


1 infant as a human being, to have a spiritual nature
 2 and requiring spiritual needs to be met. In addition, in
 3 the UK, many hospital trusts' neonatal care web pages
 4 include reference to pastoral and spiritual support for
 5 parents from professional spiritual advisors. It is
 6 apparent that neonatal staff should work in partner-
 7 ship with others in order to meet spiritual needs. It is
 8 also an important aspect of a leader's role to motivate
 9 nurses and other clinicians to include spirituality in
 10 practice; this is reflected in the time the leader invests
 11 in taking care of individual members of the team.
 12 Spiritual care is regarded as an aspect of the holistic
 13 approach to patient's spiritual needs and is a role
 14 within nursing care (Caldeira 2009). Spiritual needs
 15 are considered to be those related to meaning and
 16 purpose in life, hopes and beliefs, (McSherry 2006).

17 The role of spiritual leadership is an emerging
 18 concept in management that is of particular impor-
 19 tance in health care contexts as ethical and spiritual
 20 workplaces because it is based on honesty, confidence,
 21 temperance, prudence, honour and compassion (Cal-
 22 deira *et al.* 2011). Spiritual leadership is regarded as a
 23 transformative way to motivate staff to complete their
 24 role and to get the best outcomes, while at the same
 25 time staff gain a sense of fulfilment and happiness
 26 (Rego *et al.* 2007). Spiritual values are connected to
 27 an ethical attitude, respect for human beings and
 28 dignity. Neonatal care units are real contexts where
 29 these kinds of values maybe practised with babies,
 30 parents, family visitors or the staff.



31 The aim of this article is to explore the relevance of
 32 spiritual leadership and spiritual care in the neonatal
 33 care context in order to meet the needs of the baby,
 34 parents and family visitors and the staff who work
 35 there. The purpose is to enable managers to consider
 36 how to support the development of an environment
 37 where spiritual need is both recognized and appropri-
 38 ate care is given.

39 40 41 **Spiritual care of babies**

42 Each baby is an individual and should be treated as
 43 such in the context of their family, preferably with a
 44 'family-centred' approach to care (Stutts & Schloemann
 45 2002a,b, Howard 2006). Treating them as a 'condition' 
 46 should be avoided at all costs. Individualized care
 47 should be enhanced through a holistic nursing assess-
 48 ment of an infant, which involves all aspects of need,
 49 including spiritual assessment. Spiritual assessment in
 50 the context of adult care 'should seek to elicit the
 51 thoughts, memories and experiences that give coherence
 52 to a persons' life' (Rumbold 2007). It is regarded as an

ongoing process that takes account of any changes that
 occur. The vulnerability of the baby is enhanced
 through their inability to express their need, although
 staff may also be involved in assessing spiritual need of
 parents. The nurse should be anticipating what these
 needs may be and considering the value of each person.
 Promotion of self-worth and value is closely linked to
 spiritual wellbeing (McSherry 2006). Therefore, any
 care that relates to the dignity and worth of a person
 will potentially have an impact on their spirit.

Consideration of dignity is regarded as promoting
 the worth, value and autonomy of the individual
 (Royal College of Nursing 2008). A recent campaign
 in the UK focused on the need to increase awareness
 of the dignity of adult patients (Dignity in Care
 Campaign 2008). In addition a National Institute for
 Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guide-
 line (2012) has been created to aid improvement of
 adult care. Although geared to adults many of the
 quality statements created apply to the care of a vul-
 nerable infant and their family. Further, a qualitative
 interview study (Baillie & Gallagher 2011) revealed
 care providers' strategies for dignified care involved
 recognizing vulnerability to loss of dignity, communi-
 cation issues between staff, patients and families,
 improving the environment for the individual and
 enhancing privacy. These strategies have implications
 for care of the neonate.

