

Week 3 - Developing a systematic approach to writing

This week we will discuss the writing process, giving particular focus to the writing of abstracts, and how they can be used to retain focus, and drive the progress of your writing and its associated research

You will be spending increasing time identifying the early literature which you will submit as your annotated bibliography, so there are fewer recommended papers this week, although you may want to catch up on your reading of some of the papers from previous weeks.

In the first class we will cover a simple approach to writing an abstract and discuss the rationale for taking an abstract first approach to writing - the video on writing a great research paper touches on this area in its early stages, and its well worth a second viewing.

In the second class of the week, we will work in small groups, reading aloud our first draft abstracts to each other. This helps you practice the abstract writing, and means we all get a better idea of our different interests and specialisms.

You will conduct your second reading group meeting during the third session

At about this time you will be clarifying your ideas about the topic you plan to investigate. You might like to think about selecting an informative title for your proposed report which summarises your approach. For example Topic title: an investigation from the perspectives of discipline 1 and discipline 2 might be realised as "*Mysogynist trolling online: and investigation from psychological and sociological perspectives*".

It is worth remembering that on this module you are writing a report rather than an essay. You are expected to make recommendations based on your evidence and reasoning rather than providing an answer to a question - we don't know the answers yet!

So, when you are reviewing your topic choice, take into account that you will not be providing an answer to a question, but proposing a way to investigate the topic further using web science approaches in an interdisciplinary context.

Readings

Bassey, M., 1995. Creating education through research: a global perspective of educational research for the 21st century, Kirklington Moor Press in conjunction with the British Educational Research Association. Available at: Hartley Library quarto 370.78 BAS

Davis H.C., 2007. How to review a paper, University of Southampton <http://users.ecs.soton.ac.uk/hcd/reviewing.html>

Eco, U. et al., 2015. How to write a thesis, MIT Press.

Johnson R. et al, How to get a paper accepted at OOPSLA Panel at OOPSLA'93, pp 429-436

Koopman, P., 1997, How to write an abstract <https://users.ece.cmu.edu/~koopman/essays/abstract.html>

Abstract Exercise

Choose from one of the following to be used in the talking aloud exercise :

- Using your working ideas for your research topic write a rough draft abstract
- Write a draft abstract for your annotated bibliography using the four paragraph formula

Supporting notes: How to write an abstract <http://edshare.soton.ac.uk/17371/>