How does EBSCO abstract and index EBSCOhost articles?

EBSCO abstractors scan each article and write abstracts that provide users with enough information to determine which articles are applicable to their research topic. Depending on the length and complexity of the article, abstracts range from a single-sentence description of the article to a paragraph summarizing its central points. EBSCO abstracts provide users with a clear snapshot of information contained within magazine or journal articles. In addition, the keywords used in abstracts aid the EBSCOhost search engine in delivering the most relevant results.

At the same time the abstracts are written, EBSCO abstractors apply subject headings that allow users to quickly and easily locate articles on a particular topic within one or more databases. Almost all of EBSCO’s citations include subject headings selected by the abstractor from EBSCO’s controlled Comprehensive Subject Index (CSI). These standard headings ensure that all material on the same topic is entered under the same heading for easy reference.

In addition to headings that describe the subject content of the article, headings are added for the names of people and companies and the titles of literary works, musical recordings, films, television programs and theatrical performances featured in the article. When the article focuses on particular geographic places, these place names are also added as headings. Whether users are searching for articles indexed with a specific heading, browsing a hierarchical thesaurus, or simply searching for keywords, EBSCO’s indexing helps them discover content relevant to their information needs.

Our abstracts and indexing reduce the amount of time spent sifting through information to find articles most relevant to the user’s search.