SURE 2019 Reflective Diary Template

At the end of each week of your project, write a short paragraph reflecting on how that week of the project has gone. You may wish to frame it using the following questions:

1. What has gone well this week?

2. What could have gone better this week?

3. How will the answers above shape how I approach next week?

After your final week and by 5pm Friday 23 August 2019, you should submit this document via the SURE MOLE site.

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| Week 1  This week I discovered a flaw in my project proposal and managed to identify why I had the wrong idea about what I can accomplish. I was excited to discover that a small substitution was enough to get me on the right track. Having researched several papers relating to weighted abduction I was surprised to learn that what I used to regard as unachievable in the topic has been recently addressed (several implementations of weighted abductions have been proposed) and that I can continue to work on it.  I need to know more about the probabilistic framework for weighted abduction. I’m challenged by the difficulty of this framework which I am willing to implement. Currently my plan for the project is to implement the framework (which remains stated as an open task in research). Prior to that I wish to compare it to another framework – ILP inspired – proposed in another paper and used for the metaphor interpretation system originally (whose implementation is the primary goal of this project).  I need to remember that the difficulty of implementing weighted abduction might render it impossible to accomplish the primary goal of the project. At the moment the best way to think about this issue is that the implementation of the framework itself is a publishable accomplishment (given that it hadn’t been done).  This week I managed to work efficiently, although some problems with consistency have been encountered. Some days I achieved much less than I had planned because of various distractions (I decided to work from home). Next week I wish to work more consistently. I will wake up at a regular time and go to the library to work for a few hours non-stop. |
| Week 2   1. What has gone well this week?   At the beginning of this week my supervisor and I had an end-of-W1-start-of-W2 meeting where we summarised W1 (with the help of my reflective diary), established where we are in terms of progress and figured out three next steps. Those were then implemented by me. I started to use a diary constantly where I not only report on my progress but also think in writing; this, I figured, helps me think clearly and go forward faster. I noticed how I apply my insight gained during dissertation worked in this project (e.g. while creating test data which was one of the tasks for this week).  Because of my absence on Thursday and Friday we’ve decided to append those two days to the project duration; therefore Week 2 ends on Wednesday 26/6/19.   1. What could have gone better?   Despite already noticing it in Week 1 and paying attention to it, my consistency of work still needs improving. Although I manage to get done what I need to, the progress is noticeably not linear (some days I achieve 10 times more than other). The main issue here is that I get easily distracted by background noise and other matters that need addressing, and since this project is all individual work, I tend to feel like I can put it aside for a minute and take care of something else.  I have also noticed that in fright of some next steps I sometimes wander off and do ‘extra-curricular’ research in the area, despite that I’m aware I will not be able to deliver anything related to it. The issue here is probably confusion as to how to approach such a big step as ‘implementation’, ‘test case formulation’ etc.   1. Consistent reporting to my supervisor keeps me motivated and keeps the record clear; I should keep doing this.   Problems with consistency could be addressed by setting up a daily schedule of work; short, 2-3-hour periods should be best for productivity; if that’s not enough then could try a Pomodoro tracker.  To aid the lack of courage at starting with big steps, try to break up every big step into many small steps. Then make a plan and keep logging the progress in Progress document. |
| Week 3 |
| Week 4 |
| Week 5 |
| Week 6 |