

Abstracts

The Abbreviated IMRaD

Frequently Used In:
Research Papers,
Proposals, and
Applications

An abstract gives an abbreviated summary of your research and includes all the major sections of a scientific research paper—even if the paper isn’t scientific. This structure introduces your research topic, explains your methodology, your results, and what those results might mean. Since abstracts are short (250 words), their aim is to communicate complex ideas as clearly and concisely as possible. Below is a reminder of IMRaD’s research structure.

Introduction

- Topic
- Research Gap
- Aim of the Study

Methods

- Study Design
- Interventions
- Measurements
- Analysis Method

Results

- Most Important Result
- Other Results in Specific Order

Discussion

- Explain Results
- Relevance and Applicability
- Further Research

Example Abstract

Alice and Jumbo: Intersecting Stories at the London Zoological Gardens

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Title and Author

Introduction

Jumbo is remembered as the most famous elephant in British and American history as the first male African elephant at the London Zoological Gardens and later on tour as part of P. T. Barnum’s travelling show. Even after his death, Jumbo was often accompanied by an elephant whose story is nearly eclipsed by his own, his female counterpart, Alice. The story of Jumbo and Alice has attracted a boom of scholarship in recent decades, possibly as a result of the movement to remove elephants from zoos and circuses, but even their histories are necessarily incomplete to us. An examination of archival records on Alice from the London Zoological Society, the P. T. Barnum archives from Tufts University, and recent biological and behavioral research on wild African elephants reveals how Alice and Jumbo’s story is layered with meanings, each of them dependent on who is telling the story—on who is acting as the witness. As we learn more about elephant behavior in the wild, the dissonance between history and memory increases and provides a clearer view of why elephants were in London in the first place.

Results

Methods

Discussion