



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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ABSTRACTS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL THESES

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The advantages of an abstracting scheme for archaeological theses in New Zealand are obvious. While there are plans for a comprehensive abstracting service for all theses submitted in New Zealand Universities (C. G. Swift, 1973: personal communication. Reference Librarian, University of Otago), this scheme is still under consideration and it will be some years before it will come into operation. There is, however, no reason why such a scheme could not be implemented now for archaeological theses presented in New Zealand on topics of interest to New Zealand archaeologists. The scheme will depend entirely on the voluntary submission of abstracts (written by the authors of the theses) to the New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter.

The following lists the desirable information which an abstract should contain; it is followed by an abstract written for the present writer's thesis. The paragraphs in the example abstract have been arranged to illustrate the rules for abstraction, but such a procedure need not be followed in abstracts submitted in future. Discussion of these rules is invited.

INFORMATION DESIRABLE IN THESIS ABSTRACTS

1. Standard bibliographical details. Authors should contact University Library Cataloguing Department for necessary information.
2. Background of research and problems tackled. This should comprise a brief summary of preliminary assessments of the literature only, not the arguments on which these are based. Maximum 100 words.
3. Summary of methodological innovations. Maximum 100 words.
4. Significant results. The evidence or arguments on which these are based should not be presented. Maximum 100 words.
5. Plans, if any, for publication. Maximum 50 words.
6. Special features. This could comprise excavation reports, general philosophizing about the nature of man, anthropology, etc. Maximum 50 words.

N.B. Such abstracts should not be for quotation or reference; persons wishing to do so should refer to the detailed evidence and argument of the thesis.