

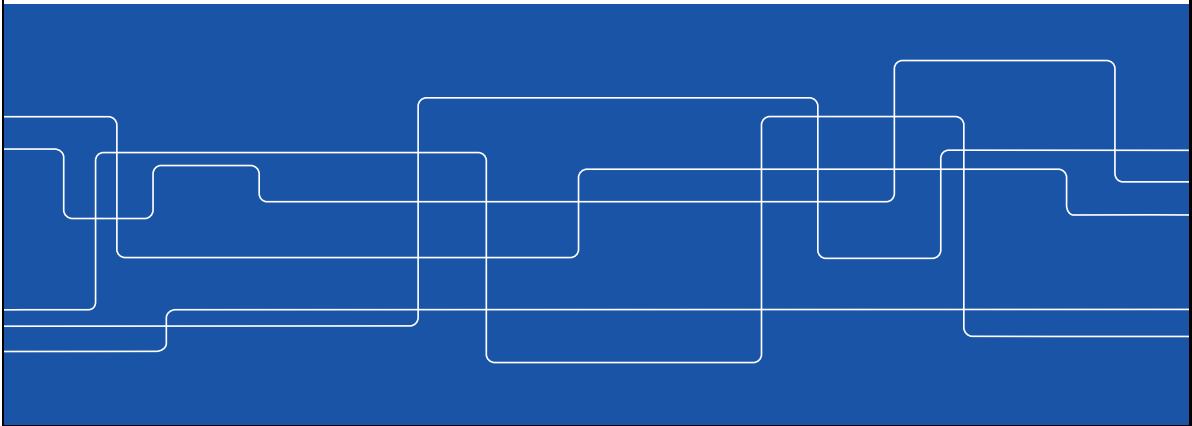
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# II2202: Writing an abstract with keywords

prof. Gerald Q. Maguire Jr. <http://people.kth.se/~maguire/>

School of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), KTH Royal Institute of Technology  
II2202 Fall 2015, Period 1 and Periods 1&2 2015.08.14 © 2015 G. Q. Maguire Jr. All rights reserved.



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## What is the purpose of an abstract?

1. Briefly summarize your document
2. To help your reader decide whether they should read your paper or not
3. To help *potential* readers to find your document
4. To help make your work **visible** to others

A abstract should ***stand on its own***, i.e., no citations, cross references to the body of the document, acronyms must be spelled out, ...

Note: Many readers will *only* read your abstract!

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## What are the components of an abstract?

- Motivation – provides context (optional)
- Problem statement
- Method(s) – approach chosen to solve problem
- Results
- Conclusions

For a short description of how to write an abstract, see:  
Philip Koopman, [How to Write an Abstract](#), Essay, Carnegie Mellon University, October, 1997.

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## What is in a Master's thesis abstract?

- What is the topic area? (optional)
  - Short problem statement
  - Why was this problem worth an Master's thesis project? (i.e., why is the problem both significant and of suitable degree of difficulty for a Master's thesis project? Why has no one else solved it yet?)
  - How did you solve the problem? What was your method/insight?
  - **Results/Conclusions/Consequences/Impact:** What are your key results/conclusions? What will others do based upon your results? What can be done now that you have finished - that could not be done before your thesis project was completed?
- Problem
- Motivation
- Method(s)
- Results

End the page with a short list of keywords

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## How long is a thesis abstract?

Length of thesis abstracts at ICT in the period from 2010 to 2014.06.30

All examiners		Maguire		
in English	Swedish	in English	Swedish	description
241	207	289	207	median
62	61	100	98	minimum (non-zero)
644	572	606	509	maximum

Approximately 90% of all English language abstracts for theses examined by prof. Maguire are between 200 and 450 words.

Note that databases such as ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT) limit abstracts to 350 words. While Canada's National Archive limits Masters thesis abstracts to 150 words (Doctoral dissertations to 350 words). Chalmers University of Technology suggests a Master's thesis abstract should be between [250 and 350 words](#).

