

Writing a Conference Synopsis

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The purpose of the conference synopsis is to describe the conference topic and its value, so that researchers can decide whether the papers are relevant to their own work and so indexers can easily identify the value and ascertain potential impact of this particular collection of proceedings.

Think about the reasons this conference was held and this theme chosen:

- Is it focused around a new development or hot trend in this academic field?
- Does it celebrate and explore a new academic field or subfield?
- Does it mark an important anniversary or event related to the field?

The concepts presented in the CFP are particularly useful when writing the synopsis, the same reasons used to encourage submissions are relevant here.

The synopsis should be no more than 150-250 words, and should follow the below format:

This collection contains selected papers from the _____ Conference, held in [City, Country], [date].
This event was sponsored by / hosted by _____.

This conference was held to [promote specific theme / address key trend / commemorate a key event etc].

This collection contains ____ peer-reviewed papers on _____ [the academic field].

Topics include: _____.

These papers will be of interest to academics, students and professionals researching or working on _____.

Example:

This collection contains selected papers from the 14th Annual Newstead Abbey Byron Society Conference, held in Nottingham, UK, 14th-15th April 2020. This event was jointly hosted by The Byron Society and The Newstead Abbey Byron Society, and received sponsorship from the International Centre for Romantic Studies.

This conference explored the conjoined themes of Byron and Loss. 2020 marked the bicentenary of a troubling year for Great Britain – 1820 saw George III lose his life and the new king, George IV, was rapidly losing what little shreds remained of his dignity during the so-called Queen Caroline Affair. The government had lost the trust of the people and many politicians would have lost their lives had the Cato Street Conspiracy succeeded. Meanwhile, poet Lord Byron was rapidly losing his hair, teeth, famous good looks and – some might argue – his own dignity. It is against this backdrop that he became interested in Italian politics and more specifically the loss of political authority and national autonomy.

This collection contains 36 peer-reviewed papers exploring various elements of the theme of Byron and Loss.

Topics include grief and suicide, aging and dieting, reputation and status, political power and monarchy, the loss of national autonomy, the loss of love and lovers, loss of religious faith, writer's block, financial losses, and concepts of national and architectural ruin.

These papers will be of interest to academics, students and professionals researching Lord Byron, Romanticism, and the political and cultural turmoil of early nineteenth-century England.