

Moving from abstract to extended abstract via automatic note taking

This exercise is designed to help you be reductive while you read for a literature review. It is aimed at helping create an extended abstract for a work in progress

The Task:

Stage 1 - Write the abstract (hopefully your have already done this).

Keeping the abstract intact as a reference point, now create a new document.

Combine the preliminary research into your chosen topic area with some additional research prompted by thoughts and ideas as you grow to understand your area under investigation.

As your read the papers, or skim books and web sites and other sources, take notes (following the protocols of automatic note taking <http://edshare.soton.ac.uk/17294/>)

As your understanding deepens, use the findings from your investigations to help you effectively extend the superstructure and build an outline sketch of your report in the form of an extended abstract.

Guidance:

The extended abstract will devote about a half page to each of the four or five sections of the abstract. It will communicate the scope and scale of the problem you are considering. It will be supported by arguments and references (probably only a few per section), perhaps a diagram or two (which will of course make the contents longer - increasing relevant sections to about one page in length). You will conclude with some indication of the way in which your findings will be shaped.

The references will be cited in Harvard style and listed at the end of the abstract.

Possible Tools (extended abstract):

You may find the Manchester phrase bank (<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/about-academic-phrasebank/>) helpful in terms of putting your argument together.

Interdisciplinary writing

If you are working on an interdisciplinary project, you will probably find it very useful to use diagrams to explain Interdisciplinarity and common ground (Repko, 2007).

References:

Repko, A.F., 2007. Integrating Interdisciplinarity: How the Theories of Common Ground and Cognitive Interdisciplinarity Are Informing the Debate on Interdisciplinary Integration. *ISSUES IN INTEGRATIVE STUDIES*, 25, pp.1–31.

Associated notes:

Hartley 2008, Academic writing and publishing - EdShare Southampton	http://edshare.soton.ac.uk/16360/
Room for Writing: How to write an abstract - EdShare	http://edshare.soton.ac.uk/17371/
Room for Writing: Approaching a literature review - EdShare	http://edshare.soton.ac.uk/17645/
Room for Writing: Automatic note taking - EdShare	http://edshare.soton.ac.uk/17294/