

The Scientific Research Poster

Relates to Activities 6.3: Recognising a scientific research poster and 6.4: Designing a scientific research poster

A scientific poster is a visual presentation of scientific research in a standard form, with heading, name of researcher, name of research institute, text, tables and illustrations displaying the results of the research. It is commonly used at scientific conferences, in addition to lectures, in view of the growing amount of research work and the desire to provide opportunities for all of it to be displayed. A special session, in a designated hall, is usually dedicated to the presentation of posters. The researchers can stand nearby to answer questions from other conference participants. At some conferences a committee reviews the posters and chooses the best among them, from the point of view of research, and their creators are asked to present the work to the audience at a special session, within a limited time (usually about 10 minutes).

The scientific poster format is an excellent way of presenting students' research work. It necessitates a brief and fluent formulation, setting out all the stages of the research in a condensed, clear and interesting form. The process requires thought and planning on selection of information and on design. It is a hands-on experience involving creative activity, teamwork and division of roles.

The scientific poster can provide an opportunity for students who are 'weaker' in the area of content to express themselves by means of creative display. Posters can be shown in an exhibition for other students, parents, and visitors to see. This gives opportunities for students to stand by their posters, show their research and answer questions. The exhibition can be on display for an extended period, for the enjoyment of visitors and as a source of pride for the students.

Notes and guidelines on making posters

Remember, your scientific poster is an advertisement of your work!

Planning

- ◆ Find out what the poster size should be, what formats (such as font size) you should use, where it will be displayed, and who will see it.
- ◆ Plan the content of your poster. Choose a heading. Select what information to include and what to leave out.

- ◆ Use graphs, tables and coloured illustrations. Use photographs, provided that they help you to make your points.

- ◆ Make a sketch of the layout of your poster.

Making

- ◆ Under the heading write your names and school name.
- ◆ Colour attracts attention, but too much can be distracting. Use one colour for all of the text and one for the background. Dark type on a light background is easiest to read.
- ◆ Don't overcrowd your poster. Leave space around the text.
- ◆ A poster is read like a newspaper or magazine. Type text in columns. Columns should not vary in width.
- ◆ The information flow should be from top to bottom or from left to right, but not both or the reader can get confused.
- ◆ The captions and illustrations should be large enough to read from two metres away.
- ◆ Use a computer to display text clearly, and to process data for tables and graphs. Use plain fonts such as Arial, Helvetica, and Times New Roman. Spell-check and get someone else to 'proof-read' your poster.
- ◆ If a suitable printer is available, print the whole poster on one large sheet so you don't need to use glue.

Continued overleaf



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Recommended font sizes

T

itle: 85pt minimum (size will vary to fit the space).

N

ames of authors and their organisations: 56pt minimum

S

ub-headings: 36pt minimum

B

ody text: 24pt minimum

C

aptions: 18pt minimum

Samples

You can find examples of scientific posters at these websites:

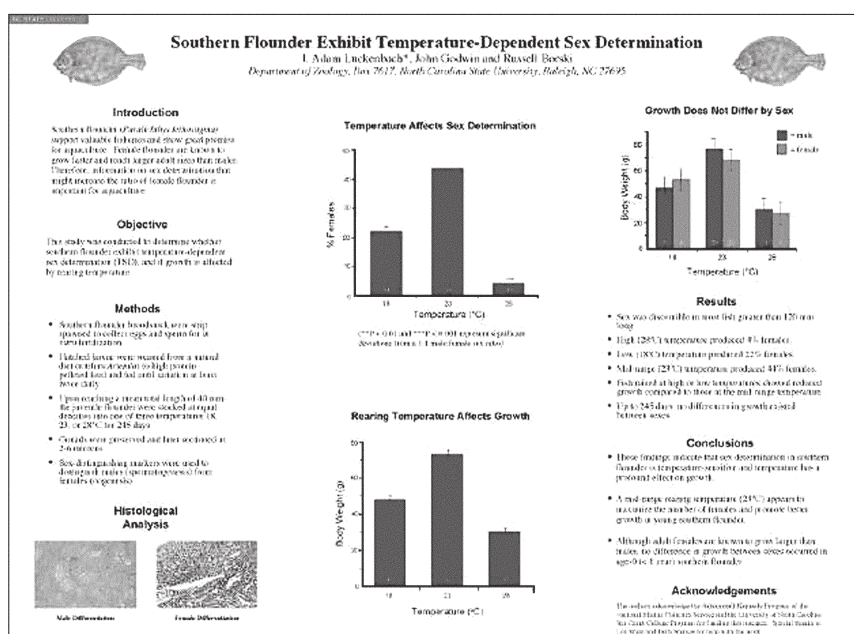
- ◆ <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/examples/>
- ◆ <http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign>
- ◆ <http://www.the-aps.org/careers/careers1/GradProf/gposter.htm>
- ◆ <http://www.ce.umn.edu/~smith/supplements/poster/guide.htm>
- ◆ <http://www.ncsu.edu.project/posters/IndexStart.html>
- ◆ <http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/CAPLE/poster>.



