

ACS Books

Guidelines for Abstracts

Authors are asked to abstract their chapters in 125 words or fewer. *Chemical Abstracts* will use author abstracts if they are suitable, so the abstracts will be published more quickly in CA if they are in CA style. The following guidelines have been extracted from CA's "Directions for Abstractors".

Purpose. Abstracts are expected to report the basic informational content of the chapter.

Content

1. The abstract must summarize the technical content of the chapter and furnish sufficient information to allow the reader of CA to judge whether he or she should consult the chapter in the book for all of the details.
2. The abstract must be self-contained and understandable apart from and without reference to the chapter. It can be assumed that the reader is knowledgeable in the field, but special terminology, abbreviations, and jargon should be defined.
3. The abstract can include a brief statement of why the work was done, but it should not include background or other introductory material.
4. The abstract should answer any questions posed by the title.

The First Sentence. The first sentence is critical. It is usually a brief information statement of the major results reported in the chapter. The reader should have to go no further if the subject is of little interest to him or her. It does not include a restatement of the title. It may contain specific data. For example, a general statement that an important measurement was made is insufficient; include the results. Facts contained in the first sentence are not repeated later.

The Remaining Text. The text that follows the first sentence may consist of supporting statements, methodology, test results, activities of the users for chemical compounds studied, indications of the number and types of chemical compounds included, limits of accuracy and reliability, and additional results and conclusions. This information is described concisely but informatively to the degree necessary for understanding. Only enough data are given to support the results and conclusions. The content varies with the particular type of chemical subject being reported.

Interpretation must be differentiated from fact. Predictions and plans for future work are omitted. Negative results and unsuccessful experiments are reported in a general, summarized form.