

Conference Proceedings

Background. In 2013, Kim Warren as President of the Society appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of Bob Eberlein (VP for Electronic Presence), Len Malczynski (VP Meetings), and George Richardson (VP Publications) to consider changes to way our conference proceedings are handled.

We began with the thought that to grow the reputation of the field our conference proceedings ought to focus on high quality work. That suggested publishing only abstracts of all papers and presentations together with full papers of a selection of the best work at the conference. That thought went through five drafts as we consulted with the Publications Committee (Susan Howick, Étienne Rouwette, Ed Anderson, and Sara Metcalf), current and upcoming conference program cochairs (Pål Davidsen, Étienne Rouwette, Khalid Saeed, Karim Chichakly), and others including John Sterman, David Andersen and Roberta Spencer.

Resolution. In the end, Len Bob, and I concluded that the proper course of action is to continue with conference proceedings largely as we have had them in the past, reproducing all abstracts and papers presented at the conference, but contained not in a printed document or on CD but rather maintained on the Society web site as **Web Proceedings**. We also believe it is important to explicitly encourage conference authors to try to publish their papers elsewhere.

In an effort to capture the richness of the thinking that our process involved, we have decided that the following paragraphs characterize essential understandings about our conference proceedings and should appear in the Call for Papers and all announcements about drafts and final copy for the Web Proceedings:

Conference papers and presentations are a networking tool for members of the Society and those who attend a conference. The Conference provides a venue for presenting work and receiving comments that can strengthen the work and help to prepare it for wider distribution.

The Society will produce and maintain Web Proceedings of abstracts and papers to provide a complete record of presentations at the Conference. The Web Proceedings are not intended to be a substitute for publishing in peer-reviewed journals.

The strength of the field requires publishing good work, reaching audiences beyond those attending our conferences. Consult with experienced professional system dynamics colleagues for suggestions on making your work ready for publication and for suggestions of where to publish.

Abbreviating your paper for the Web proceedings is a good idea if you intend to publish it after the conference, as many journals will refuse to publish the same paper that has appeared elsewhere, including conference proceedings.

Submitted by George Richardson, Bob Eberlein, and Len Malczynski, July 2014.