The need for privacy, for example, is significant in
 the case where a baby is dying. Most neonatal care
 settings include incubators being situated in shared
 rooms. Promotion of spiritual wellbeing of the baby
 and family in this scenario should involve recognition
 of the need for privacy, away from the gaze of the
 visitors of other babies and excessive numbers of
 members of staff (Desai *et al.* 2002). Unnecessary
 exposure of the infant's naked body should also be
 avoided in the presence of others, unless required for
 treatment purposes. It is proposed that care which
 considers the environmental conditions and gentle
 practices will promote developmental and spiritual
 wholeness in the infant (Goldberg-Hamblin  2007, **4**
 Desai *et al.* 2002). Evidence around fetal and infant
 memory (Verny & Kelly 1982  Depper 1996, James **5**
et al. 2002, Renggli 2005, Mampe *et al.* 2009) should
 lead the carer to consider carefully care practices in
 the early weeks of life. It is known that preterm
 infants demonstrate consciousness and awareness of
 their environment (Lagercrantz & Changeux 2010)
 and should therefore be treated with the same respect
 as term infants. It is unclear what long-term spiritual
 effects there may be for babies who require neonatal


1 care, but it is known stress in the early days has
2 potential to have effects into adulthood (Renggli
3 2005, Verny & Kelly 1982).

4 Within the neonatal care environment carers should
5 recognize the differing situations they will encounter
6 with infants. Infants may have been born preterm, be
7 demonstrating critical and non-critical illness or
8 ranges of disability. In each of these situations the
9 worth and value of the infant should be promoted,
10 with recognition of their potential as a human being
11 with meaning and purpose. In many situations these
12 babies are themselves the meaning and purpose of
13 their parents' lives, therefore carers should recognize
14 the significance of this baby to the parents. Appropriate
15 touch and promotion of touch will aid the parents
16 develop relationship with their baby (Schenk & Kelley
17 2010). In addition carers should promote love and
18 hope through the care they give but also not raise
19 hope in situations where complications are too severe.
20 Honesty and truthfulness will aid parents to reach a
21 position of acceptance where the infant will not
22 survive.

23 **Care of parents and families**

24 A systematic review (Cleveland 2008) to establish the
25 needs of parents in neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
26 environments, and care behaviours that helped,
27 has shown that parents require: effective information
28 from staff; assurance that their infant is 'being watched
29 over'; contact with their infant; to be perceived
30 positively by the staff; to have a therapeutic relationship
31 with them; care that is individualized. In addition,
32 emotional support, a welcoming environment, parent
33 empowerment and education, and participation in care
34 were identified as helpful. The differing needs of the
35 fathers or partners in these situations are also to be
36 recognized. A recent qualitative study highlights that
37 fathers experience anxiety, feelings of helplessness, and
38 fear of the unknown (Hollywood & Hollywood 2011).
39 It is evident that the staff within this environment
40 have a responsibility of care to the parents as well
41 as the infants, and a requirement to recognize their
42 needs.

43 The experience of having a pregnancy that has
44 complications has been shown to have an impact on
45 women's spirituality (Price *et al.* 2007). It is a stressful
46 time for parents, involving fear and uncertainty and
47 this continues should the infant require care on the
48 neonatal unit. It is therefore appropriate for carers to
49 recognize the spiritual need of parents within this
50 environment. Spiritual care involves the 'pursuit of
51
52

meaning for an infant's life and, perhaps, for the
family's loss' (Carter 2004). This implies that a
important role of the carer is to provide support and
promote the relationship between the parents and the
infant. 

As already discussed, each baby is of significance and
value as a human being and this should be promoted to
the parents by what is said and the care that is given. It
should be recognized that parents will have often experienced
a difficult pregnancy and birth, or even multiple
difficult situations in order to have this infant (Price
et al. 2007) and will need to come to terms with the
infant being unwell or needing special support. Carers
should be aware of situations of spiritual distress (Rosenbaum
et al. 2011,.) Spiritual distress is defined as a
nursing diagnosis by Carpenito-Moyet (2008) as: 'The
state in which the individual or group experiences or is
at risk of experiencing a disturbance in the belief or
value system that provides strength, hope and meaning
to life'. For parents with unwell babies, stress, anxiety
and fear may cause deep questioning of supportive
belief structures. Within these situations the involvement
of pastoral care workers may aid parents explore
these questions and help them come to terms with the
challenges they are facing.

