Visual Abstracts and Feature Figures : design and submission instructions

Visual Abstract

A *visual abstract* (VA) is a stand-alone *visual* representation of your research for use online. It should visually summarise what you did, why you did it and how you did it. The VA should also provide a clear representation of the main outcomes of the work (your findings, or a statement about the novelty of your ideas) and the likely gains these provide to a specific research sub-field or other beneficiary (perhaps an industry, community, demographic, ecosystem etc.).

Visual Abstracts : New Communication Media for Research Published in Artificial Life

Editors-in-Chief: Alan Dorin and Susan Stepney   @ARTL_journal

| What did you do? Why did you do it? What is the context? | What methods did you use? What did you discover or achieve? What is novel? | Who benefits from your research? What is the importance of the outcome? |
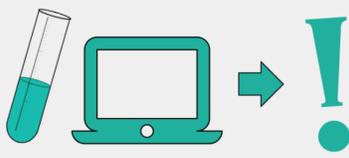
Visual abstracts are a concise and attractive way to communicate your research to a broad audience. Ultimately this can increase interest in your work, boost readership and promote research impact.

https://direct.mit.edu/artl/pages/submission-guidelines

A simple, sample visual abstract. Visual abstracts need not conform to this very basic style, but should include the same information as presented here, and be arranged with a clear visual hierarchy. Ensure the visual abstract is stand-alone, and that the title of the article to which it refers, the journal (Artificial Life) in which it is published, and the article's authorship are explicitly stated.

The ideal VA is attractive, self-explanatory and enticing. In this way it can increase interest in your work. *Artificial Life* will post graphical abstracts of suitable quality alongside articles online, but they are not subject to external review. The editors of *Artificial Life* may decline to post a VA,

for instance if it is felt to be of insufficient quality, but will endeavour to liaise with authors to minimise the likelihood of this eventuality.

Permissions: VAs must be original, unique images and are subject to the same copyright and ownership requirements as other figures associated with the accepted article.

Format: VAs should be provided in postscript or vector-based PDF, .tiff, .eps or other high-resolution image format *and* in bitmap format (JPG, GIF, PNG) free of visible compression artefacts around text and linework. Set image file dimensions to 1200 x 675 px or above, maintaining an aspect ratio of 16:9. If text is included within the image, a clear sans serif typeface (e.g. Helvetica, Atkinson Hyperlegible) is preferred at a clearly legible size at 1200 x 675px. Don't include text such as "Visual Abstract" within the image.

Feature figure

A *feature figure* can be a duplicate or slightly modified key image from the article, or it can be a specifically designed graphic that does not appear in the article. The feature figure will be used to assist in the promotion of your research via social media. This can increase readership and enhance the impact of your publication. The ideal feature figure is attractive and self-explanatory. It should encapsulate the key research of the accepted paper in a stand-alone fashion.

Feature figures may replace visual abstracts for social media use, but they will not be published by *Artificial Life* alongside an article since it is assumed that they already form a direct part of the main manuscript.

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Format: Feature figures should be provided in bitmap format (JPG, GIF, PNG) free of visible compression artefacts around text and linework. Set feature figure image file dimensions to 1200 x 675px or above, maintaining an aspect ratio of 16:9. If text is included within the image, a clear sans serif typeface (e.g. Helvetica) is preferred at a clearly legible size at 1200 x 675 px. Don't include text such as "Feature Figure" within the image.