



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Letter to the Editor

By Dave Snell

Yesterday, I read Mary Pat Campbell's article, "A Summary Look at GetAbstract," in *The Stepping Stone*<sup>1</sup> and then accessed the service. Before the evening was over, I had read the abstracts of 20 books on my recently read or pending list, and I was duly impressed by the value of this service for Management & Personal Development (M&PD) Section members.

In truth, I often enjoy the anecdotes and detailed stories the most, and this probably will not reduce the number of books I purchase and read. It may even increase that activity; but I will be better able to decide which ones are likely to provide a higher return on my time investment.

This is an excellent service. I started by reading abstracts of books I had already read, expecting that they might have been eviscerated to the point of little interest. I was pleasantly surprised to find

that the main points were extracted and much of the tedious and time-consuming repetition was absent. Another surprise was that the abstract sometimes showed thoughts that I had missed or forgotten ... perhaps during a lapse of boredom from another rehash of a different point.

Thanks for your concise article calling this to the attention of M&PD members. I appreciate this tangible, value-added benefit of section membership.

Cheers,

Dave ●

## ENDNOTE

<sup>1</sup> See the August 2013 issue of *The Stepping Stone*.



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