Sample paper: a standard template for preparing ASA conference papers

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3 If all authors are from the same Institution then superscript numbered labels are not required

# Abstract

A simplified web format is presented. By simplifying the format it is possible to maintain the original style of the printed proceedings for output in PDF format while allowing easy incorporation into web-based format. Left aligned text is easier to read on-screen and a single font type (Times New Roman, 11 point, black at single line spacing) for the whole proceedings provides clarity of presentation. A Harvard referencing system is adopted. To improve visual presentation alternative font sizes are used for the title (14 point bold), address (9 point) and caption (10 point). Headings may have two levels (bold and italic) and are not capitalised. The abstract should contain a summary of the context and aim of the paper, the information to be presented and the key conclusions.

# Keywords

No more than a single line of key words in order of decreasing relevance. e.g.  
Allelopathic compounds, weed control, molecular techniques.

# Introduction

This is a 2-page sample paper only, in that there is no logical flow or connection between the headings, which are used here to show the styles to be used for the various heading levels, and to order the information needed by authors in preparing their papers. Contributed papers are limited to a **maximum of 4 pages** while invited papers are unlimited. The data, table, figure and references cited in this example paper bear no relation to the text and are purely to illustrate the recommended format for papers. The blue text has been amended to clarify where there was significant departure by authors in 2017 from the published format.

Society members and the wider community have full access to the latest advances in their field via the Internet in an open, HTML format. Consistent standards and guidelines for formatting Word documents enable automation of the publishing process (Parker 2005) and improved presentation for Web publication.

# Methods

## Second level headings should be in Italics

Sub headings are important to distinguish from main headings and normal text. Normal text is Times New Roman, 11 point, with the title larger (14 point, bold) and address smaller (9 point). Of course, there are many other ways to present data (Fischer 1985; Muchow and Carberry 1989). The examples here are just a guide. When citing other work containing more than two authors cite the first author followed by et al. (not in italics). In the Reference list at the end of the paper if you have space you can list all the authors but may reduce them to first author followed by et al. for more than two authors (Fischer et al. 2004; Holzworth et al. 2014).

## Units

Units to be metric as used in the Australian Journals. For example, grain yield was 5.4 t/ha or 5.4 t ha-1 or 540 g m-2 and its water use efficiency was 10.4 kg/ha/mm or 10.4 kg ha-1 mm-1. However, in any single paper the style of units should be consistent. Also, please place a space between numbers and its units (e.g. < 5 mm or 100 %).

# Results

Ensuring continuity in the publication of the proceedings is a challenge because of the different types of the five year intervals between international conferences, and rotation of the organising committee. This template will help future conference organisers maintain key features of previous proceedings while allowing flexibility to incorporate new publishing technology. Please do not straddle Tables (Table 1) or Figures (Figure 1) over page boundaries and do not wrap text around Tables or Figures (Figures 1 and 2). Compound Figures imbedded into Tables are also fine (see instructions above).

Table 1. Effect of tillage treatment on soil bulk density, water content and saturated hydraulic conductivity (*Ks*). Natural log transformed data, ln(x+1), are in parentheses. Tables should not be images of text or greatly exceed page boundaries. This is to allow quick editing.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tillage treatment | Bulk density (g/cm3) | Water content (g/cm3) | *Ks* (mm/h) |
| Zero tillage | 0.99 | 0.331 | 145 (4.982) |
| Conventional | 0.98 | 0.328 | 12 (2.583) |
| LSD(P=0.05) | 0.04 | 0.023 | (0.548) |

Tables and figures should be left aligned for consistency (Figure 1). All figures and tables should be referred to in the preceding or following text. Captions of tables and figures should be as concise as possible, but must be able to stand alone in explaining the information contained and its source.



Figure 1. The spatial distribution of Mallee Eucalyptus species open-scrub in Australia. Predominant areas (■) coinciding with largely alkaline soils that now comprise significant cropping areas and other areas (░) where Mallee vegetation is significant but not predominant. Map reproduced from Hill (1989).

# Conclusion

The main features of the simplified format are left aligned text, tables and images and a simplified Harvard referencing system. Hyperlinked references provide readers with "one-click" access to further information. Authors’ attention to detail in formatting abstracts and papers can add greatly to the clarity of their work, and save the editorial committee and reviewers’ considerable time and effort. When amending your paper please show your changes with track changes ON or use coloured text if it is too messy. This streamlines the review process and is important because of the large number of papers needing to be reviewed in a short time by a small group.

# References

Note the format of the references with full journal names without italics or bolding but with minimal punctuation (Liu et al. 2015).

Fischer J, Smith R and Jones CR (2004). Old directions for a new planet. In: Proceedings of the 10th World Fishing Congress, 20 September - 1 October 2004. Timbuktu, Mali. (<https://www.google.com.au/>). (http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2009.08.014).

Hill KD (1989). The spatial distribution of Mallee Eucalyptus in Australia. In: Mediterranean Landscapes in Australia - Mallee Ecosystems and their Management. CS John, PJ Parker Eds. pp. 93-108, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne, VIC. (http://optional internet address in brackets for any publication).

Holzworth DP, et al. (2014). APSIM – Evolution towards a new generation of agricultural systems simulation. Environmental Modelling and Software 62, 327–350. (doi:10.1016/j.envsoft.2014.07.009).

Liu DL, et al. (2015). Modelling soil organic carbon 2. Effects of stocking rate, nitrogen fertiliser and stubble retention on changes across farming systems in eastern Australia. In: Proceedings of the 17th Australian Society of Agronomy Conference, 21 – 24 September 2015, Hobart, TAS. (http://www.agronomyaustraliaproceedings.org/).

Muchow RC and Carberry PS (1989). Environmental control of phenology and leaf growth in a tropically adapted maize. Field Crops Research 20, 221-236. (http://optional internet address in brackets for any publication).

Parker DH (2005). Wheat proteins and nutrition. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.