



**INITIAL CALL FOR RESEARCH STRANDS / TOPICS
ISAAC RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
BARCELONA, SPAIN -- JULY 30-31, 2010**

The ISAAC Research Symposium will be held in Barcelona, Spain, on July 30-31, 2010. This is the **Initial Call for Research Strands/Topics** for the symposium.

Lyle L. Lloyd, PhD, CCC-A, & SLP, Professor of Special Education, and Professor of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences at Purdue University, is Chair of the ISAAC 2010 Research Symposium. If you have any questions about the structure or organization of the symposium, please contact him at lloydaac@purdue.edu.

The Research Symposium will take place immediately following the ISAAC 2010 main conference. For further information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.isaac2010.org>.

**ISAAC 2010 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM:
INITIAL CALL FOR RESEARCH STRANDS/TOPICS**

Structure of the Research Symposium:

The Research Symposium will be all day Friday and Saturday until 13:30 hr (1:30pm) to enable participants enough time for full exploration and discussion of research issues, needs, etc. Most of the time will be devoted to the three or four concurrent strands/topics selected from those submitted.

The first day will not include an invited keynote or plenary speaker. This will allow more time to focus on the strands. The second day will include a plenary session of all the symposium participants to discuss the most significant issues (and questions) raised in each stand during the first day. Also, there will be two hours for the participants to continue work within their own selected strand. The exact sequence of these two activities will be determined in consultation with the chairs of the selected strands, but the symposium will be scheduled to end by Saturday at 13:30 hr (1:30pm).

The plan is to publish the proceedings on the ISAAC website within 2-3 months of the conference.

Strands/Topics:

Arrangements are being made to allow three or four research strands for the 2010 Research Symposium. Individuals or small groups having a research topic that they would like to thoroughly discuss during the July 2010 symposium should **submit a proposal as soon as possible, but no later than January 31, 2010**. A research committee will attempt to review all proposals and respond within one month for those proposals accepted. When preparing your proposals, remember that the intent of the Research Symposium is serious discussion of AAC research issues. They may range from fundamental/ basic to applied topics/issues.

THE PROPOSAL SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

***Strand Title:** (15 words Maximum):

This should be a descriptive title.

***Strand Chair:**

The strand chair should be the primary organizer and the person responsible for conducting the strand and providing a publishable copy for the proceedings. If this is a group effort, the chair is the primary contact for the group effort. Other individuals involved in organizing may be referred to as co-chairs.

***Strand Co-Chair:**

The co-chairs will be individuals who will assist in the coordination and overall conduct of this strand. They may also have other roles such as editors, presenters, recorders or responders.

***Strand Editor(s):**

The plan is to publish the proceedings on the ISAAC website within three months of the symposium. The strand chair must have one or more people making a major professional commitment to completing any editing and other processing needed to get the strands material edited and organized for the proceedings. If co-editors are proposed, it is strongly recommended that you have only two (or at the most three) people. One of those individuals must be named as the editor and final decision maker in the editing process. In the sections below, under the format section, there will be discussion of different options that may be used for developing the proceedings. Therefore, the strand chair(s) should make sure appropriate planning is made for the prompt submission of the material for proceedings and follow-up editing. The primary editor may be the strand chair, some of the co-chairs, or someone designated by the strand chair. All presenters and respondents must fully understand their obligations to any post-symposium editing they may need to do on the manuscript.

N.B. It will be critical that any presenter or anyone responsible for post-symposium editing of discussion content make a commitment to complete their editing preferably within two weeks (but no longer than three weeks) following the symposium. This is to give the strand editor several weeks to insure that the strand information is appropriately edited and included in the proceedings published on the ISAAC website.

Format:

This should indicate if the participants in the strand will stay as one group or whether there will be some subgroups formed to work on specific aspects of the topic during part of the allotted time. Also, include the number of plenary session presenters and if there will be respondents. If respondents are used, it is recommended that they be limited to no longer than 10 or 15 minutes. Some previous research symposia have been quite effective in having the total group participating and becoming involved in active discussion. This ability to actively involve participants is largely dependent on the preparations of some meaningful documents and outcomes based on the discussions held during the symposium.

There are many professional outlet options for such group process material. If there are plans for the disseminations such as a journal articles, book chapters, etc., the specifics should be clearly in the proposal. In such cases, we will take precautions so the proceedings include some information about symposium documents and/or content, but would not conflict with the copyrighting of such documents by a publisher of books or journals. Likewise, when a person is asked to present a paper or to be a respondent, they should understand that ISAAC proceedings have the right of first refusal (RFR) to some of the presentations. It should be clearly stated in your strand proposal if the symposium presenter has plans to publish presented material in a source other than the symposium proceedings. Then the presenter's paper should include a statement such as, "This is a preliminary draft paper for discussion at the 2010 ISAAC Research Symposium in Barcelona, Spain 2010." Also, the journal article should indicate in its acknowledgments that this paper is based on information presented and discussed at the 2010 ISAAC Research Symposium in Barcelona, Spain. If a considerable amount of technical edits were done to change words as well as considerable content added to the preliminary paper, it should result in considerable change in the exact wording. Therefore, the copyright permission for a journal should be acceptable and the author(s) of the presentation may still have the ability to publish in a refereed journal.

