

SSCA 2027 Mass Communication Division Call for Papers

The Mass Communication Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2027 Conference to be held in Mobile, Alabama. We especially welcome submissions that address the convention theme, “Curiosity.” The Mass Communication division incorporates a wide variety of studied processes, artifacts, and methodologies.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All paper submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. For the paper to be assigned for review, please follow the instructions on the convention site. For the purposes of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award. For student papers, indicate “STUDENT” on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate “Student Paper” during the submission process. The Division’s Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

All paper submissions should be no more than 25 pages double-spaced, including references, tables, and figures. All papers must include a 75-100 word abstract. Papers should be written in such a way that author identity remains hidden for the purposes of anonymous review. This includes removing any information which identifies the author and/or the institution within the paper and within any document metadata.

The Division limits authors to one first-author submission with unlimited second-author submissions. All work submitted for review must be the original work of the author(s) and must not have been previously published in any other conference or convention. Also, papers submitted to the Mass Communication Division may not be simultaneously submitted to any other division of SSCA. Any paper found in violation of these guidelines will be removed from consideration.

The Division recognizes the importance of works in progress, and we seek to involve as many scholars as possible in our work. As a result, for 2027 we will accept extended abstracts. Extended abstracts should be 1000-1500 words exclusive of references. Extended abstracts must be submitted by the regular conference deadline of September 15, 2026. The goal of accepting extended abstracts is to give students and scholars more time to develop their work into full papers before the conference. As such, for extended abstracts accepted for the conference the full paper must be submitted to Bill Harlow, divisional planner, at william.harlow.1@au.af.edu no later than March 8, 2027, so that respondents have adequate time to read the work.

Extended abstracts will not be eligible for divisional awards.

Panel or Roundtable Submissions: Panels and roundtables are submitted through the same process as competitive papers; just be sure to select the appropriate submission type when prompted. The submitter will be able to add other panelists as “authors” after the initial

submission. Upload a copy of the panel, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists' individual topics; upload this at the "Upload Paper" prompt.

Audio Visual Support: Audio-visual equipment should be requested ONLY if it is essential to a presentation. Most submissions do not require A/V equipment, and there will be limited availability during the conference. Due to prohibitive costs, A/V requests will be considered but may not be met. The final program will indicate which sessions have A/V capability. An alternative may be shareable QR code that audience members can access on their own personal devices.

Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026**. Go to the submission site by going to the conference website (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>) and clicking the submission link. First-time visitors to the site will need to create an account. Return visitors will need to make sure to use the same email address that they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised. Any submission not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted for review. If you have additional questions, please contact the Division Vice-Chair and Planner Dr. Bill Harlow, at william.harlow.1@au.af.edu.