

**University of Sussex
Brighton
5th – 7th July 2024
60 Years of UKLA
Making the Difference**

Conference Theme 2024

The 60th year of UKLA and our 59th international conference will be a special occasion for the United Kingdom Literacy Association and all its members. We will be celebrating 60 years of our Association's work in literacy education. It will be an occasion to look back but, very importantly, to look ahead to the future.

The theme of the conferences is 'Making the difference: what has had an impact on learning, engagement and attitudes? Literacy learning across the world, from early years to adulthood has been through some tumultuous times over recent years. Teachers and lecturers alike have had to adapt, find new skills and be resourceful. This conference will provide the space and time to sit back and reflect. To revisit or share new research and evidence. To allow time to really consider what does make a difference to literacy learning.

This conference will explore broad themes such as what do the most successful schools do to teach reading'? How do we get our A' level students to want to study English? How do we navigate the challenges of AI to make effective assessments in English at Universities and colleges? We hope to hear voices from across the spectrum of education for literacy.

Through the themes, we hope to focus a lens on our disadvantaged pupils and students. The very best teachers have made the difference to those pupils, used literacy to provide a lifeline and life chance. We are keen to share those stories, to perhaps help inform future education policies.



Conference Formats

We invite proposals for a range of formats outlined below. We encourage those who wish to be playful with approaches to presenting and involving participants, and the use of different kinds of presentation. It will, however, be important to stick to the timings outlined for each format. Please do make sure your submission clearly fits the format you have chosen, as the reviewing process looks at the match between the abstract and the chosen format. So, for example, it is important that a workshop submission gives some information about the nature of activity and interaction; that a research report or symposium makes clear the underpinning research; and that an Expert Practice session clearly addresses an aspect of professional practice. This year we will require a 250-word abstract, of which the first 50 words should provide a synopsis to allow us to publish a programme overview – if accepted, this will be used as the text for the conference programme.

Research Report

This is a presentation of completed or ongoing research with details of the theoretical perspectives unpinning this work, the data collection and analysis methods used, and the key findings. The presentation will be strictly limited to 15 minutes with 5 -10 minutes discussion time.

Abstract Guidance: please specify clearly your research question, methodology and key findings.

Expert Practice Session

This is an opportunity to showcase a teaching, learning or assessment approach drawing on your professional practice and expertise, in line with UKLA's mission (<https://ukla.org/about/>). It may be linked to a project you have been involved with as a school, or it may be your own practice, and should include critical reflection on strengths and limitations of the approach. The presentation will be strictly limited to 15 minutes with 5 -10 minutes discussion time.

Abstract Guidance: please describe clearly what aspect of professional practice you will be presenting.

Symposium

This is a grouping of 3-4 research papers on a theme, perhaps from a single research project, or exploring an issue researched in different projects. We expect all empirical research presentations to have appropriate ethical approval. The papers are presented in sequence in about 45 minutes, with 20-30 minutes discussion at the end, facilitated by the symposium chair.

Abstract Guidance: please describe the theme of the symposium and the underpinning research; and give a title and one sentence description of each presentation. The abstract is 250 words in total so there is a need to be clear and concise!

Workshop

This is a **practical** session on a theme or practice. It is an **active participatory** learning experience for participants, with a minimum of presentational input and high levels of interaction. A workshop is one hour and 15 minutes allowing time for exploration and discussion. The number of workshops will be restricted so we will be looking for innovative practise,

Abstract Guidance: please outline the focus of the workshop and the nature of the workshop activities participants will experience.

Postgraduate Research Student Slam

This is an opportunity for anyone currently engaged in postgraduate programmes of research (Masters, EdD, PHD) to contribute to our Postgraduate Research Student Slam which will feature brief presentations of work in progress. Presentations are 10 minutes long - and may be supported using software such as PowerPoint; or by preparing a poster (digital or physical). Each presentation will be followed by 5 minutes questions and discussion. **The PGR sessions will be scheduled for Friday.**

Abstract Guidance: please outline the key focus of your research and your methods.

Presenter Information

The Oxford Abstracts system will ask you for the names of all authors involved in the submission – this allows you to include any colleague who has been involved in the research or practice which you are sharing. Only one person can be identified as 'Presenter' for the submission process, but any of the people listed can present at the conference, provided they have registered.

Submission of Proposals using Oxford Abstracts

Before submitting, please check the abstract guidance above regarding the different presentation types, as it is important that your abstract reflects the type of presentation you are submitting.

UKLA is using Oxford Abstracts as the conference administration system. It is simple to use, and you can access your submission again once it has been submitted. You will also register for the conference via Oxford Abstracts. The first step in submission is to register and create an account – **it is important to keep a record of your password etc so that you use the same name and account throughout the conference process** (or your submission and registration will not be connected!). **Please make the Oxford Abstracts email (no-reply@oxfordabstracts.com) a trusted sender in your email lists as school and university filters sometimes block this email when it is going out as a group email**

Please submit your abstract using the link below:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/6149/submitter>

There are two steps to the submission process:

1. You will first be asked to register on the system and will need to wait for a verification email, which comes to you in about thirty minutes.
2. Once this is done, you can then access the submission system and complete the submission form.
3. Do keep a record of your password so you can access the system to register and note your submission ID just in case you have any queries.

Deadline for submission: 7th January 2024

Date of decision: 15th January 2024

Deadline for presenter registration: 29th March 2024