must be precise without over-complicating or obscuring the core findings of the study.

#### ***Lack of Target Audience Consideration***

The most common error in writing an abstract is a lack of consideration for the target audience. It goes without saying that a good abstract should be crafted according to its target readership, which might be the narrow specialist of a field or an academic- oriented readership in general. Pierson (2004) emphasizes that the author should tailor the tone and the degree of specificity or detail to the audience. For instance, an abstract submitted for a medical journal may presume that the reader is well-versed in clinical procedures and terms, making it possible to use more specialized language. But in the case of an abstract aimed at a more general audience, the author will need to define technical vocabulary and include more information.

Alexandrov and Hennerici (2007) claim that awareness of discipline conventions should be recognized in abstract

writing. In a field of biology, for example, or chemistry, which discusses research based on observed data, abstracts often are represented by an experimental setup and results. In the humanities or social sciences, abstracts may be more argumentative or concentrate on qualitative findings. This tailoring to the intended audience will make an abstract most likely to be read and cited.

### ***Overlooking the Findings and Contributions***

Not highlighting the results and contributions of the research is a very destructive failure when doing abstract writing. One of the significant roles of an abstract is to present the importance of the findings of the study, so excluding such aspects may even minimize its influence. Meade et al. (2024) report that most abstracts contain too much background information and theoretical framework while not leaving much of the results. Therefore, readers are usually left to wonder about the study's actual contribution, making it less likely to go unnoticed and lose value for future research.

According to Pierson (2004), underselling findings in an abstract can undermine the influence of the study. For example, an article reporting on the efficacy of a new medication in ameliorating symptoms of heart disease should focus on these findings in summary, rather than summarily including methodological details. Drury (2023) reinforces that even when results are preliminary or inconclusive the abstract should explicitly state what is found and what is new about it. Clearly stating results is essential to capturing the interest of readers and proving the study's value toward ongoing research.

### ***Waiting Till the End to Write the Abstract***

The last common mistake is preparing the abstract right before submission. Most researchers view the abstract as an afterthought, something to be written when the rest of the paper is done. Thus, a weakly composed abstract tends to become the epitome of a half-baked piece of writing, devoid of capturing the real essence of the research. Shah (2017) stresses that the abstract should not be regarded as a mere formality but should be considered a strategic summary. It is actually the point of contact between the researcher and the reader, and thus an important determinant of whether the paper is read or cited.

Meade et al. (2024) suggest that the author must spend sufficient time and energy in composing the abstract, and thus revise it several times to be clear, precise, and relevant. Tullu (2019) adds that writers should treat the abstract as a distillation of the entire research process and should capture its key elements in a manner that warrants further investigation. It is only by giving the abstract that rightful attention a manuscript will most probably increase its chances of making a real difference.

## **Section 5: More than a Summary**

Abstracts have value in academic research beyond being brief summaries for introductory purposes. They can make it easier to discover research, facilitate connections and other opportunities through citation rates, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and more.

### ***Enhancing Discoverability in Academic Databases***

A primary function of an abstract is to facilitate indexing and enhance a paper's discoverability within academic databases and search engines. Abstracts often feature as the first piece of a paper that is indexed by databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed, and Scopus, and hence play a crucial role in the visibility of research (LaPlaca et al., 2018). These databases heavily depend on the keywords and phrases used in abstracts to classify and rank research papers. According to Meade et al. (2024), whether a paper ranks well in searches depends significantly on the abstract's use of precise and relevant keywords, which have an impact on the accessibility of a paper to various readers and researchers.

For abstracts, according to Pierson (2004), often serve as a type of "research elevator pitch" for search engines, and the judicious use of keywords can make all the difference in whether the paper reaches the intended audience. For example, an excellent abstract in environmental science might make frequent use of terms such as "sustainability," "climate change," and "ecosystem restoration," all concepts that would make the paper much more searchable by those in related disciplines. Shah, 2017 further emphasizes the need to pay attention to SEO and also through the abstract, it needs to reveal clearly about what the research focuses on through relevant terms that depict emerging trends within the discipline. Proper usage of terms in line with SEO-friendly keywords will improve the possibility of a wider body of academic scholarship accessing the paper.

