

Abstracts*

Purposes:

1. Selection and evaluation
2. Information
3. Current awareness
4. Indexing
5. Access and Retrieval

Types of abstracts:

By Source

1. Author
2. Indexing Company

By Audience/Orientation

1. General
2. User-oriented
3. Discipline-oriented
4. Mission-oriented

By informative Components

1. Indicative
2. Informative
 - a. Purpose-oriented
 - b. Findings-oriented
 - c. Reader-oriented
3. Critical

Indicative Abstract:

[Descriptive] Indicates or describes the principal topics in a document.

Includes information on:

- ◆ Purpose
- ◆ Scope and/or methodology

Does NOT include:

- ◆ Results
- ◆ Conclusions
- ◆ Recommendations

Informative Abstract:

Contains:

- Key results
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

May include:

- Methodology
- Purpose
- Scope

Critical Abstract:

Contains evaluative commentary on the significance of the document. Generally written by a subject expert.

*Content from Elin Jacobs' Fall 1999 Course: L505: Organization and Representation of Knowledge. Indiana University, School of Library and Information Science. Bloomington, Indiana.