

Unit 10: Research Writing

Welcome to week 10 where you will be introduced to research writing. Research writing is a highly valuable skill for anyone working in a tech-related business as it provides an avenue for communicating technical knowledge.

Understanding research writing will help you with the writing of your final dissertation, as it is a large document, and technical people are less likely to be used to writing so much content. It is also useful for the written presentation of a research proposal and research papers, if you wish to publish your research in peer-reviewed journals or books.

In this unit we shall:

- Consider research reporting/writing.
- Consider the various sections in a dissertation and how to approach each of them.

On completion of this unit you will be able to:

- Understand how to structure a dissertation and how to prepare yourself for the writing.

This week brings together the work you have done so far on finding your area of research, conducting a literature review around your chosen topic and considering which research methods would be suitable for collecting your data. This culminates in your project proposal.

Reflection:

A dissertation or thesis is a substantial piece of writing required for graduation from an undergraduate or graduate program and based on the student's own original research.

A dissertation's format is discipline-specific, but it often consists of four or five chapters (including an introduction and conclusion chapter).

In the natural and social sciences, a typical dissertation outline looks like this:

- 1, An overview of your topic
2. Second, a survey of related literature.
- Three, a description of the methods you used
4. A summary of the findings from your study
5. Discussion of the findings and their significance
6. A summary of the results that demonstrates the value of your study.

7. Humanities dissertations frequently take the form of extended essays, with the author constructing their case via the examination of primary and secondary materials. It's possible that you could want to organize your chapters differently than I've shown above, perhaps according to themes or examples.

8. Eight, outside the body of the dissertation, the title page, abstract, and reference list are also crucial (www.bachelorprint.eu, n.d.).

Title page

Your name, the name of your department, the name of your university, the name of your degree program, and the date you submitted your dissertation all need to be on the first page of your paper. Your advisor's name, course information, and the school's emblem may also be included.

Acknowledgements

You can choose whether to include an acknowledgements section, but if you do, it will provide you a chance to express gratitude to everyone who aided you while you were writing your dissertation. Those that helped you along the way could be your supervisors, those who took part in your research, and even close friends and family.

Abstract

An abstract is a brief overview of your dissertation, ranging in length from 150 to 300 words. After you've finished the rest of the dissertation, and only then, should you write the conclusion.

Table of Contents

Include the chapter titles, subsections, and page numbers for each section in the table of contents. Provide an outline of your dissertation's structure and aid in navigation with a contents page.

List of Figures and Tables

Dissertation chapters that heavily incorporate tables and figures should be summarized in a numbered list. Using Word's Insert Caption function, you can quickly and easily create this checklist with minimal effort on your part.

List of Abbreviations

To help your reader understand the many abbreviations you have used in your research, it is helpful to include an alphabetized list of acronyms.

Introduction

You should introduce your dissertation's topic, goal, and significance to the audience, as well as give them an overview of what they may expect to find throughout the body of the work.

Literature review / Theoretical framework

You should have done a systematic review to familiarize yourself with the previous scholarly work on your area before you begin your own investigation.

Methodology

The credibility of your research can be evaluated thanks to the details you provide in the research design or section. Your goal in writing the methodology section should be to both provide a truthful account of your procedures and to persuade the reader that the chosen methodology was the most effective means of achieving your research goals and/or answering your research issues (www.myperfectwords.com, n.d.).

Results

The next step is to present the findings of your investigation. This section can be organized around a series of sub questions, hypotheses, or perhaps just general themes. Only include findings that directly pertain to your study's aims and hypotheses in your report. Separating the results and discussion sections is standard practice in some fields, whereas in others the two are integrated.

Conclusion

In the dissertation's final section, you should provide a succinct response to the study's overarching research question and ensure that the reader has a firm grasp on your core point. Finalize your dissertation by discussing the significance of your findings and your methodology. Recommendations for further study or practical application are frequently included in the summary.

Reference list

Reference lists must contain complete information about the sources used (sometimes also called a works cited list or bibliography). Maintaining uniformity in citation format is essential. The reference list of your work must adhere to the precise guidelines of the referencing style you're using (Scribbr, n.d.)

Prepare Yourself before Writing:

Although you might be able to skip the preparation phase, doing so will end up saving you time in the long run and is something that many beginning authors fail to do. Before picking up the pen again, you might want to check out these key things you can do to get ready and improve your life.

1. Conduct Preliminary Research

Do your homework first to avoid deciding based on what you see on the television. Think about the subject you wish to cover. If you need to learn more about a topic or are

unfamiliar with it, do your homework first. You should put off writing until you have finished gathering all your resources and information for your study. When the time comes to write your piece, you'll have a lot clearer picture of where you're going with the story. Just go to a document sharing website and pull together some relevant references if you have the time to do it on your own (EBR, 2021).

2. Make an Outline

There is no such thing as a masterpiece written by chance. A rudimentary outline is necessary for even the most seasoned writers to stay on track. The use of outlines is relevant here. No strict order is necessary for the outline to be useful. The purpose of this preliminary outline is to prevent you from rambling on about something that has nothing to do with the subject at hand. Planning, writing, revising, optimizing, and concluding the piece in that order will help a great deal.

3. Make a writing schedule

Don't sit down at your computer and expect your article to magically appear in 10 or 20 minutes. Schedule some quiet time to compose your post at a decent hour. Avoid any distractions while you're writing. Consequently, during that period, all else must be placed on hold. You should set aside uninterrupted time to write your content to avoid being sidetracked. Begin mentally preparing yourself, getting inspired, and pushing yourself to create your piece.

4. Verify Your Information

A single mistake might completely derail your reputation. Although it's human to err, this gaffe must be avoided at all costs. If you fall for a well-executed prank, spread widely discredited material, or simply make a mistake, own up to it quickly and be transparent about any changes you make. If you try to pull a fast one on your audience, they will surely catch on, which will only make matters worse. Admit the facts, accept the blame, and make the necessary repairs immediately.

5. Choose an Appropriate Writing Spot or Setting

In the end, everything boils down to the environment and the equipment you have on hand to write your next great blog post. As such, in terms of setting, select a spot where you won't be distracted by extraneous things and where other people won't be an interruption. Don't lug around more stuff than is necessary, including a laptop, notepad, pen, and books for research (saylordotorg.github.io, n.d.).

References:

EBR, E. (2021). *Prepare Yourself before Writing – The Most Important Tips You Should Follow*. [online] The European Business Review. Available at: <https://www.europeanbusinessreview.com/prepare-yourself-before-writing-the-most-important-tips-you-should-follow/> [Accessed 5 Oct. 2022].

saylordotorg.github.io. (n.d.). *Writing Preparation*. [online] Available at: https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_business-english-for-success/s14-writing-preparation.html.

Scribbr. (n.d.). *How to Write a Dissertation | A Guide to Structure & Content*. [online] Available at: <https://www.scribbr.co.uk/category/thesis-dissertation/>.

www.bachelorprint.eu. (n.d.). *Dissertation Structure ~ Definition, Parts and other Guidelines*. [online] Available at: <https://www.bachelorprint.eu/dissertation/dissertation-structure/> [Accessed 5 Oct. 2022].

www.myperfectwords.com. (n.d.). *Dissertation Structure - Writing Tips and Examples*. [online] Available at: <https://www.myperfectwords.com/blog/dissertation-writing/dissertation-structure> [Accessed 5 Oct. 2022].