

We Don't Have to Pick a Side: The Middle Is A Fine Place to Be

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Why must we pick sides?

The new poster format is a revolution, or
the new poster format is garbage!

Take the **good parts** of the new format,
keep the **useful aspects** of the traditional
format, add in your own ideas, and **create
something better.**

INTRODUCTION

Mike Morrison created a template for a “Better Scientific Poster” (BSP) (<https://osf.io/ef53g/>)

The BSP format has been praised by many, yet disparaged by others.

The current project had 2 goals:

1. Create a template that I think could be useful.
2. Point out that we don't need to either love or hate the new format—the middle is just fine.

METHOD

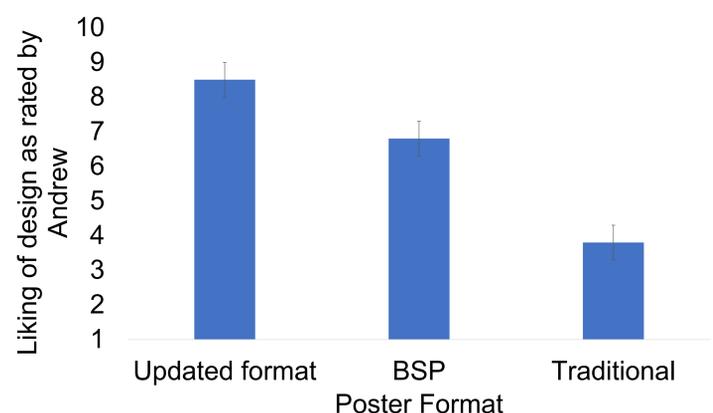
To create a new template, I identified strengths of the BSP template and the traditional format.

BSP strengths: clear take-away message, minimal text, QR code

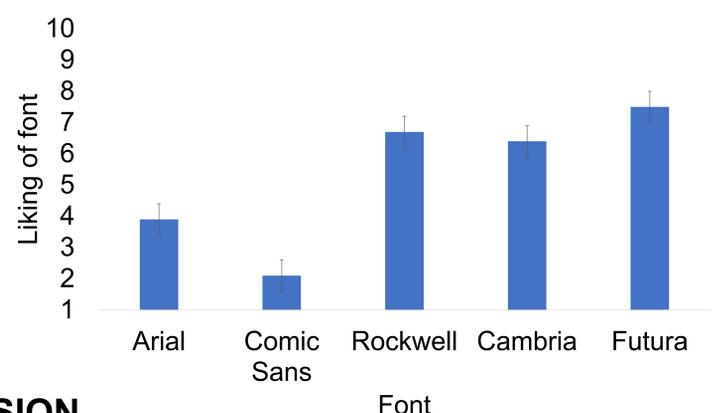
Traditional format strengths: room for figures, reasonable text size on sides, large title to make finding posters in poster session easy, web link and email for people who don't like QR codes

RESULTS

Preregistered analysis: 78% increase in liking compared to traditional format and 24% increase compared to the BSP format.



Exploratory analysis: room for improvement in this template (Arial font, seriously?!?!).



DISCUSSION

Sometimes it makes sense to pick a side; this is not one of those times.

Praise what you like, make suggestions for improvement, and **then make something better.**

Take Mike's ideas, incorporate some of mine, **be creative**, and let's make posters more useful.



Poster template: <https://osf.io/ayjzg/>
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