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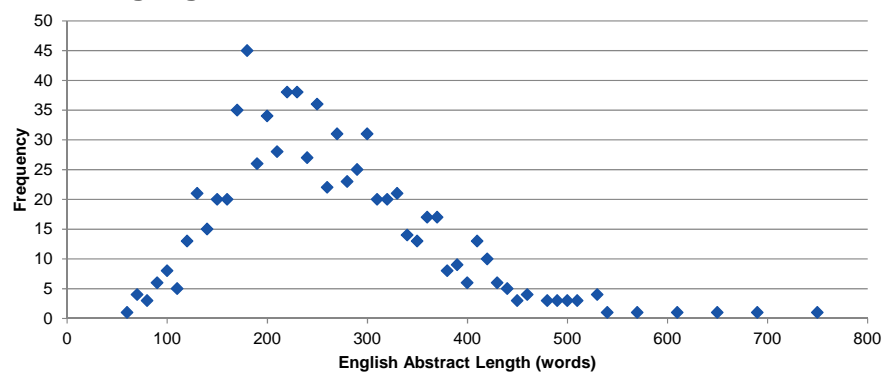
<https://student.portal.chalmers.se/en/chalmersstudies/masters-thesis/Pages/design-and-publish-masters-thesis.aspx>

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## Histogram of number of words in ICT thesis abstracts

Histogram of length (in words) of English language abstracts for ICT theses 1996-2014.06.30



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## At KTH, every thesis must have an abstract in both Swedish and English

"Language Policy for KTH 2010", Dnr V-2009-0365, doss 1, section 4.10 Abstracts of dissertations and theses "Every Master's dissertation, licenciate thesis and doctoral thesis that is written in English is to include a Swedish Abstract. Similarly, every dissertation or thesis written in Swedish is to have an English Abstract."

<http://intra.kth.se/en/regelverk/policyer/sprakpolicy-for-kth-2010-1.60909>

All theses are to be reported in KTH's Digitala Vetenskapliga Arkivet (DiVA) since 1 January 2011 according to

**"Elektronisk registrering av examensarbeten i DiVA"**

**Beslutsnummer: UF-2010/0650**

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## Keywords

Choosing good keywords can help others to locate your paper, thesis, dissertation, ... and related work.

Choose the most specific keyword from those used in your domain, see for example:

[ACM's Computing Classification System](#) (2012)

(2014) [IEEE Taxonomy](#)

### Mechanics:

- The first letter of a keyword should be set with a capital letter and proper names should be capitalized as usual.
- Spell out acronyms and abbreviations.
- Avoid "stop words" - as they generally carry little or no information.
- List your keywords separated by commas (",").

Since you should have both English and Swedish keywords - you might think **of ordering them in corresponding order** (i.e., so that the  $n^{\text{th}}$  word in each list correspond) - thus it would be easier to mechanically find matching keywords.

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Association for Computing Machinery, 'ACM Computing Classification System ToC', 03-Mar-2015. [Online]. Available:

<http://www.acm.org/about/class/>. [Accessed: 14-Aug-2015]

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), '2014 IEEE Taxonomy: Version 1.0.' IEEE, 06-Aug-2014 [Online]. Available:

[https://www.ieee.org/documents/taxonomy\\_v101.pdf](https://www.ieee.org/documents/taxonomy_v101.pdf).

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[http://www.ieee.org/publications\\_standards/publications/services/thesaurus2.html](http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/services/thesaurus2.html). [Accessed: 14-Aug-2015]



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## New Keyword(s)?

If no existing keyword is suitable, then introducing a new keyword - but remember that doing so may make it harder for someone else to find your thesis.

This will typically only be necessary when a new keyword comes into use due to the evolution of a field. [Note: Former IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation Editor-in-Chief, L. Wilson Pearson, added only 150 new keywords in the 2-1/2 years he was editor]

Think about **what someone else would use as a keyword** to find your thesis along with related theses and other related work.

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## How many keywords?

For theses in DiVA (2010-June 2014), the median number of keywords is 5 [a minimum of 1, a maximum of 43 (English) 146 (Swedish), and a minimum and maximum standard deviation ranging from 3 to 5]