### ***Impact on Citations and Scholarly Impact***

Abstracts are the most critical factor in which researchers will read the paper and cite it in their work. A well-written abstract that conveys the key contribution of the study may attract citations that increase the visibility and scholar impact of a paper (Tullu, 2019). For a researcher searching for something related to citation from a paper, Alexandrov and Hennerici (2007) express that an abstract is usually the first thing they encounter while going through the paper. If the abstract clearly emphasizes the importance of the research, it will increase the possibility of drawing further interest and citation of the subsequent studies.

According to Drury (2023), papers with clear accessible abstracts tend to have higher citation rates since they help readers to enter the research simply. Well-written abstracts also enable researchers to make an instant decision about

whether the study has relevance to their own research interests, thus increasing the chances of citation (Pierson, 2004). A diabetes treatment intervention abstract will likely attract citations from medicine and healthcare scholars, given that it contains keywords such as "clinical trials" and "treatment efficacy". Thus, a well thought abstract has the potential of contributing greatly towards the overall visibility and academic recognition of a paper.

### ***Abstracts as Networking Tools in Conferences***

Apart from academic databases, abstracts also prove to be important networking tools especially in the context of conferences. Abstracts are used frequently by conference organizers to screen and invite papers for presentation, and they are prominently displayed in conference proceedings, which further raises the profile of such research (Tullu, 2019). Indeed, an abstract draws out all aspects of the research succinctly but comprehensively within a brief span to provide an entry point into the research for potential collaborators, peers, and scholars, as LaPlaca et al. (2018) point out.

Well-written abstracts make papers visible and sometimes open channels for useful networking. Researchers attend conferences to find papers that have interest for them and initiate discussions with the authors of those papers, as asserted by Shah (2017). In this way, abstracts not only promote individual research but also facilitate the exchange of ideas among individuals and, therefore, foster new collaborations across institutions and countries. Abstracts would be considered incredibly successful if they are skillfully written and clear, as this would be the case of being noticed or completely overlooked by some influential researchers, according to Meade et al. (2024). In this regard, abstracts serve as networking tools that fuel the further course of the overall conversation within academia.

### ***Interdisciplinary Research and Abstract Versatility***

Abstracts also play a critical role in fostering interdisciplinary research by providing accessible summaries of complex studies. As Pierson (2004) suggests, abstracts are often the first point of contact between researchers from different disciplines, allowing them to quickly gauge the relevance of a study to their own work. A clear, well-written abstract serves as a bridge that connects disparate fields, offering scholars from various backgrounds an entry point into research that might otherwise seem impenetrable.

Tullu (2019) notes that interdisciplinary research very often requires accessible language to get readers from different fields. In this line, the abstract acts as a tool in ensuring interdisciplinary collaboration, for instance by scrutinizing the application of artificial intelligence in healthcare will be

of interest to both computer scientists and healthcare practitioners. Therefore, the research will be accessible to both parties if explained through abstracts that explain how the methodology was conducted and what results were achieved in very clear terms. This encourages further research at this point where these intersections of disciplines are found. Hence, abstracts act as multifunctional tools, cutting across disciplinary boundaries, supporting interdisciplinary research networks.

### ***Conclusion***

Abstracts, therefore, represent far more than an introductory preview of a paper in an academic journal. They are very influential in deciding the discoverability, visibility, and potential impact of research. They play a very important role in academic databases and search engines, thus enhancing the searchability of the research and, therefore, the likelihood of citations. They also play important networking roles for researchers in conference settings, allowing them to get in touch with other relevant peers or collaborators. In addition, through the provision of summary statements, abstracts promote cross-disciplinary research because authors from any discipline can easily evaluate how the study may relate to their own work.

Therefore, abstract writing is much more than an academic formality; it is a strategic aspect of scholarly communication. The quality of abstracts is important because they are supposed to capture the essence of a research study yet be clear and engrossing. As the scenario of academics continues to evolve, the abstract will continue to remain one of the most critical triggers for cooperation, improving visibility and adding value to research within the broader conversation of academia.



## Declarations

**Conflicts of interest:** The author has no conflicts of interest.

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