

# Recurring deficits and questions in reports.

Josef Bigun,  
Halmstad University,  
Intelligent Systems Laboratory,  
SE-30118 Sweden.  
[josef.bigun@hh.se](mailto:josef.bigun@hh.se)

► **Can I write my article in another language than English?**

No. To express a scientific analysis in english is one of the outcomes of the course.

► **What software should I use to produce the report?**

We recommend you to use pdflatex, which is available freely for the most popular operative systems, as well as directly as a web service (e.g. search for sharelatex on internet). This is because writing master thesis report, presentation slides, and interacting with teachers of our lab on these is more efficient if the production is done in pdflatex. You can also use another software evidently as long as you know how to produce them.

# Recurring deficits

- ▶ **Context and purpose not mentioned**

Please, tell that you were required to produce this report in the course, and why so i.e. what it will supposedly demonstrate (your ability to find, read, and understand to a reasonable depth a scientific paper).

- ▶ **Another author's wording has been used for context and purpose...**

No, you must write it in your way! See plagiarism below.

- ▶ **Another author's wording has been used for citing a scientific reference...**

Again, No, you must write it in your way! See plagiarism below.

# Language and format

- ▶ **Grammar is bad, spelling is bad...**

We do not judge your language abilities in this course, although other courses may. HOWEVER, if the grammar and spelling is so seriously bad that your message and logics is not comperhensable, then you will have to raise its quality or else it will be rejected. We assume that you will take every opportunity in the rest of your studies to improve your ability in scientific writing. A single report is not sufficient.

- ▶ **I have listed references at the end but I have not commentted them in the text. Is this ok?**

No, you must comment/cite every single item appearing in the reference list. Reference list must be demonstatively relevant, in particular no item should be there as decoration.

# Copy-paste, Plagiarism

- ▶ **Can I copy and paste text from Wikipedia?**

Absolutely NOT! Copying from ANYWHERE, giving the impression that it is your words is plagiarism or piracy. This can result in exclusion from the course and possibly the school, per bylaw of HH. However, citing is fine, provided that you do it appropriately, e.g. quotations and with mention of the source.

- ▶ **I found a graphics material (picture, or drawing) in the internet. Can I use it in my report?**

This is tricky and in a gray zone. You have citation right, but the material can be copyrighted. In any case, if you use the material, YOU MUST DEMONSTRATIVELY write its source, in the caption. Else it is considered plagiarism again...with the same serious consequences as above. If you use too many such graphics of the same source, you start to enter the black zone...

# Scientific references

- ▶ **How do you dare to refuse my citation to a reference such as “NEW SCIENTIST”, “ILLUSTRERAD VETENSKAP”, “WIKIPEDIA”, “Master-thesis report at OXFORD” as non-scientific ?**

No offense!. These are great sources to learn about science but they are not peer reviewed scientific articles. They might even have a high scientific quality. That said, you are allowed to make a reference to such an article. However, in this assignment we want you to recognize peer reviewed scientific articles. Consequently, at least one item in the reference list must be a peer reviewed scientific article.

## ...Peer reviewed scientific articles

- ▶ **How do I recognize a peer reviewed scientific article then? Is it written on it somewhere?**
  - ▶ The fact is usually not written anywhere in the article.
  - ▶ Scientific articles cite (almost always) only other scientific articles. If the reference list of an article is dominated by web-links it is an indication for that the article is not scientific.
  - ▶ Search engines specialized in scientific articles include
    - ▶ <http://scholar.google.com>  
<http://apps.webofknowledge.com> HH library has a subscription service to this site offered to employees and students. You must be at HH OR have connection permissions.
    - ▶ The sites [elsevier.com](http://elsevier.com), [springer.com](http://springer.com), [jstor.org](http://jstor.org) have also (smaller) search facilities. These sites are also known scientific article publishers. Patents will be considered as scientific.
  - ▶ Finally, recognizing peer-reviewed scientific papers is one of the outcomes of this course.