It is recognized that pastoral care workers are valuable
within the neonatal environment to support both
parents and staff (Desai *et al.* 2002, Dunn *et al.*
2009). Further Catlin *et al.* (2001) suggest that NICUs
should have a dedicated pastoral carer because of the
intensity of need in the environment. Meeting of
religious needs is a dimension of spiritual care that is
frequently requested, with parents asking for prayer,
to request religious sacraments or put some symbolic
religious objects in the incubator. Although nurses
should recognize parents' needs for personal expression
of belief, it may be considered unethical to provide
this kind of intervention if the individual nurses do
not feel able to do so (Caldeira 2009). In these
situations, the pastoral carer is the member of the
team who may be the best resource for the parents'
wellbeing and comfort.

A crisis state for a parent may be triggered through
fear and concern about 'being a parent' in the
environment. This crisis is a holistic state of suffering
involving the physical, mental, social and spiritual
dimensions of the person. The environment includes
highly technological equipment that will be familiar to
staff but not to visitors. Within this, the incubator is
central as the focus of their attention. It could be
regarded as a symbolic representation of a 'temple' by
the parents – a sacred space in which their love,

1 meaning and purpose in life is focused and being
 2 cared for. Some parents feel distanced from this 'tem-
 3 ple' and feel that only the 'priests' (the care staff) are
 4 allowed to enter. Often mothers describe to nurses
 5 that she feels as though, suddenly, her 'belly' has been
 6 transformed into a glass box where once she was the
 7 only one that the baby needs and now has become a
 8 viewer of the caring process. The infant is seen as 'set
 9 apart'. The parents long to touch but are unable to
 10 'break in' (Schenk and Kelley 2010). Nurses may sup-
 11 port these parents by stepping through this barrier
 12 and enable them to provide family belongings that
 13 will remove some of the mystique of the infant's
 14 space. Nurses can give back to the parents that feeling
 15 of parenthood and, at the same time, give back their
 16 meaning and purpose. In all situations evaluation of
 17 need and promotion of spiritual care requires sensitiv-
 18 ity and preparation in order for a nurse to ensure that
 19 a total holistic approach has been taken.

20 There should also be recognition of cultural and
 21 religious differences that may lead to conflict between
 22 what the parents believe should happen in relation to
 23 the care of the baby and those of the staff. It has been
 24 stated that the more staff are able to recognize the dif-
 25 ference in their own beliefs and those of the parents
 26 they will be 'better equipped' to deal with ethical
 27 dilemmas and conflicts (Stutts & Schloemann 2002a,
 28 b). A manager's role should therefore involve recogni-
 29 tion of potential conflict and enabling an environment
 30 where discussion and debate around these issues can
 31 take place.

32 33 34 **Spiritual leadership**

35 Being a nurse means being committed to patient wel-
 36 fare but it is expected that nursing leaders should also
 37 care for the nursing team. Nurses are vulnerable and
 38 pervious to parents and babies suffering, and generally
 39 recognize their place in a spiritual care scenario (Cat-
 40 lin *et al.* 2001). In addition, it is seen that spirituality
 41 is an aspect of nursing care but it is also a workplace
 42 dimension (Caldeira *et al.* 2011). Workplace spiritual-
 43 ity is related to meaning at work and the desire to be
 44 genuine in what individuals do and how they do it
 45 (Cacioppe 2000). Workplace spirituality is also defined
 46 as 'workplace opportunities to perform meaningful
 47 work in the context of a community with a sense of
 48 joy and of respect for inner life' (Rego *et al.* 2007).
 49 These authors found five dimensions of workplace
 50 spirituality that explain organisational commitment
 51 and self-reported individual performance: a team's
 52 sense of community, alignment with organisational

values, a sense of contribution to society, enjoyment
 at work, and opportunities for their inner life. This is
 a transformational way to look at the workplace.
 Rather than a place where people earn money and
 develop a career, it is a place of fulfilment, inner
 development and opportunity for creativity.

