Video Abstracts: A Guide for Authors and Editors

A video abstract is an audio-visual recording in which an author briefly outlines the purpose, methodology, originality and results of their research paper. Video abstracts are published alongside the textual abstract so that readers can access both versions. A video abstract is not a video of the author reading the textual abstract aloud word for word.

Video abstracts offer authors an alternative way of engaging with their audience. They are useful as a promotional tool and could help readers to grasp the concept of the research more quickly and easily. Video and multimedia content is increasing in its popularity and use across academia and the world of practice. Submitting a video abstract can be a great way to raise the online profile of your paper.

Video Abstract Examples Published on Taylor & Francis Online

- This example from the journal *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* is a video abstract presented by the author of an article entitled “Thrilling Affects: Sexuality, Masculinity, the City and ‘Indian Traditions’ in the Contemporary Hindi ‘Detective’ Novel” by Sanjay Srivastava
- This example from the journal *Cogent Education* is a video abstract presented by the author of an article entitled “Creating cultures of excellence: Strategies and outcomes” by Michael Mintrom
- This example from the journal *Ethnopolitics: Formerly Global Review of Ethnopolitics* is a video abstract presented by the author of an article entitled “Situational Nationalism: Nation-building in the Balkans, Subversive Institutions and the Montenegrin Paradox” by Erin K. Jenne & Florian Bieber
- This example from the journal *Road Materials and Pavement Design* is a video abstract presented by the author of an article entitled “Development of an Accelerated Pavement Test Reproducing the Effect of Natural Ageing on Skid Resistance” by Dr. M. Kane et al.

Editorial Guidelines

- The video abstract should not last longer than five minutes.
- The video abstract should clearly outline the purpose, methodology, originality and results of a research paper and discuss possible future developments in the field as a result of the work.
- The video abstract should be accessible to those outside of the immediate subject area of the article.
- Inclusion of additional relevant material such as images, animations and simulations are strongly encouraged.
- The video abstract must include a soundtrack providing a clear verbal description of the visual content.
- Presentations should not include small text or images that will be difficult to see.
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- All video abstracts should be accompanied by a full word-for-word written transcript (a written version of material originally presented in another medium).

Making the Recording

Some prefer to write a script to read from during the recording and it is worth noting that you can edit out hesitations and unwanted speech when you have completed your recording.

Deciding where you make the recording is crucial as it is important to minimise background noise as much as possible. Avoid rooms next to busy corridors or roads as this will detract from the quality of the recording. A quiet room is usually the best place to make the recording.

If you are making a recording and you notice sounds from a loud group of people outside or are interrupted in any way, simply pause, leave the recorder running, wait for the noise to subside and pick up the recording at the start of your previous point. You can then edit the interruption out of the recording at a later date.

It is your responsibility to edit the recording before submitting it for approval.

A good quality digital recording device should be available from your institution’s IT department. Digital recorders are typically easy to use; it is normally as simple as just pressing record and stop!

Technical specifications

Video abstracts must meet minimum standards of quality for both video and audio components. In creating a video abstract, authors are asked to meet the following specifications:

- Frame rate: 25–30 frames per second
- Aspect ratio: 16:9, square pixels, deinterlaced
- Frame size: (minimum) 640 × 360 pixels
- Format: .mov, .mpg, or .mp4
- Video codec: H.264, mp2, mp4
- Video encoding: 2 pass H.264 preferred
- Keyframe: at least every six seconds
- Video bitrate: 480–2672 kbps
- Audio bitrate: 16-bit AAC audio at a sampling frequency of 44.1kHz
- Bitrate of 128–192 kbps
- Maximum file size: 300 MB

PLEASE NOTE: all video abstracts will be assessed for editorial suitability and quality. Video abstracts that do not meet the above criteria will not be published.
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We recommend that video abstracts run for approximately 5 minutes. If they are longer viewers may be less inclined to watch the complete video.

Submissions Guidelines

Please submit all files through ZendTo, a file transfer website, hosted by Routledge, which allows you to transfer files of up to 2GB internationally. The journal’s Managing Editor will arrange the set-up of this for you in consultation with the journal Editor(s).

We require you to sign a Recording Rights Agreement before we can publish your video abstract. The Journal’s Managing Editor will arrange for this to be forwarded on to you. Please sign the agreement and post/email it back as soon as possible, as without it we are unable to host your video abstract.

We also require you to submit a full word-for-word written transcript of the video abstract at the time of submitting the video files and any other supplemental material. Transcripts should be submitted in an editable format such as Microsoft Word.

All files should be submitted after your paper has been accepted for publication.

Resources

There are many resources available to authors who would like to record a video abstract. Please take a look at the following:

Smart Blog on Social Media: 11 tips for creating better online videos
Apple: iMovie
YouTube: create videos
Microsoft: Movie Maker
Go! Animate
NCH Software: Video Capture Software

Don’t forget that you may already have some useful software and features on your computer or laptop to enable you to create a video. You can plug microphones into your computer which may help to pick up a better sound quality than using an in-built speaker. Making a recording in a quiet
room away from distracting background noise might sound obvious, but really does help in making a good quality recording.