

## How to compose an Abstract/Summary?

A summary is one of the abbreviated forms associated with the submission of a scientific article. The purpose of a summary is to attract the attention of the reader, to, with economy of language, evoke readers' interest in both the subject of research and its contribution to the field. Each of these points must be clearly shown in the abstract and not merely implied. All research articles in the journal must contain a summary written by the author.

An abstract is a particular genre of scientific exposition which lays out the argument of its contents. This genre is distinguished from that of the article itself in the form of its composition. If the logic of an argument and its proof must be contained in a text, so it must be in the abstract, confirming the results of analysis and evidence. In this manner, the contents of the abstract must be stated in general, but with ample information; i.e., stated in a predicative manner ('stating 'x"') and not in a thematic matter ('discussing what 'x' is about').

There are requirements for the length of an abstract and its contents. For an article published in *Vestnik SPbSU*, the ideal length of an abstract is between 500 and 900 characters with spaces, or under 200 words. We do not accept abstracts of more than 300 words.

In practice, the abstract is a shortened version of the article. Often it follows the compositional structure of the article: introduction, questions and aims, research methods, results, conclusion.

Poorly written abstracts repeat the article's title, are replete with over-generalised terms, do not state the object of research, or are unacceptably brief.

The abstract is always accompanied by keywords. A keyword is a word in the text which presents the article with the aid of other keywords. Keywords are mainly used for searching. A collection of keywords for the publication (in a searchable form) are close to the abstract.

The texts of abstracts along with keywords must be submitted in both Russian and English.

A well-written abstract in English allows for:

1. acquaintance of a foreign researcher with the contents of the article, its original language and his or her ability to comprehend it notwithstanding.
2. breaking through the language barrier of a researcher who cannot read the Russian language.
3. increase in the likelihood of citation by foreign colleagues.

These same qualities apply to the Russian abstract, but for Russian readers and those with access to the language.

A high-quality abstract is essential in a world saturated with information.