

## COMP90044 Research Methods

### Assignment A for Research Degree (MPhil/PhD) Students: Literature review

*Distributed:* July 29, 2018

*Due:* Task 1: 11:59pm 8 August, 2018. Task 2: 11:59pm, 17 August, 2018

*Mark component:* 10 marks (10% of total subject assessment)

*Method of submission for Task 2:* Electronic copy via the LMS. Note that submissions will be processed using Turnitin. Any assignment submitted late will incur a penalty of 0.5 marks for every day or part of a day that it remains not submitted (both weekdays and weekends). e.g., if Task 2 were submitted at 11am Sunday 19th August, there would be a 1.0 mark penalty.

**Task 1** Email your chosen topic to george.buchanan@unimelb.edu.au. Also include the names and email addresses of your PhD supervisors.

This topic will be the basis for this assignment and the other four assignments in the subject. By the due date for Task 1, please discuss your research topic with your MPhil/PhD supervisor and show them the publications you intend to use for Task 2. Obtain their approval that these publications would be appropriate to be the basis of a literature review.

**Task 2** Identify 8–10 recent publications that at least superficially appear to be relevant to your research topic, and in addition identify 3–5 foundational publications on which work in the area is built. Write a 1500-word report presenting the contributions of these papers as a consolidated discussion, focusing on your analysis of the importance of their results rather than the outcomes claimed by the original authors.

Briefly introduce the field and specific concepts as necessary to explain the work. Your report should have a clear flow of argument and discussion, and be understandable by a non-expert such as researchers outside the immediate field. An appropriate presentation would be like the background section of a well-written paper.

Include a bibliography. Use a standard professional presentational style such as that used for scientific papers at major journals or conferences.

*Assessment criteria:* Key elements of a strong report will include contrasts between papers, comparisons of the work to the state of knowledge in the field as a whole, clearly argued criticisms, and clear writing.

In completing this assignment, you are required to adhere to the University's standards regarding academic honesty and you must avoid plagiarism. Further information about what is expected can be found at

<http://academichonesty.unimelb.edu.au/plagiarism.html>

*Note:* Assignment C will be set as a revision of this initial draft. See the assessment calendar for the subject.