Hospital settings are places full of suffering and
 questioning of the meaning of life, where people
 (patients and nurses) are constantly invited to reflect
 on their own life experience and journey. In this it
 may be suggested that these environments are authen-
 tic spiritual workplaces. The neonatal care environ-
 ment has special significance because it is a place
 where life is just at its start. The moment most
 dreamed for and as a potential for joy for parents is
 at that place a moment of suffering. In this context,
 staff, both nursing and medical, are conscious of
 dealing with the suffering of both the babies and their
 families (Cadge & Catlin 2006). They are also aware
 of the 'hardest part', namely, dealing with baby's
 death and knowing at times that the technology being
 used is not going to save the baby. Nurses and other
 health-care providers are confronted by that suffering
 and their interventions must be effective to nourish
 that pain. Within a NICU environment some staff feel
 that their work and caring for critically ill infants and
 their families constitutes their purpose and meaning in
 life (Cadge & Catlin 2006). This sense of fulfilment
 promotes inner motivation to work and could
 positively influence outcomes.

Within this suffering atmosphere, it is important
 that nurses also feel they are being cared for by their
 leader. One author stated: 'As times grow more cha-
 otic, as people question the meaning (or meaningless-
 ness) of this life, people clamour for their leaders to
 rescue them' (Weathley 2003). Leaders need to recog-
 nize when difficult decisions in care are stressing staff
 and provide resources to support them (Stutts and
 Schloemann 2002a, 2002b). A leader who emphasizes
 the ethics at work, relationships and the balance
 between work and self is seen to be developing spiri-
 tual leadership (Wolf 2004). It is clear that spiritual
 leadership is broader than being a 'nice' leader. It
 implies an effective commitment to the organisation,
 the mission and the goals. Spiritual leadership is also
 related to enthusiasm, joy and kindness but also
 money, determination, a willingness to keep learning
 and other characteristics (Parachin 2005). A spiritual
 leader is effectively concerned about the whole team's
 wellbeing as well as each one individually – one who
 inspires, motivates and enables each carer to find
 meaning in work and life. Spiritual leadership will

recognize when staff require more education to support personal development and enable improved care for the infants. In the context of spiritual care Dunn *et al.* (2009) argue that there should be increased emphasis on education that promotes the nurses own spirituality, both in pre-registration and continuing education programmes. Others have demonstrated how educational sessions may help children's nurses provide spiritual care (O'Shea *et al.* 2011). From a leadership perspective, facilitating staff to attend educational sessions to promote spiritual care would therefore be of benefit.

Conclusion

The aim of this article has been to discuss issues around spiritual care in a neonatal unit context and highlight the need for leadership that facilitates a holistic approach. Within this environment nurses have responsibility to meet the needs of both babies and their families. It is a place of intense emotions related to life and death and exploration of meaning where the health team are all constantly confronted by hope and suffering. It is evident that nurses' responsiveness to the baby, parents and family must be broader than just attention to physical and psychological needs, and should include awareness of spiritual need as well. In order to do this staff need to have opportunities for education and debate relating to these issues. Recognition of multicultural expressions of faith and belief in relation to the infant should also be explored. Attention should be paid to ensuring that staff have dedicated time and space within the working day to discuss the needs of babies and their families.

Closer relationships and working with pastoral carers may enable these needs to be met to a greater extent. Although it is recommended that individual pastoral carers be attached to neonatal units (Catlin *et al.* 2001), this is often not the case and availability at the time of greatest need may be a challenge. If managers recognize the benefit of having dedicated pastoral support they can work towards achieving this for their area. Pastoral workers can be provided with a remit that also involves educating and supporting staff in providing spiritual care and facilitating ethical debate as required.

