Author's Guide to Writing SVC Proceeding Papers (2024)

SVC proceedings papers are generally aimed at the technical reader and will include information about the operation of equipment, new techniques, and R&D experiments of interest to both the academic and lay person. We do accept papers that have operational "hands on", or "best practices" value. We do not accept papers that are strictly commercial. Papers are not rigorously reviewed as is the case for archival, "peer-reviewed" journals. However, the SVC does review papers internally for readability and technical soundness. If our reviewers feel the work does not add anything to the field or is too commercial sounding the paper will be rejected. The final paper will be in the SVC double column Format and follow the template provided. Each paper will be assigned a standard DOI (digital object identifier) identification tag so it can be located by information searching services. The paper will be made available on the SVC Web site and allied sites and the abstract will be available to indexing services.

The Review Process:

The intent of the SVC review process is to ensure that the paper is understandable and meets a certain minimum level of readability. We also attempt to maintain a certain minimum level of scientific content, and to prevent the papers from being merely an advertisement for a company and/or a company's product. Specific guidelines are given below.

Common problems found in SVC Proceedings papers:

1) . Proper English: SVC realizes that for many authors English is not their native language. Good basic technical English is sufficient for SVC papers. As a writer your major goal is to make sure the reader can understand the procedures and experiments you performed, your data and analysis, and your conclusions. We encourage the use of a native English speaker to polish the English of the paper before sending it to SVC. English "slang" is not permitted.
2) The paper should be original (not including papers for the special issue of SC&T)
3) Paper should be about 6 pages, if it needs to be longer contact the Proceedings Editor.
4) Abstracts should contain the important findings of the paper and be self-sufficient. Sometimes the reader will only see the abstract to judge your work and findings. We realize that many writers write the abstract first before the paper /research is finished, to get into the TechCon sessions. In the final paper the Abstract must be rewritten to show the complete results and include the best data.
5) All abbreviations must be defined when they are first used in the abstract and then once in the body of the paper
6) Paper should not be too commercial sounding.

7) Overuse of copyright or trademarking (first instance only requires copyright ©, or TM symbol, with attribution to company). Many journals do not allow the use of trademarking.
8) All coatings and materials should be chemically defined, as best possible.
9) Papers must be developed enough and contain enough technical content to make the proper conclusions. We do accept work in progress if there is enough data to make important conclusions.

Common Pitfalls in Technical Writing:

1) Avoid "run-on" sentences (too many subjects/ideas in one sentence). Each sentence should have a single idea.
2) Excessive adjectives- the meaning gets lost with excessive description.
3) Avoid over-reaching (or too broad) conclusions or statements. Be careful of the use of terms like "we are the first to discover this", "revolutionary development", "novel".
4) Be careful of measurement accuracy, e.g., equipment calibration compared to the accuracy of data numbers. Frequently writers use too many places in numbers which do not reflect the real accuracy of the measurement (e.g., 2.13333 should be represented as 2.13 ± 0.01).
5) Use the proper superscripts or subscripts, especially with chemical formulas.
6) Periods should be used as decimal marks, not commas (e.g., 10.2 not 10,2).
7) Avoid weak conclusions. You should describe what you learned and why the results are significant.

Charts and Figures:

1) Figures and captions must be large enough to be read when reduced to a single column (3.5' or 8.5 cm). Figures should not contain information that is superfluous (unnecessary to the paper, such as run numbers and operator names).   Graphs need to have a readable scale, many instrument-generated scales are not easily read. During layout selected figures can be enlarged or stretched over both columns if necessary.

2) Data figures in color should have distinguishable data points and lines when viewed in B&W. For example, each group of data points should have a unique shape. (e.g., round dots, squares, triangles).
3) Consider statistical errors with too little data, e.g., two data points with a line drawn through them!
4) Figures should be originally yours, if other figures are used then a copyright release is needed from the publisher- for academic purposes these are easily granted. Add reference in caption.
5) Do not add unnecessary figures - those that add little to the discussion. e.g., those that are not mentioned in the manuscript or are similar.
6) Figures are poor resolution. Figures should be 300 dpi quality.

Contact Information:

SVC heavily promotes the interaction of our members. At the end of each paper, add contact information, including website. If you are a student, add your professor's contact information too.

Formatting:

The SVC provides a downloadable template which must be used for all manuscripts that are submitted to the Proceedings. This template ensures that all contributions adhere to essential standards and ensures that information is presented to our stakeholders in a uniform and consistent format. Instructions for formatting and composition follow are embedded in the 2024 manuscript template for your convenience.