

CSC 395: Information Retrieval
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A Guideline to your Research Proposal

By Fahmida Hamid

The definition of “Research” is a systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions. Writing a research proposal is one of the first and most important steps before delving into real research. The proposal expresses authors interests and their ability of conducting research. A good research proposal is an indicator that authors have a solid plan to carry out a good research. In the proposal, authors main goal is to convince the reader that they have an innovative idea with some broader impacts and they can implement it within given amount of time and other resources.

The research proposal you submit is just the starting point, as your ideas evolve your proposed research is likely to change. Your research proposal should be of 2~4 pages long. You are encouraged to use the attached format for your proposal. I am not very particular about font, use the one you like. I will look for the following basic parts.

- ❖ Project Title along with your name and affiliation (CS Department, Grinnell College).
- ❖ Abstract (brief, within 5 sentences)
- ❖ Overview/Background
 - A short literature review
 - A summary of developments in the field
 - Issues of your proposed research
 - Discussions on the available datasets
 - Broader Impact (who will be benefitted by this)
- ❖ Research Question
 - Formulate the question clearly, and explain why exploring that question is worthwhile.
- ❖ Research Methodology & Your preparation
 - Discuss the advantages and the limitations of particular approached that you are willing to use, implement, and modify. Also, mention how you have been preparing yourself.
- ❖ Plan of work and time schedule
- ❖ Bibliography
 - A list of key articles and texts discussed within your research proposal
 - A set of sources appropriate to the proposed research.

The following sources were used as reference while preparing the guideline for you:

- ❖ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research>
- ❖ <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/how-to-write-your-research-proposal>
- ❖ <https://custom-writing.org/blog/the-advantages-of-a-research-proposal-sample>