This review has also demonstrated that nurses must also be cared for so they can care for others. Spiritual leadership is a strategic role to motivate nurses to provide holistic, spiritual and human care in response to the respect and fulfilment they feel within the

workplace. Through feeling cared for and respected by their leader they in turn will be more committed to institution goals, improve productivity and, most importantly, contribute to the best service that babies, parents and families expect from health services. The aim is that managers will provide spiritual leadership to humanize the caring team so that, in turn, they will provide humanized nursing care. Evidence demonstrates that good staff management has a positive effect on staff engagement, higher quality of care and improved outcomes for those being cared for (West *et al.* 2011). The implications for this are that managers require education and training that explores the concepts of a more holistic approach to leadership in the context of neonatal care, rather than purely management and business skills. A philosophy such as this should filter through from a health-care management structure where staff are seen as valued and of worth, inspired and supported by those around them.


It is evident from this review that limited research has been carried out on the spiritual needs of staff and parents in this area of practice and there has been little attempt to consider the spiritual needs of the infant. It is therefore an area where further exploration and debate may continue. Research should be undertaken to establish the spiritual needs of parents and babies in this environment alongside development of spiritual assessment tools. Further research should also identify the understanding of spiritual care by staff within this context. There is evidence that positive leadership traits may have an impact on patient outcomes (Wong & Cummings 2007). Further research is also required on the impact of spiritual leadership in this context on both staff and infants and their families. Instruments are available in the literature that measure spirituality in the workplace (Rego *et al.* 2007) and further quantitative and qualitative research questions nurses about their spiritual experience at work would be helpful to increase the knowledge about this phenomenon. Correlation studies would allow us to know if spiritual leadership and a spiritual workplace are influential in a family's sense of spiritual wellbeing.

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Ethical approval

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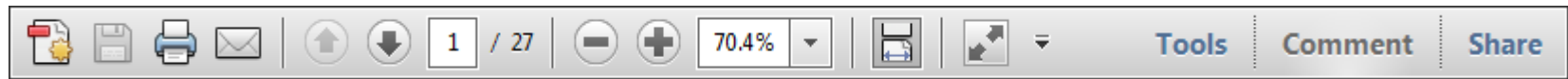
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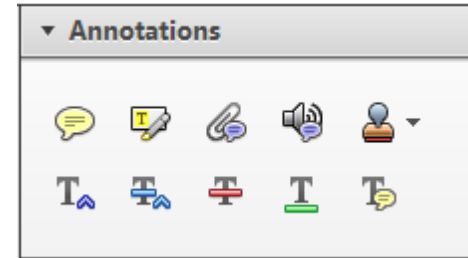
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Once you have Acrobat Reader open on your computer, click on the [Comment](#) tab at the right of the toolbar:



This will open up a panel down the right side of the document. The majority of tools you will use for annotating your proof will be in the [Annotations](#) section, pictured opposite. We've picked out some of these tools below:



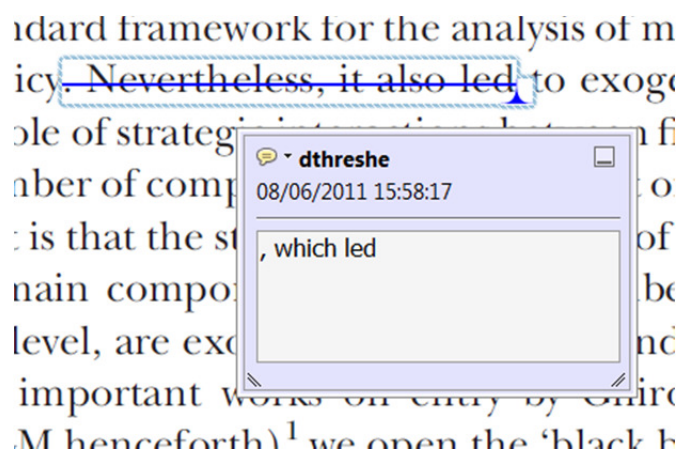
1. Replace (Ins) Tool – for replacing text.



Strikes a line through text and opens up a text box where replacement text can be entered.

