

# Reading a Journal Article

Why are Journal Articles Hard to Read?

- They are dense and complicated
- Many concepts are presented but not explained
- Very limited introductory material.
- Bad writing.
- They are boring.
- Reading the article incorrectly.
- You may not have the background to understand.



# Reading a Journal Article

## How to Read a Journal Article

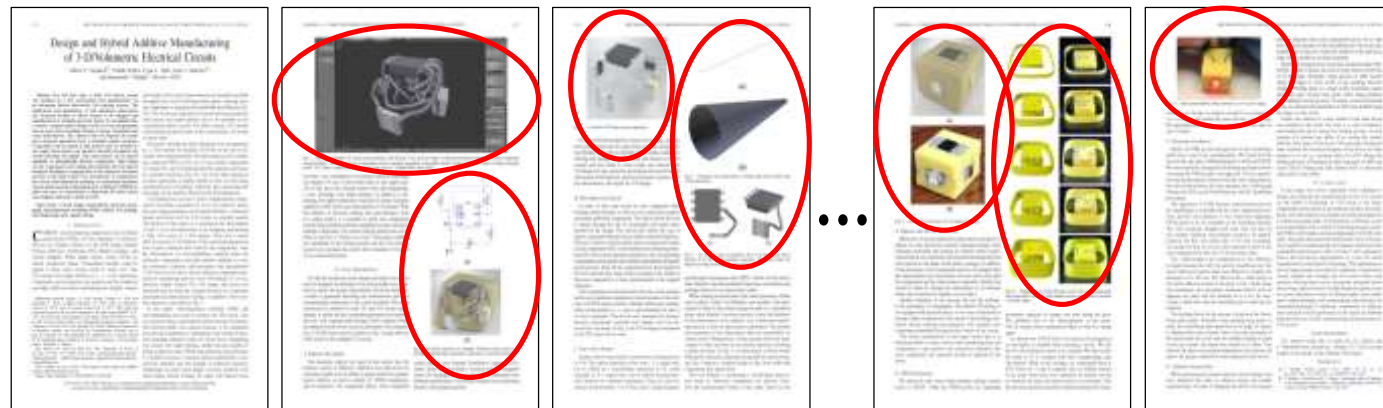
- Step 1 – Read the abstract
  - The abstract typically uses the simplest language and is specifically intended to give all the information needed to determine if the article is what is desired.
  - Disregard the article if it is not meaningful to the research.



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## How to Read a Journal Article

- Step 2 – Scan the Article
  - Get an idea of the value of the paper by looking at diagrams, equations, section headings, etc.



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## How to Read a Journal Article

- Step 3 – Stop Reading of Article Does Not Make Sense
  - Skip the most difficult articles when starting the search. Save them for later.



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## How to Read a Journal Article

- Step 4 – Read the Introduction
  - The introduction is the most valuable part of an article when starting a literature search. Identify relevant key words and literature sources cited by the paper.
  - Use those for additional literature searching.



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## How to Read a Journal Article

- Step 5 – Read the Conclusion
  - The key results and new information of the paper are summarized in the conclusion. If the results are not new or not interesting, stop here.



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- Step 6 – Read the Rest of the Article
  - Read the methods and body of the article only if it is relevant to the research and the paper is worthy of attention.

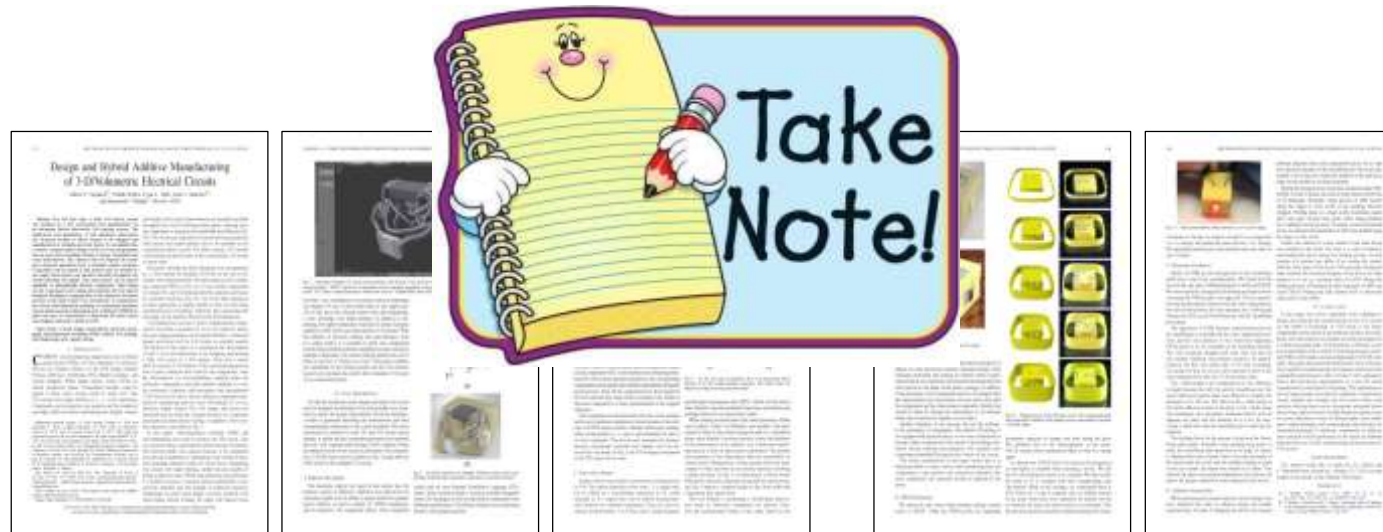




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## How to Read a Journal Article

- Step 7 – Take Notes
  - Consider importing PDFs into a tool like OneNote so things can be highlighted, notes and comments can be added, etc.





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## Conclusion

- Reading the literature can be difficult!
- Get started with the right resources.
- How to perform a comprehensive literature search.
- How to read a technical journal article.