

Abstracts

- Taxonomy by Swales:
 - Research Paper (RP) summary vs. results-driven abstracts
 - Informative vs. indicative abstracts (do you give specific results [informative] or indicate generally that there are results [indicative])
 - Abstract or summary?
 - Tense, person, length, passive / active
 - The increasing use of 'structured' abstracts (from medicine)

(cf. Swales & Feak 2004:282-284)

Indicative vs. informative abstracts

- Informative:
 - Purpose
 - Scope
 - Approach
 - Results
 - Conclusion(s)
- Indicative:
 - Purpose
 - Scope
 - Approach

IS III: Moves in abstracts (following Swales & Feak 2009)

- Move 1: Background/Introduction/Situation
 - *Many scholars claim that democracy improves the welfare of the poor*
- Move 2: Present research/purpose
 - *The objective of this study was to...*
- Move 3: Methods/materials/subjects/procedures
 - *We interviewed...; Classification studies using XYZ have been used...*
- Move 4: Results/findings
 - *Numerical results are presented as...; The results show...*
- Move 5: Discussion/conclusion/implications/recommendations
 - *The general characteristics....demonstrate the capability of the proposed procedure...; We conclude that...*

Swales, J.M & Feak, C.B. 2009. *Abstracts and the Writing of Abstracts*. Ann Arbor: The Univ. of Michigan Press

Sample abstract (SE)

Agile software development has transitioned from small projects to large-scale enterprise settings, incorporating additional influences from lean manufacturing principles such as an end-to-end perspective. At an Ericsson AB development unit, one such process consisting of both agility and planning is deployed in a large-scale setting, having more than 300 developers within more than 30 teams continuously developing software comprising several million lines of code. In this study, thirteen employees of that particular unit participated in interviews, in a workshop and responded to a questionnaire. The collected data was analyzed using an analysis process influenced by grounded theory, resulting in a characterization of friction, i.e. gaps in expected behavior and actual observations between employees in units of the organization working either plan-based or according to agile practices. The results showed that such friction was present between plan-based product management and agile development, as well as between agile development and the plan-based release unit. Furthermore, it was indicated that separation of agile and plan-based organizational units leads to a lack of understanding others' work and valuations, limiting possibilities to optimize across the whole organization. In general, findings indicated a need for improving this end-to-end perspective and it was therefore suggested to incorporate plan-based units into the agile way of working in order to lower barriers to achieve cross-organizational improvements.

Abstract advice!

- Work with abstracts from your own references and with the abstract from the report you are opponents for. Try to decide whether they are informative or indicative, and whether they are summaries or results-driven abstracts
- Read two or three abstracts and compare them.
 - Type? Length? Linguistic features?
- What are the lessons you learned and how will you improve your own abstract?

