

Extended abstract feedback, generic

You will each receive a scanned version of your submission with some indicative comments and feedback.

- Accept feedback as an intention to help you communicate more clearly. Think about the feedback in the sense of how does this apply to my writing generally.

In the best cases the arguments were clear, and the writing well referenced and appropriately cited.

- However, this sort of writing is very challenging, and with all writing there will always be ways to improve 😊

How extended abstracts could have been improved:

Reports vs Essays:

Many of you appear to be approaching the writing as an essay where the title is a problem statement.

That approach assumes you will be able to present a conclusion

However the original specification says we want you to investigate the factors affecting your problem statement and propose a web science approach to its investigation.

Reconsidering this will lead you to come up with much simpler and shorter titles, for example:

- Investigating crime online: an analysis from criminology and computer science
- Investigating online drug transactions: comparing psychological and information science perspectives
- Visualising big data online: comparing mathematical and psychological factors

Argument:

The extended abstract is short.

- like every writing process you can expect the text to go through a few drafts and revisions.
- it also gives you a chance to read/examine your argument very carefully
 - and make sure that **the words you are saying** are actually **communicating the argument you are trying to present**.
 - it means you have to read your text very pedantically
- In the best submissions it was possible to see clearly the relationship between the original short argument summary and the new extended abstract
 - e.g. through text colour or through inclusion of the original abstract
- If you were someone who decided to rewrite your abstract based on the feedback to your first submission

- it would have been a good idea to re-present that abstract and then work through the extended abstract

In each example above we are trying to work systematically in small steps towards presenting a coherent, well referenced argument in the extended abstract.

Structure of the Argument:

You can structure the text and include visualisations to help structure the argument for the reader

- if you are comparing two approaches you may turn them into two columns or use two bullet points - we are presenting an extended abstract for a technical report not an essay!
- Similarly you might include a diagram to explain some complexity.

References:

Some evidence that methods of researching could be made more efficient

- ideally practice one touch, conduct your exploratory researches for orientation - the guidance provided in the blog post from Patrick Dunleavy is very relevant in this respect

There were a mixture of quantity and methods of referencing

- The extended abstract is a chance for you to organise and practice your referencing techniques

citations alone in the text do not give the reader any chance to look up the source texts

Citations:

Make sure you record the citations accurately - misspelling a cited source is not good, nor is gaps in the record!

- The purpose of citation is to enable the reader to completely reproduce the research and follow the reasoning of the author.

it is worth learning how to cite elegantly for example

- Hartley (2008) , in his book on academic writing, presents an chapter by chapter analysis of the components of a piece of technical writing, with examples of the typical components.
- One highly cited early source in the green IT literature is Symantecs (2009) report .

These sentences provide you with the opportunity to lead into a paraphrasing of the relevant content and at the same time inform the reader of more background information about the nature of the publication and the value which it might be attributed.

Talk about publications directly and in the present tense, for example

- Repko (2007) introduces the concept of identifying common ground between different disciplinary approaches.

Searching and Citation chains:

Think about fine tuning your approach to literature searches:

- You may find it helpful to read the notes <http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/17645/>
- If you are using an older source (e.g. ~2000 when you are investigating very recent phenomena) it may be useful to conduct a google scholar search and browse the articles which have cited your earlier text, particularly looking for papers which have cited it in the last couple of years.

Readability:

Reviewing your text is essential if you are going to make it readable. If you don't yet understand a complex idea, try explaining it in little steps/short sentences/

- Measure the Readability of your Text! - Improve your writing with Readability-Score.com

<http://old.readability-score.com/text/>

- Keep your sentences short. Write direct sentences rather than complex/referential sentences with winding clauses.
- Avoid over-strong claims - unless you can present substantive evidence to support the claim - e.g x is essential, xxxxx
- start your sentences directly, for example
 - Anthropology deals with the study and description of groups of people - rather than When dealing with the study and description of groups of people, anthropology....this approach also means that you will save words 😊

Individual Feedback meetings

- If you would like to discuss your feedback personally please book a feedback meeting.
- If you discover my regular slots are not suitable please mail me directly and I will set up a series of doodle poll slots in addition

NB: notes and video for pecha kucha to be circulated very shortly