As you can tell from the above comments and the following sections, we are attempting to increase the active involvement of participants. One of the other comments (not as much a complaint as the one about the delay and proceedings) has been that it seems like some of the previous symposium strands have been more like a seminar that could be conducted during a regular convention where presenters are presenting and the participants are there to learn what the presenters have to say or in some cases what a respondent might have to say. Another sometimes heard comment was that it seems like the presenters gain participant feedback without the participants reaping any significant authorship or even any acknowledgments in the presenter's published article primarily based on the presentation material. We are hoping that each strand will make a special effort to involve people that sign up for their strands.

In earlier ISAAC research symposia, copies of the presentations were available when people show up at the beginning of the ISAAC conference. This was quite useful at one of the symposia I attended. Although research proceedings are sometimes not viewed as highly as refereed journal articles, there are some cases where information from our proceedings has been frequently cited. We hope to make the ISAAC Research Symposium known for the quality and usefulness of information so that it will become a reference point as we attempt to further develop our AAC field.

Involvement of Participants:

This should indicate what others participating in the symposium (but not asked to make a major presentation or be respondents) will get out of their participation. We are surely recommending some type of format which involves participants much more than they would be involved at a regular conference session in which some original research and research synthesis were presented.

Outcomes:

As noted above, there is considerable potential for Research Symposium outcomes of value. In addition to the proceedings document itself, the strand organizer should indicate if any specific outcomes are planned for your strand. For example, a conference presentation, a forum or possibly some other type of journal article, a chapter in a book, a set of guidelines for ISAAC dissemination, the major portion of a book which will be complemented by some chapters which were not primarily based on symposium presentations, etc. The symposium and conference proceedings may develop the framework of a chapter and/or that some of the people invited to present would be developing chapters based upon their symposium presentation for the book. In this case, it would be a way for some participants who were not invited presenters, but made important comments, to also take part in the book.

The original idea for the development of the ISAAC Research Symposium was not to serve as a didactic platform for teaching various methods. However, with some of the newer research developments and approaches it may be that a research-oriented didactic strand could be justified for a Research Symposium strand. Some previous strands have had some didactic nature to them, which has been found to be quite beneficial to the participants. However, a proposal for a didactic session should be very clearly spelled out as a primarily didactic section and have learner outcomes specified in this portion of your strand proposal.

***Presenter(s):**

Depending on how you structure the format, given specific time limits that should be specified in your proposal, your presenters should be limited to no more than 20 minutes and preferably 15 minutes. Most of the presentations at research seminars tend to be more synthesizing or integrative papers presenting certain perspectives or issues. This type of presentation should be allotted 30 to 45 minutes. It is desirable to not have those presentations longer than 45 minutes if you are planning to have participants involved in the discussion.

In general, good individual research studies can be clearly presented within 15 minutes at most major research-oriented conferences. It is, of course, possible that one is presenting a rather complex multi-dimensional study, which may require 20 to 25 minutes to explain. These are the recommendations for your proposal but if you have some other ideas, present them with some justification for deviating.

N.B. It is critical that all presenters make a commitment that their post-symposium editing will be submitted by the end of September.

***Respondent(s):**

If you plan to have respondents, be sure that they have an opportunity to read the presenter's paper prior to the conference. In some cases that may need to be a next to final draft. The respondent should come with a prepared response (which of course may be modified as the presentation is made). It is strongly recommended that respondents be allotted only about 15 minutes for their response to a presentation of 20 to 45 minutes. There have been experiences at conferences where the respondent made a presentation of equal length to the presentation they were supposed to be responding to. In some rare cases a relatively long response may be appropriate. However, a long response is counterproductive if you are planning to have active participation from all of the participants in the strand.

N.B. It is critical that all respondents make a commitment that their post-symposium editing will be submitted by the end of September.

***Recorder(s):**

It is strongly recommended that you have one or more recorders designated. It is probably best to have one recorder for each discussion period or logical grouping of discussions. Be specific in what you propose in terms of recorders relative to the schedule you provide.

* Provide postal address, phone, and email address.

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY AND SCHEDULE:

Abstract (150 words Maximum):

The abstract should be written clearly enough that it can be published without any further editing. The original abstract will be included in the proceedings. In exceptional cases, the editor of the strand(s) may be able to do some editing of the abstract. We are placing this restriction on the abstract as part of our attempt to get the proceedings out within three months. The more things that need to be edited after the conference, the more difficult it is for you as a chair, co-chair, and/or editor to meet the schedule necessary for publication on the web within three months.

Summary of Proposal (1,200 words Maximum):

We assume the summary of the proposal will only be used for pre-symposium publication. However, be sure to write it so that when it is published either electronically or as a hard copy you will be proud of its representation of what you plan to accomplish in the strand. It will be one of several critical elements used in the selection process.

If the post-symposium editing materials are not appropriately received, the abstract (of no more than 1,200 words) will be included in the proceedings indicating that the post-symposium edited copy was not received.

Strand Schedule:

A schedule of presentations, respondents (if any will be involved), discussion times, etc., should be listed. This should include the names of presenters, respondents, discussion leaders and/or recorders (if identified at the time of submission or, if not identified, indicate as TBA). This again will be another critical element in the selection process. Estimate approximately five to six hours on Saturday and two hours on Sunday for your strand activities.

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