6.3

Recognising a scientific research poster: appendix

SCIENTIFIC POSTERS



Source: <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/examples/>



6. Knowledge Presentation

6.4

Designing a scientific research poster: worksheet

Present your research work in the form of a scientific poster. This will be part of a class exhibition.

1. Check the specifications of size and orientation, before you start your poster. You will need to know the maximum poster size and the orientation (landscape, portrait or square).
2. Study the 'Notes and guidelines on making a scientific poster'.
3. Make your poster as 'professional' as you can.
4. Compare your posters with others from your class.
5. As a class, decide which poster is the best.
6. Use the example here to help you plan:

Poster title goes here

Author's Name/s Goes Here, Author's Name/s Goes Here, Author's Name/s Goes Here
Address/es Goes Here, Address/es Goes Here, Address/es Goes Here

Introduction
First...
Check with conference organisers on their specifications of size and orientation, before you start your poster eg. maximum poster size, landscape, portrait or square.
The page size of this poster template is square (96 x 96cm) format. Do not change this page size. MIU can scale-to-fit a smaller or larger size when printing. If you need a different shape start with either a portrait (vertical) or a landscape (horizontal) poster template.
Bear in mind you do not need to fill up the whole space allocated by some conference organisers (eg. 86x4ft in the USA). Do not make your poster bigger than necessary just to fill that given size.

Aim
How to use this poster template...
Simply highlight this text and replace it by typing in your own text, or copy and paste your text from a MS Word document or a PowerPoint slide presentation.
The body text / font size should be between 24 and 32 points. Arial, Helvetica or equivalent.
Keep body text left-aligned, do **not** justify text.
The colour of the text, title and poster background can be changed to the colour of your choice.

Methods
Tips for making a successful poster...
● Re-write your paper into poster format ie. Simplify everything, avoid data overkill.
● Headings of more than 6 words should be in upper and lower case, not all capitals.
● Never do whole sentences in capitals or underline to stress your point, use **bold** characters instead.
● When laying out your poster leave breathing space around your text. Don't overcrowd your poster.
● Try using photographs or coloured graphs. Avoid long numerical tables.
● Spell check and get someone else to proof-read.

Results
Importing / inserting files...
Images such as photographs, graphs, diagrams, logos, etc., can be added to the poster.
To insert scanned images into your poster, go through the menus as follows: Insert / Picture / From File... then find the file on your computer, select it, and press OK.
The best type of image files to insert are JPEG or TIFF, JPEG is the preferred format.
Be aware of the image size you are importing. The average colour photo (13 x 18cm at 180dpi) would be about 3Mb (1Mb for BW greyscale). Call MIU if unsure.
Do not use images from the web.
Notes about graphs...
For simple graphs use MS Excel, or do the graph directly in PowerPoint.
Graphs done in a scientific graphing programs (eg. Sigma Plot, Prism, SPSS, Statistical) should be saved as JPEG or TIFF if possible. For more information see MIU.

Printing and Laminating
Once you have completed your poster, bring it down to MIU for printing. We will produce a A3 size draft print for you to check and proof read. The final poster will then be printed and laminated.
Note: Do not leave your poster until the last minute. Allow at least 5 working days before you need to use it.
Simply highlight this text and replace.

Cost
For poster-printing and laminating charges contact to MIU

Conclusion
For more information on:
Poster Design, Scanning and Digital Photography, and Image / file size.
Contact:
Medical Illustration Unit
Prince of Wales Hospital
Ph: 9382 2600
Email: miunsw@unsw.edu.au
Web: <http://miu.med.unsw.edu.au>

Acknowledgements
Just highlight this text and replace with your own text. Replace this with your text.

Captions to be set in Times or Times New Roman or equivalent, italic, between 10 and 24 points. Right aligned if it refers to a figure on its right. Caption starts right at the top edge of the picture (graph or photo).

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Source: http://miu.med.unsw.edu.au/sci_posters.htm