

Assignment 3: Overview of a Research Project

This assignment is worth **40%** of the total mark in the unit.

This assignment can be an individual work or a team work of 2 or 3 students.

Report Due Date: 11:55pm Monday 28 May 2018 (Week 14)

Class presentation: Thursday 24 May 2018 and Friday 25 May 2018 (Week 13)

Objective:

Write a brief overview report of a research project and give an in-class oral presentation about the research project suitable for use as a seminar talk.

Assignment Tasks

You are strongly encouraged to write about a research project that you are conducting or intend to conduct, such as your Master's thesis project.

The report must have **an appropriate title** and **include the following sections**:

- **Abstract** (no more than 150 words)

Concisely summarise all the key points, including the objective of the project, the main points of the argument/research problem, the critical concepts of the methodology, and the main conclusions and implications, in particular the specific contribution of the project to the literature (stock of knowledge).

List up to 5 keywords to convey the main subjects covered in the research project.

- **Introduction (Background)** - context information

Concisely explain the state-of-the-art developments in the research field in order to understand the objectives, novelty and significance of the project. With proper citations, articulate the relationship between the project and related research work undertaken to date, especially recent results. Clearly define the research problem (research questions/issues) being considered and briefly explain why you consider it, thus establishing the objectives of the project.

- **Objectives**

Briefly state what the project aims to achieve. Clearly explain the contributions to knowledge that are intended to result from the project. You can discuss what new knowledge/technique/system will be created, if any.

- **Methodology**

Clearly explain the underlying concepts and methods that you use to address the research problem. Briefly discuss any novel features or specific implementation issues in your methodology, if applicable. Discuss the implications (e.g. general application) and limitations (e.g. data or conditions required) of your methodology, if any.

- **Novelty**

Clearly explain why the research objectives and concepts are novel and innovative. For example, how do the research objectives or methodology differ from previous related research? Note that, for example, if you intend to discover how methodology X is applied in industry Y then related research includes research into other related methodologies in industry Y and research into how methodology X is applied in other settings. It is not sufficient to say here simply that nobody has previously done exactly what you intend to do. Note also, that the related research should be described in the Introduction (Background) section and only referred to here.

- **Conclusion and Significance**

Summarise what you have done and explain what you have found or achieved in relation to the problem addressed and/or the methodology used. Briefly explain how important the research problem is and describe what new methods/systems have been developed, if any. Explain the contribution of your research work to the stock of knowledge, including the significance and implications of the research result, methodological/theoretical or practical or both. For example, how will the research result advance the knowledge base of the field or provide new insights into the research problem?

- **References**

Use one referencing style (Harvard, APA or Vancouver) consistently. Make sure the listed references are specifically cited in the text of the report.

You report may include a **Title page** with the following information: (a) the unit code and the unit name, (b) the assignment number and/or heading, (c) the title (topic) of your research project, (d) your names, (e) your student ID number, (f) the University and/or the School (Faculty) you are enrolled in, (g) the date this assignment is due or submitted.

What to Submit:

(a) A Research Project Report (30%)

Prepare your report (using MS Word) in the form of a manuscript being ready for submission to a journal or a conference for publication. The report should be around **1,500-2,000 words**, with an appropriate title.

(b) In-class Oral Presentation together with presentation slides (10%)

Based on the guidelines for oral presentations given in lectures/tutorials and found in research methods books, prepare a presentation about your research project using MS PowerPoint slides suitable for use as a seminar talk.

- Please name your report file (.doc) and presentation file (.ppt) using your assignment group number, followed by the assignment number, for example, 1_A3.doc and 1_A3.ppt.

How to submit:

- Please upload your report file and presentation file using Moodle.