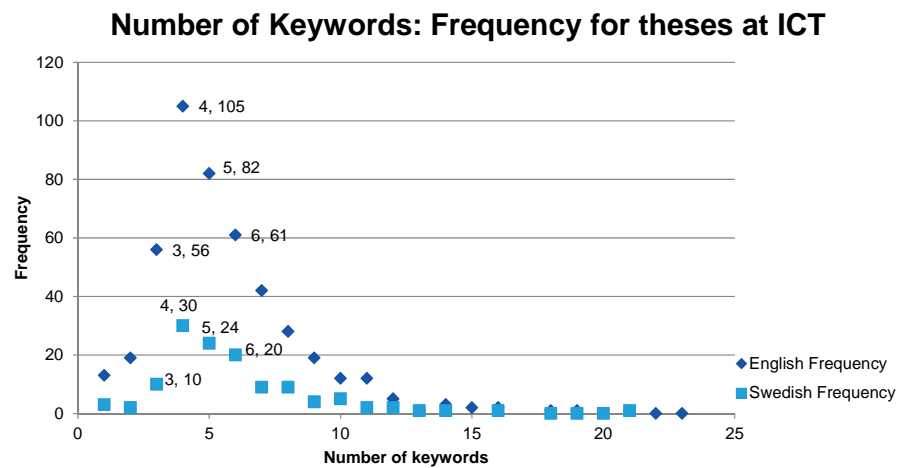
⇒ A typical thesis should have 5-6 keywords

Many publications enforce a limit of 4-10 keywords

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## Keywords in ICT theses (2010-June 2014)



3 to 6 keywords are common

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## Collected keywords

ICT	EES	CSC	ITM	ABE	SCI	CHE	STH	ECE
system s	system s	system s	system s	building s	model s	material s	work s	school s
network s	model s	method s	energy	energy	method s	water s	system s	student s
service s	power s	user s	work s	system s	system s	sample s	service s	teachers
user s	control s	data	model s	area s	data	process	method s	management
application s	network s	algorithm s	development s	method s	simulation s	method s	data	ICT
data	method s	model s	product s	environmental	order s	properties	level s	program s
mobile s	data	work s	method s	construction s	time s	showed	patient s	waste
solution s	simulation s	time s	process s	work s	work s	temperature s	environment s	work
device s	time s	application s	companies	model s	part s	system s	device s	tool s
design s	performance s	information	company s	development s	design s	effect s	risk s	development
time s	algorithm s	report s	production s	process s	test s	amount s	factor s	engineer s
performance s	order s	game s	order s	time s	material s	time s	time s	competence
information	work s	order s	management s	water s	risk s	production	application s	education
model s	application s	solution s	time s	design s	structure s	reaction s	model s	interviews
work s	sensor s	test s	market s	Stockholm s	parameter s	work s	part s	lean
communication s	information	design s	cost s	cost s	vehicle s	c	ultrasound	Skanska
method s	communication s	development s	environmental	part s	case s	concentration s	order	learning
order s	grid s	media s	knowledge	material s	flow s	oil s	image s	meeting s
test s	part s	social	part s	case s	algorithm s	pulp s	information	part s

...

x|s indicates the strings x and xs

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## Vocabulary list

<https://www.kth.se/social/course/IK1552/page/vocabulary-englishswedish/>

English - Word or Words	Swedish
1 pulse per second	1 puls per sekund
2D method	2D-metod
2G (Third Generation)	2G (andra generationen)
3D (three dimensional)	tre dimensionell
...	
3D-printing	3D-skrivare
...	

interest interests interesting interestingly	intressanta intressen intressant intressant	
interface interfaces interfaced interfacing	gränssnitt gränssnitten gränssnitts gränssnitt	
interface to the router system	gränssnitt till routern systemet	
interfere interference	interferera störningar	
intergalactic	intergalaktiska	
inter-ISP traffic	inter-ISP trafik	
interleaving	interfoliering	
intermediate intermediary	mellanliggande mellanhand	
internal	inre/intern	
international	internationell	
internet internetworked internetworking	net "av nätverk" internet	
internet connectivity	internet-anslutning	
internet of things (IoT)	Sakernas Internet	
Internet Protocol (IP)		
internet service provider (ISP)	Internetleverantör	
internet traffic	internettrafik	
internet-draft internet-drafts	Internet-utkast	
	internet Internetteknologi/samverkan	
internetwork internetworking internetworked	"sammankopplade nätverk"	
	...	
	zero	noll
	zero knowledge	noll kunskap
<b>3854</b>	zone s	zon zoner

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<https://www.kth.se/social/course/IK1552/page/vocabulary-englishswedish/>

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Philip Koopman, How to Write an Abstract, Essay, Carnegie Mellon University, October, 1997. <http://users.ece.cmu.edu/~koopman/essays/abstract.html>

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# ¿Questions?

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