

# COMP90044 Research Methods

## Assignment D: Research design and research plan

*Distributed:* 29 September, 2018

*Due:* 11:59pm, 12 October, 2018

*Mark component:* 30% of assessment

*Method of submission:* Via the LMS (turnitin will be used).

### Task

Choose one research question that you would like to investigate as part of your thesis<sup>1</sup>.

Propose an piece of research that would lead you being able to investigate that research question. Draw on your previous submissions for COMP90044 to inform your research design.

For those engaged in the MIT, MSc CS, MSE (Software) or PhD in Computer Science, or any other experimental area, you should specifically propose an experiment to further your research area.

For those on the MIS, PhD in Information Systems, HCI or other human-factors areas, this should follow the expectations of those areas, e.g. design research, interviews, etc.

If you are in a broader engineering discipline, follow the appropriate expectations for your area. If in doubt, contact George Buchanan.

The total submission should be no longer than 1600 words, and address the following points:

- Motivation to the research question
- Identification of the research question
- Proposal of the investigation method, drawing on previous research
- Description of the subsequent analysis, justified by previous research
- A description of the likely contribution of the research to scientific knowledge.

The proportion of these items will vary depending on the novelty of your research. For example, in a novel domain the motivation and context may be shorter, but the proposal longer due to a greater need to justify the method; while in an established method, the justification of methods may be simpler, but the prior research more intricate. In general, no section above would be likely to exceed 500 words.

Ensure that you justify your method in the detail allowed by the overall word length. The total length is indicative of the overall level of detail expected. Excessively long submissions are likely to indicate too much time invested in this assessment.

The overall style is an overview and summary, reflecting the level of detail you will have seen in papers you have reviewed for Assignments A to C.

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<sup>1</sup>If you are not enrolled in a thesis/project subject yet, choose a research question that is related to the topic of your literature review and that you believe would be worthwhile to investigate

Please note that you are not being expected to propose (say) a specific new algorithm. To achieve that you would have to actually do the research. Rather, propose an idea that will need further work to develop, and the means by which that idea would be researched or tested.

## **Submission**

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.

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>