How to use it

- Highlight a word or sentence.
- Click on the [Replace \(Ins\)](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Type the replacement text into the blue box that appears.



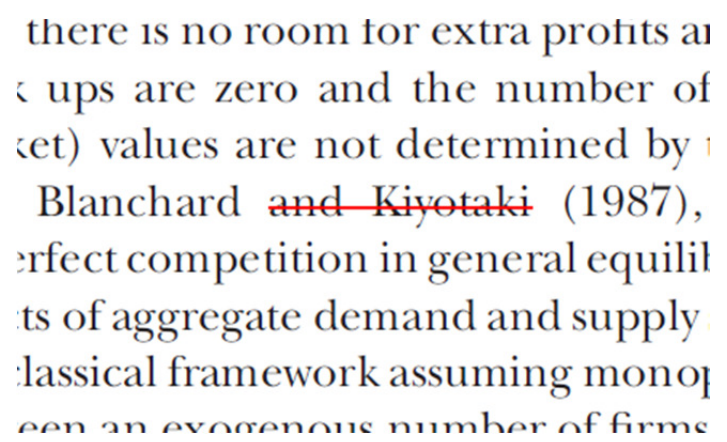
2. Strikethrough (Del) Tool – for deleting text.



Strikes a red line through text that is to be deleted.

How to use it

- Highlight a word or sentence.
- Click on the [Strikethrough \(Del\)](#) icon in the Annotations section.



3. Add note to text Tool – for highlighting a section to be changed to bold or italic.

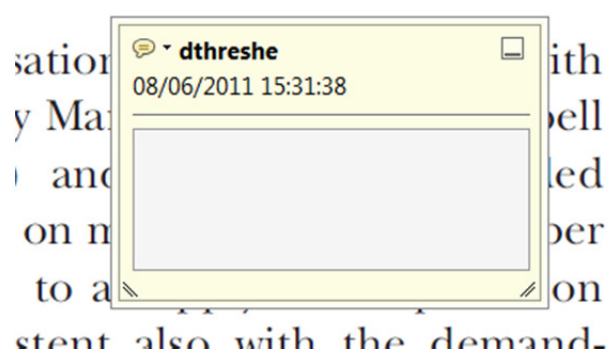


Highlights text in yellow and opens up a text box where comments can be entered.

How to use it

- Highlight the relevant section of text.
- Click on the [Add note to text](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Type instruction on what should be changed regarding the text into the yellow box that appears.

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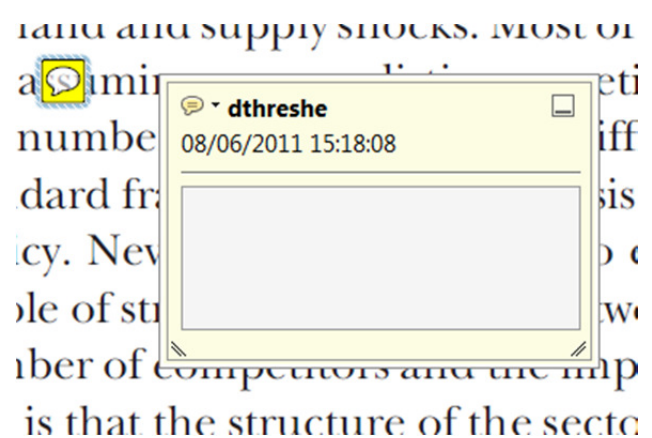
4. Add sticky note Tool – for making notes at specific points in the text.



Marks a point in the proof where a comment needs to be highlighted.

How to use it

- Click on the [Add sticky note](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Click at the point in the proof where the comment should be inserted.
- Type the comment into the yellow box that appears.



USING e-ANNOTATION TOOLS FOR ELECTRONIC PROOF CORRECTION

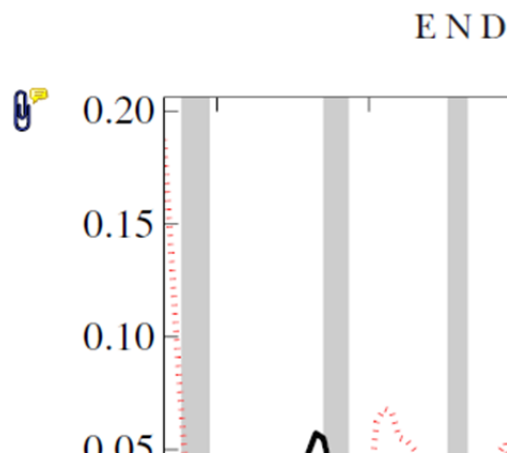
5. Attach File Tool – for inserting large amounts of text or replacement figures.



Inserts an icon linking to the attached file in the appropriate place in the text.

How to use it

- Click on the [Attach File](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Click on the proof to where you'd like the attached file to be linked.
- Select the file to be attached from your computer or network.
- Select the colour and type of icon that will appear in the proof. Click OK.



6. Add stamp Tool – for approving a proof if no corrections are required.

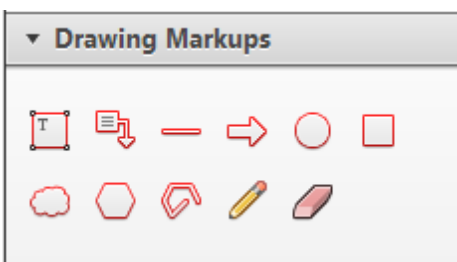


Inserts a selected stamp onto an appropriate place in the proof.

How to use it

- Click on the [Add stamp](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Select the stamp you want to use. (The [Approved](#) stamp is usually available directly in the menu that appears).
- Click on the proof where you'd like the stamp to appear. (Where a proof is to be approved as it is, this would normally be on the first page).

of the business cycle, starting with the
 on perfect competition, constant return
 production. In this environment goods
 extra profits and the market
 he market. The New-Key
 otaki (1987), has introduced produc
 general equilibrium models with nomin
 ed and supply shocks. Most of this literat

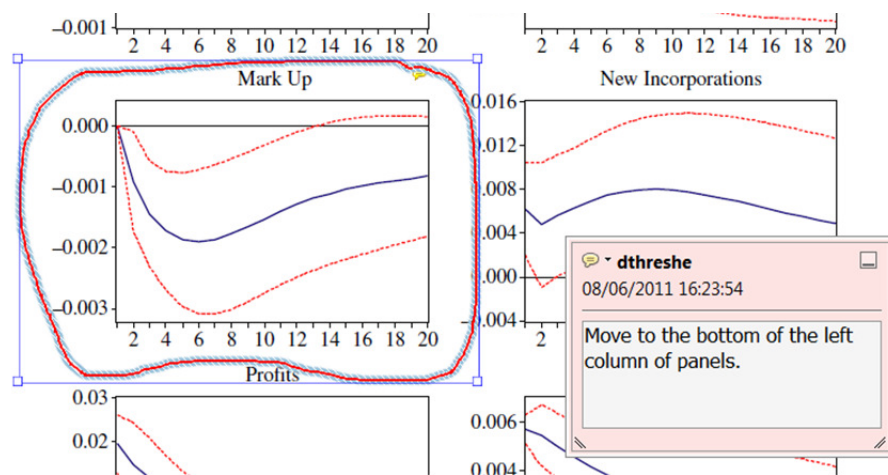


7. Drawing Markups Tools – for drawing shapes, lines and freeform annotations on proofs and commenting on these marks.

Allows shapes, lines and freeform annotations to be drawn on proofs and for comment to be made on these marks..

How to use it

- Click on one of the shapes in the [Drawing Markups](#) section.
- Click on the proof at the relevant point and draw the selected shape with the cursor.
- To add a comment to the drawn shape, move the cursor over the shape until an arrowhead appears.
- Double click on the shape and type any text in the red box that appears.



For further information on how to annotate proofs, click on the [Help](#) menu to reveal a list of further options:

