

Research Skills

Session 5: Managing Research

Nader Ale Ebrahim, PhD
Research Visibility and Impact Consultant



aleebrahim@gmail.com



[@aleebrahim](https://twitter.com/aleebrahim)



<https://publons.com/researcher/1692944>
<http://scholar.google.com/citations>



All of my presentations are available online at:
https://figshare.com/authors/Nader_Ale_Ebrahim/100797

Abstract

Planning and managing a research are vital part of your PhD journey. At the beginning of the research, it seems “there is infinite time to handle the research”. But, when students reach to the dead line, they may discover that many things should be done. Students should know, What do I want from my PhD?, and What should I do now/next?. In this workshop, Dr. Nader use some Research Tools for managing and planning a research. The Research Tools enable researchers to follow the correct path in research and to ultimately produce high-quality research outputs with more accuracy and efficiency.

Keywords: H-index, Improve citations, Research tools, Bibliometrics, Research visibility, Research impact

**Do Research,
Don't Re-Search**

A word cloud with the following words and approximate sizes:

- Research (Large, Yellow)
- Ale (Large, Maroon)
- Ebrahim (Large, Green)
- Nader (Large, Green)
- Tools (Large, Orange)
- Founder (Large, Red)
- Science (Medium, Orange)
- Journal (Medium, Green)
- Title (Medium, Green)
- Number (Medium, Maroon)
- Google (Medium, Green)
- Study (Medium, Green)
- Results (Medium, Green)
- Abstract (Medium, Maroon)
- Reference (Medium, Maroon)
- Farhadi (Medium, Maroon)
- H-index (Medium, Green)
- Web (Medium, Orange)
- Attachments (Medium, Orange)
- Original (Medium, Orange)
- File (Medium, Green)
- Keywords (Medium, Green)
- URL (Medium, Orange)
- Short Issue (Medium, Green)
- Pages (Medium, Green)
- Citations (Medium, Green)
- Impact (Medium, Yellow)
- Author (Medium, Maroon)
- Scopus (Medium, Maroon)
- h-index (Medium, Orange)
- Publication (Medium, Green)
- ICT (Medium, Orange)
- Date (Medium, Orange)
- Scholar (Medium, Orange)
- Volume (Medium, Orange)
- Citation (Medium, Orange)
- Year (Medium, Orange)
- ISSN (Medium, Orange)
- Research (Medium, Yellow)
- Education (Medium, Orange)
- Nodes (Medium, Green)
- Two (Medium, Orange)
- Article (Medium, Green)
- Record (Medium, Green)
- Databases (Medium, Green)
- Hadi (Medium, Maroon)

Research Tools Mind Map

Web of Science

SCOPUS

EndNote

OATD

& many more Research Tools



Virtual Teams will become as important as 1



(1) Searching the literature

dtSearch

SpringerExemplar

Qiqqa

Academic Phrasebank

& many more tools



Research Tools

By: Nader Ale Ebrahim

Research Tools
By: Nader Ale Ebrahim



(2) Writing a paper

Journal Citation Reports

Journal Metrics

(4) Enh Manuscript matcher

Find the perfect journal for your arti

& many more Research Tools



(3) Targeting suitable journals

393.7k views

Session *Topic*

1. Introduction
2. Selecting keywords
3. Finding Research Papers
4. Evaluate a paper quality
5. Managing Research
6. Read a paper
7. Indexing Desktop Research Tools
8. Avoid Scientific Misconduct
9. Writing a Paper
10. Improve paper quality
11. Target Suitable Journal
12. Improve your Research Visibility and Impact

Tasks for the first session

1. Structure & planning your research (Draw the literature map)

2. Read:

- https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lisu/content/2_AssessmentTasks/assess_tuts/lit_review_LL/reading.html
- Cottrell, S. (2005). [*Critical thinking skills - Developing Effective Analysis and Argument*](#). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Chapter 3 of “Creswell, J. W. (2012). [*Educational research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research*](#) (4th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc”
- Chapter 3 of “Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2009). [*Research methods for business students*](#) (5th ed.). Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE, England: Pearson Education Limited.”

Tasks for the second session

1. Create the log file for your search term/s
2. Identify the main keywords set for your research
3. Identify the alternative keywords set for your research
4. Evaluate the search terms
5. Looking for selected keywords sets on:
 - ✓ SCOPUS
 - ✓ Web of Science Core Collection
6. Write the methodology used for selecting the final keywords set

Tasks for the third session

1. Install a reference management software
2. Download selected papers (based on the final keywords set) into the reference management software

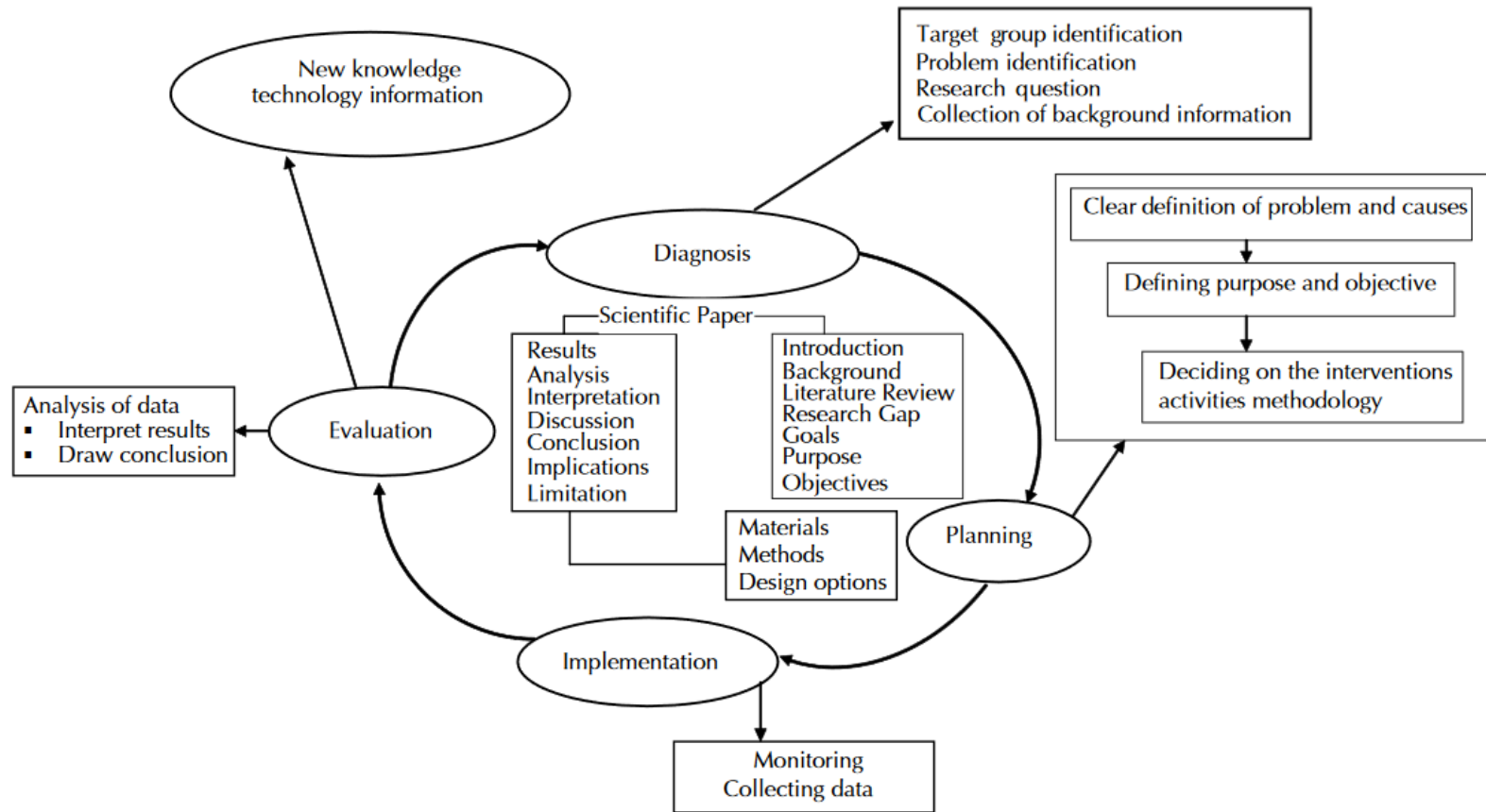
Tasks for the fourth session

1. Measure the downloaded papers/journal's quality
2. Rate the downloaded papers in your Desktop
Endnote library
3. Turn on Alert system in Scopus, WoS and other
databases based on the selected papers

Outline

No.	Topic
1	Microsoft OneNote
2	Reference Management tools
3	Core Papers, Shell papers, Filler papers
4	Mind Map Tools
5	How to Manage a PhD Thesis
6	

Project cycle, research process, scientific paper

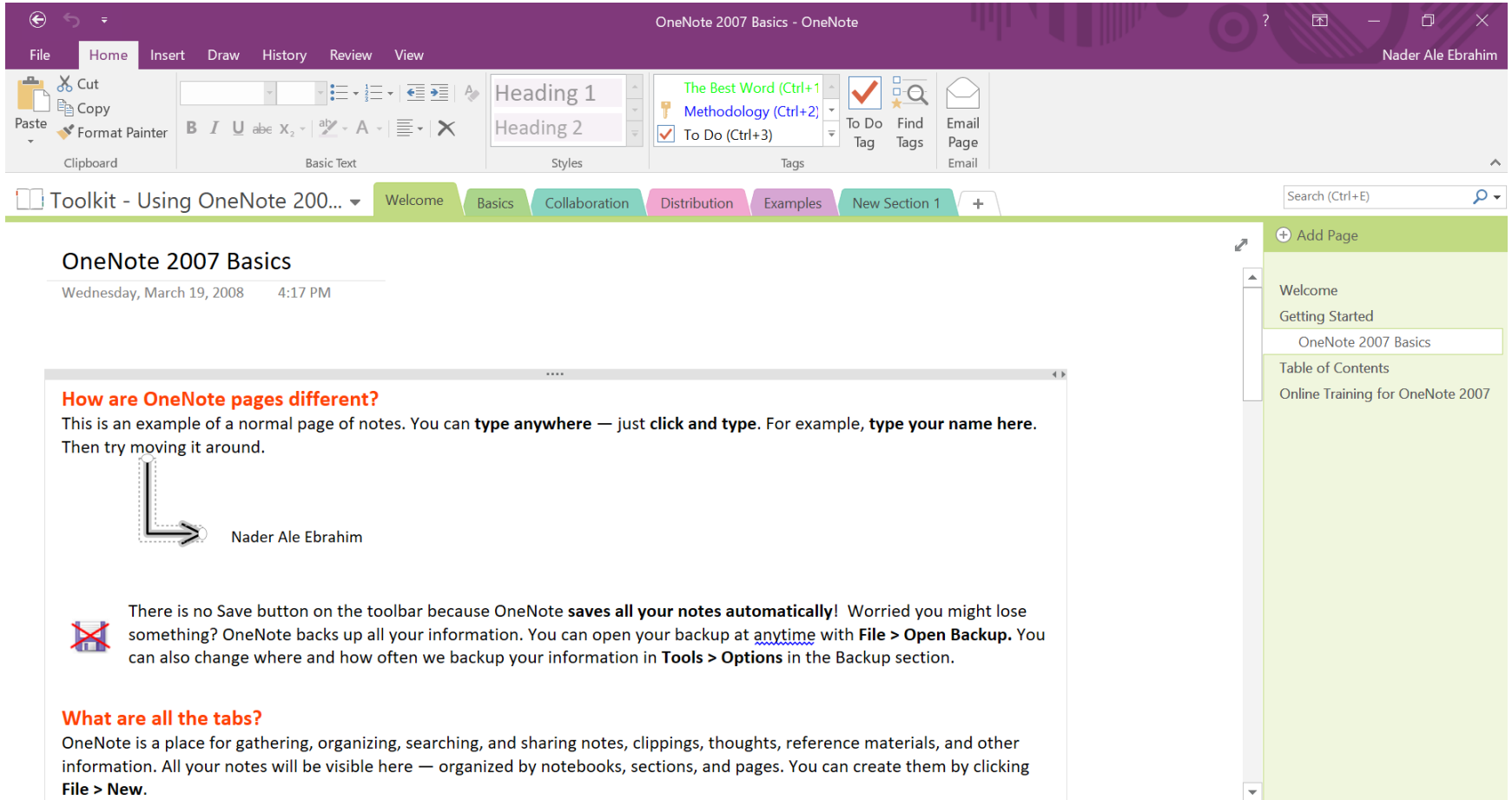


Source: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/963/Scientific%20Writing-Mahider.pdf>



Source: <https://www.uos.ac.uk/content/reflections-and-tips-%E2%80%99living%E2%80%99-and-%E2%80%98managing%E2%80%99-your-phd>

Microsoft OneNote





zotero



Qiqqa

Home (F1)

aleebrahim's Library

Expedition

Library for Expedition:

aleebrahim's Library

Refresh Expedition

Number of themes:

13

☒ Use AutoTags?
☒ Use Tags?

Refresh AutoTags

Manage AutoTags

Export Themes

Tutorial

You haven't refreshed your Expedition for this library for a while. If you have add new papers or tags to your library, you may wish to press the Refresh button on the toolbar. It will run in the background so that you can keep working.

1. The; risk; Risk; M

76% - (2018) CREDIT RISK MANA
69% - (2017) The exposure of mic
68% - (2018) Endogenous scope
55% - (2018) Do natural catastro
52% - (2018) Credit risk in microf
44% - (2018) Capturing Risks and
37% - (2016) Rational Herding to
36% - (2015) Agent-Based Mappi
35% - (2017) Risk management p
29% - (2016) Performance of Mic

Show me more

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Microfinance institutions' website accessibility

2018 Tadele, H. and Roberts, H. and Whiting, R. H.

Pacific-Basin Finance Journal

279 (1/15)

Pacific-Basin Finance Journal 50 (2018) 279-293




ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Pacific-Basin Finance Journal


journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/pacfin



2. The; Social; MFI

70% - (2017) Why do microfinanc
68% - (2017) The access of micro
64% - (2018) Microfinance Perfor
59% - (2017) Sustainable Microfir
53% - (2015) The Impact of Socia
50% - (2016) A social and enviro
47% - (2015) Practice What You P
41% - (2015) Microfinance Institu
36% - (2016) ARE FINANCIAL AN

Themes in this document




8. The; governance; MFIs; microfinance; financial

Documents relevant to this one

52% - (2015) Audit Quality and Corporate Governance: Evidence from the M
47% - (2015) Determinants of the governance quality of microfinance instit
47% - (2017) Does Religious Affiliation Influence the Design of Corporate G
47% - (2017) Why do microfinance institutions fail socially? A global empiri
46% - (2017) The access of microfinance institutions to debt capital: An em
45% - (2018) Microfinance Performance and Social Capital: A Cross-Countr
43% - (2017) Sustainable Microfinance and Global Performance Proposal fo
41% - (2015) The Impact of Social Beliefs on Microfinance Performance by I
40% - (2016) A social and environmental approach to microfinance credit s

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Abstract

279 (1/15)

Microfinance institutions' website accessibility

Tadele, H. and Roberts, H. and Whiting, R. H.

Pacific-Basin Finance Journal

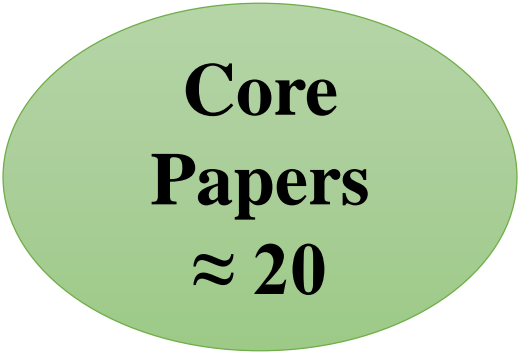
279 (1/15)

Abstract

280 (2/15)

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16



**Core
Papers
≈ 20**



Shell papers
≈30



Filler papers \approx 150

All available papers in your field of study ≈ 2000

Nader's role:

How Many References Should I Include in a Literature Reviews Paper?

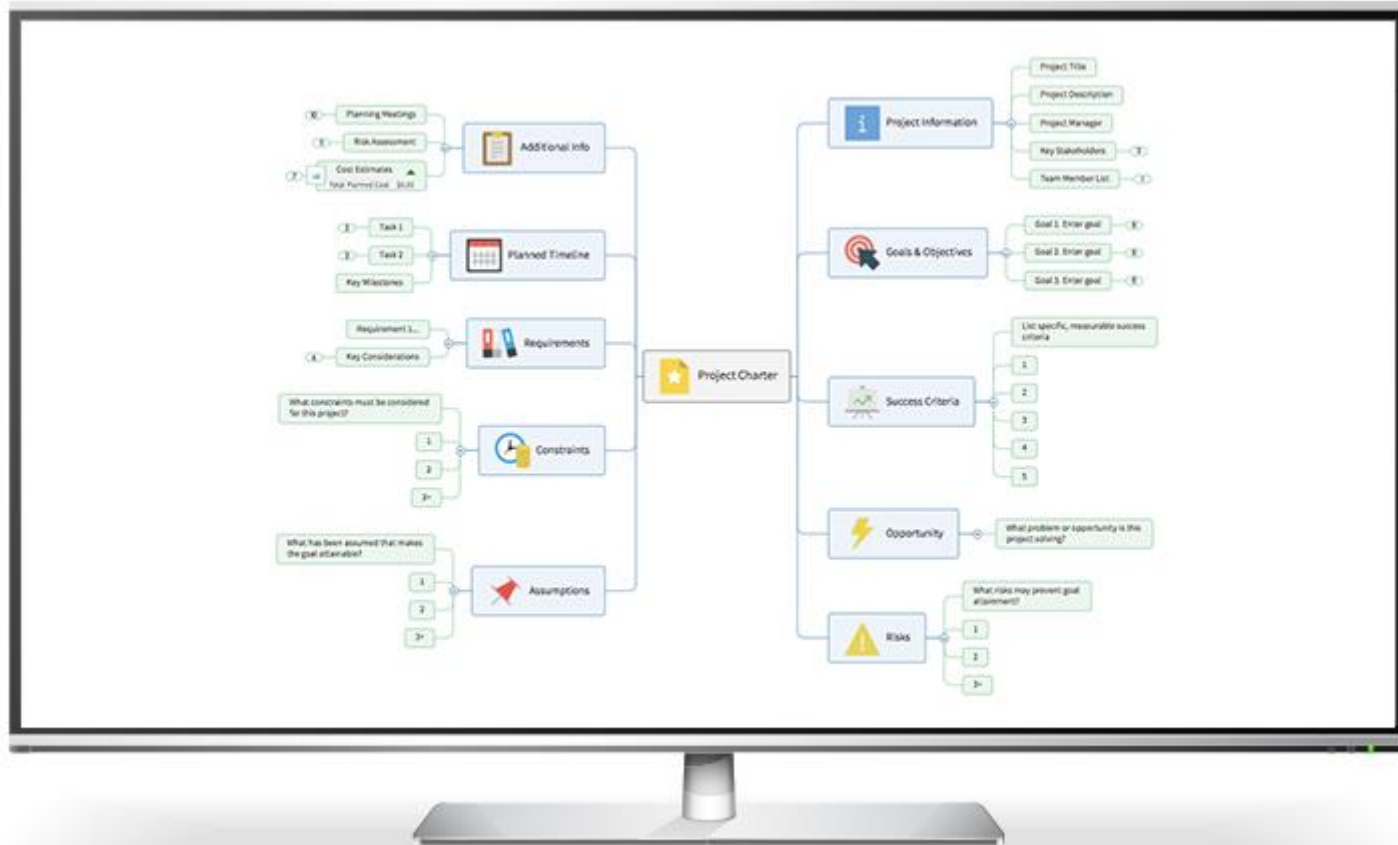
From all available papers in your field of study ≈ 2000 , include almost 200 papers:

- 1. Filler papers ≈ 150**
- 2. Shell papers ≈ 30**
- 3. Core papers ≈ 20**

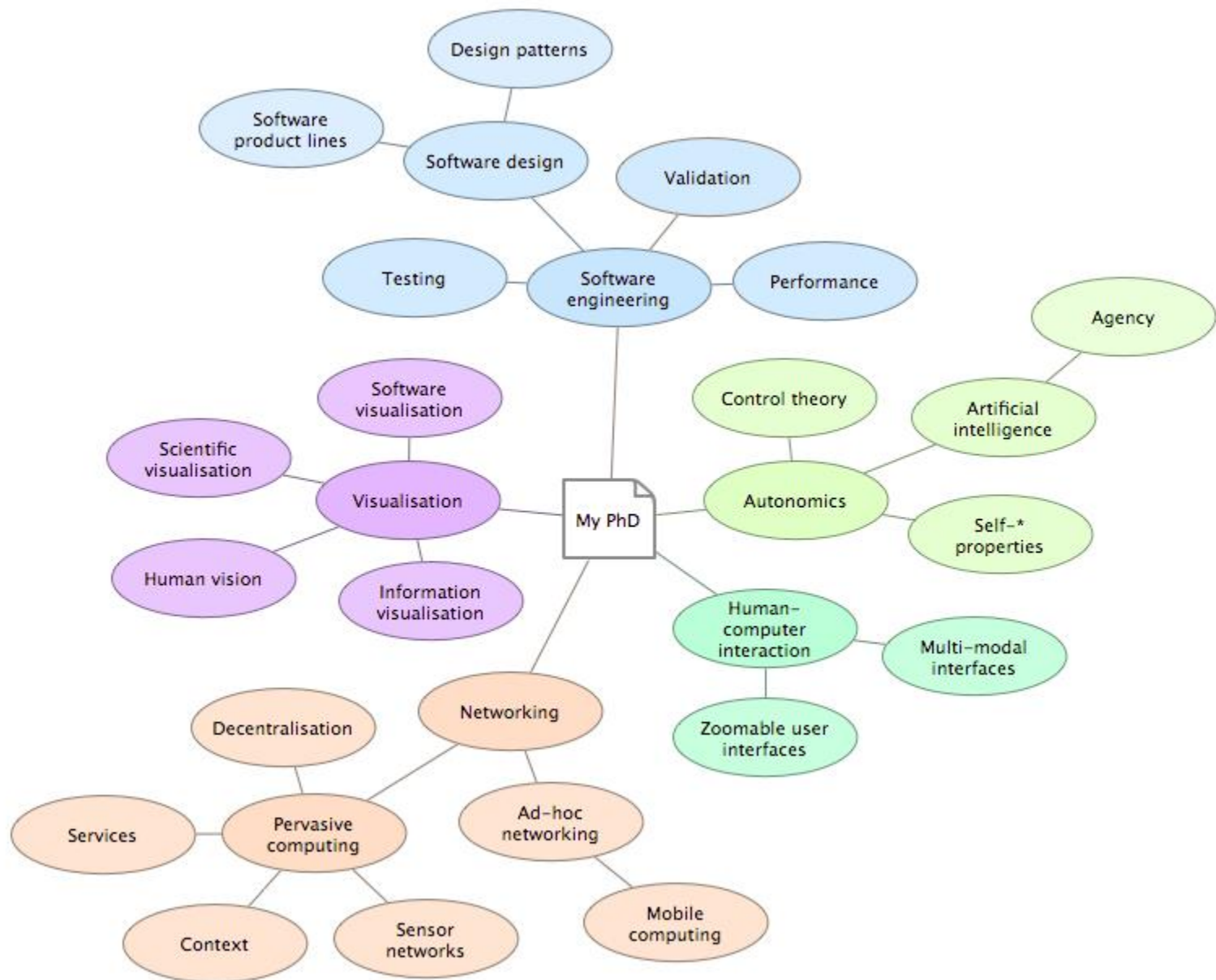
Mind Map Tools



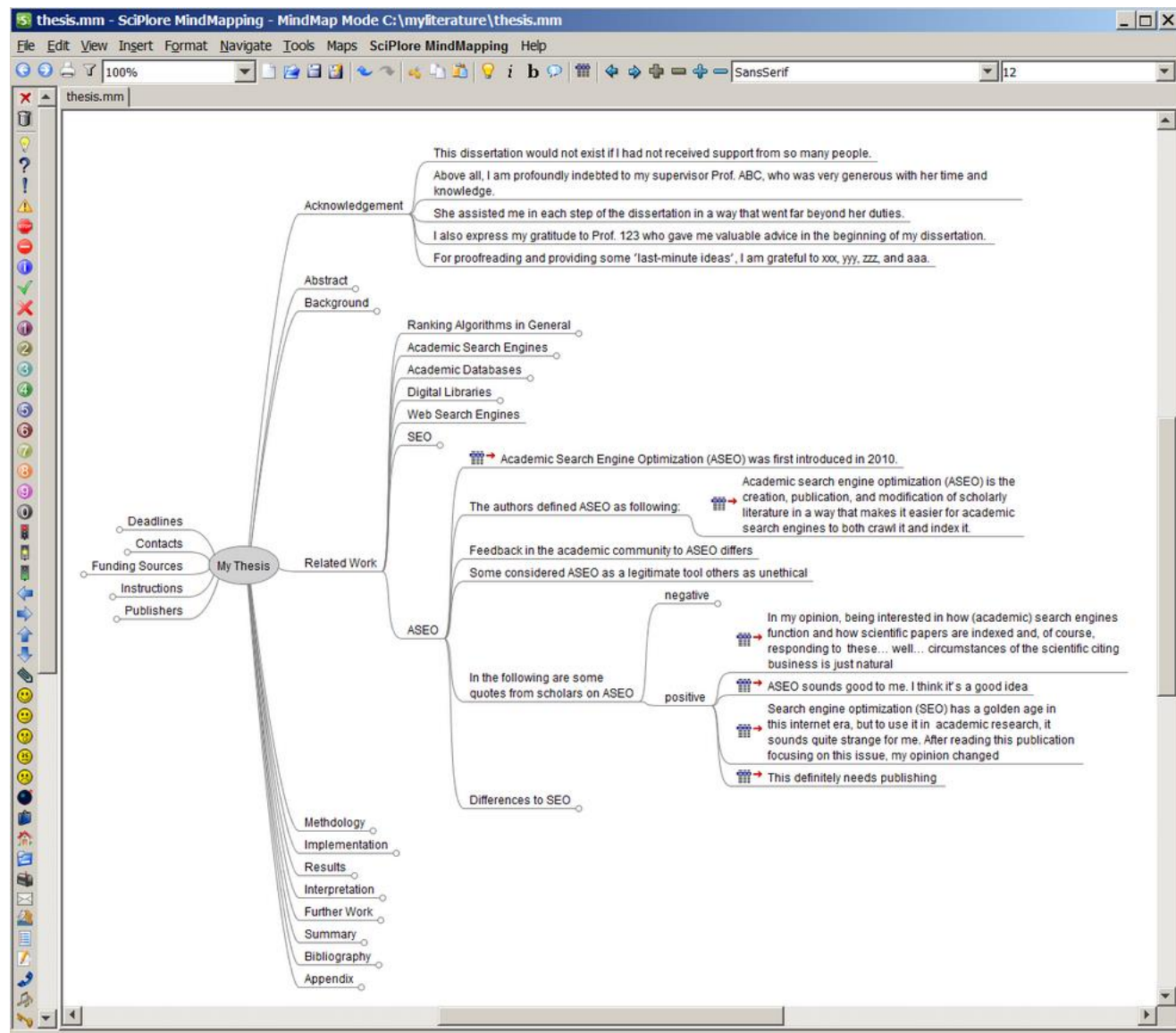
Source: [Mind Map Tools](#), By: Seyyed Ali Fattahi Computer PhD Candidate FTSM UKM



Source: <https://www.mindjet.com/>



Source: Ross' PhD Literature Review Mind Map



Source: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/joeran.beel/blog/2010/03/02/how-to-write-a-phd-thesis/>

How to Manage a PhD Thesis

Background

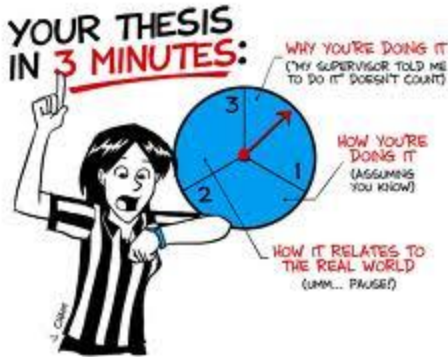
1

You have been recommended by your faculty to be a part of the Upskill Program team of presenters to offer sessions on **'Thesis Writing'**.

2

[Issue #9 Newsletter of the Society of Collaborative Networks \(SOCOLNET\)](#)

3



4

[User profiles for Luis M. Camarinha-Matos](#)

[Luis M. Camarinha-Matos](#)

Full Professor, New
University of Lisbon
Verified email at
uninova.pt
Cited by 11427



Sitting in a 3.8-metre sea
kayak and watching
a four-metre great
white approach you is
a fairly tense experience

MOTIVATION

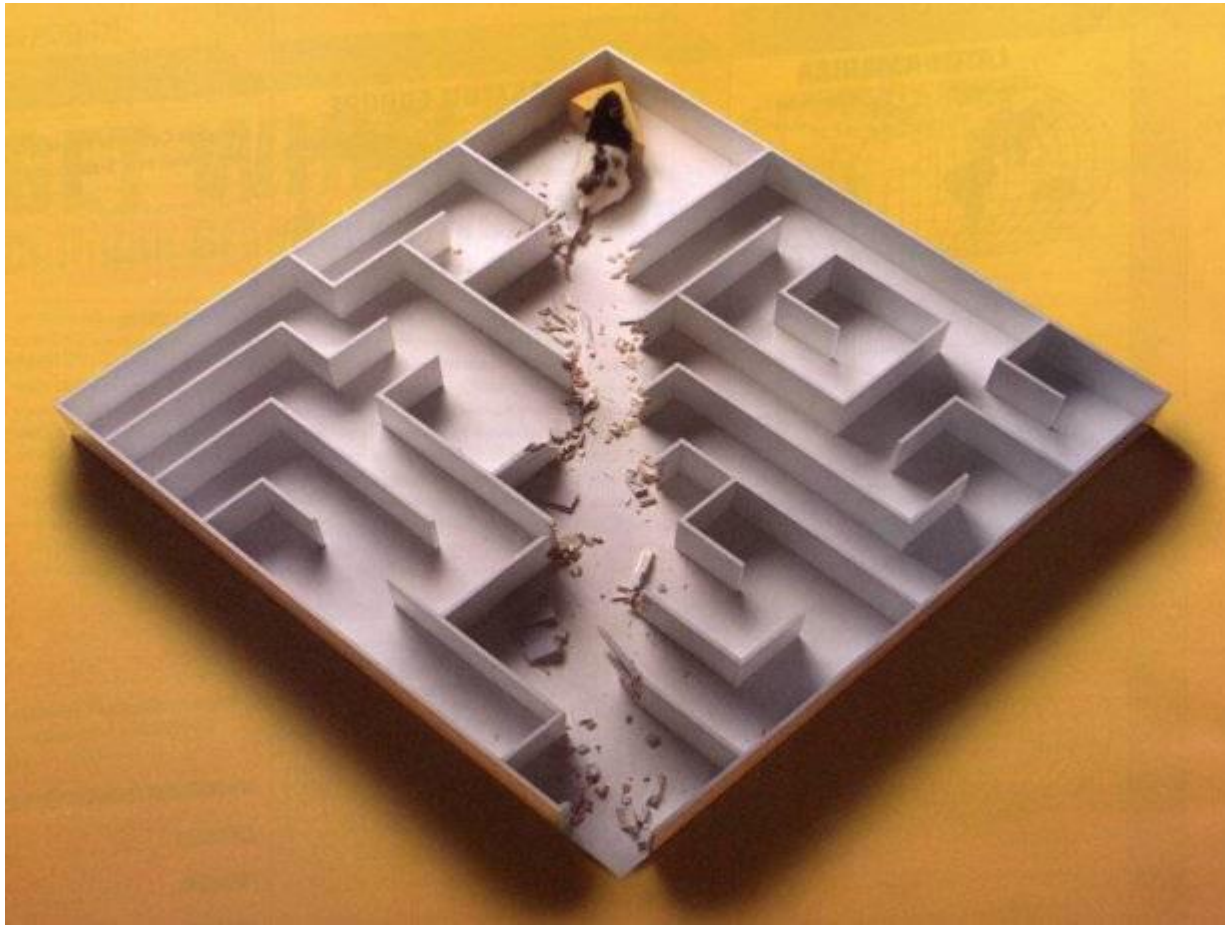
If there is a better reason to paddle, I don't know what it is.



MOTIVATION

If there is a better reason to paddle, I don't know what it is.

No Shortcuts to a PhD!



Source: Priya Narasimhan, (2006), How To Write a Good (no, Great) PhD Dissertation
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Questions? What is your thesis:

- Research background (Importance/need/rationale)
- Problem statement (Gap analysis (difference between presence and desired performance))
- Research objectives (Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, Time-based)
- Research scope (Area should be covered)
- Research methodology (Steps to achieve objectives)
- Data collection (Why this data, method)
- Analysis (Information generated toward analysis)
- Results and discussions (Drawing conclusions on the objectives)

What is a Thesis?

“A thesis is a formal and lengthy research paper, especially a work of original research, written in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a higher degree in a university”

Source: http://www.awc.metu.edu.tr/handouts/Thesis_Writing.pdf

Building the thesis



Six Rules of Thesis Writing

1. Identifying the research problem
2. Start thesis writing from a day after registration
3. Writing a Thesis Plan
4. Ask your supervisors: What are their expectations? and maintain regular contact with your supervisors directly/indirectly
5. Expand networking
6. Continuously write/revise and Publish

1- Identifying the Research Problem

Researchers begin a study by identifying a research problem that they need to address. They write about this “problem” in the opening passages of their study and, in effect, give you as a reader the rationale for why the study is important and why you need to read their study.

Reference: Creswell, J. W. (2012). *Educational research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* (4th ed. ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

2- Start Thesis Writing From a Day After Registration

- Write down a tentative thesis title, even if your thesis is murky in your mind.
- Write down a first cut at your thesis abstract, even if you have not done the work yet!
-

Source: Priya Narasimhan, (2006), How To Write a Good (no, Great) PhD Dissertation

Example

- Write a journal/conference paper while you are writing the thesis.

3- Writing a Thesis Plan

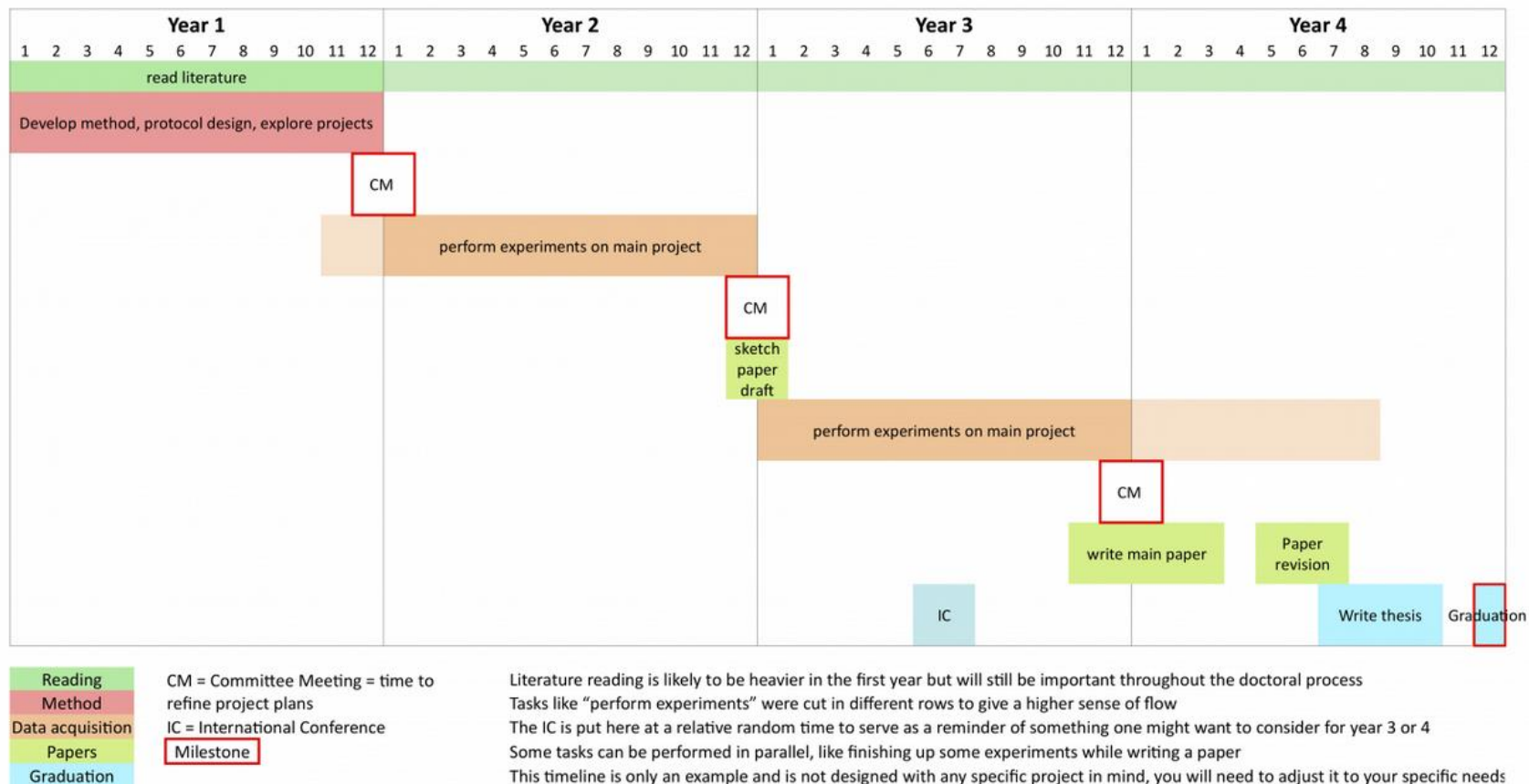
- **Write down the road-map of your thesis today**
 - What is the ideal thesis that *you would wish for*?
 - What results would it contain?
 - How would you evolve the story from start to finish?

Source: Priya Narasimhan, (2006), How To Write a Good (no, Great) PhD Dissertation

- Write each Chapter of the thesis deliverable items
- Write a checklist for each Chapter

[Example 1](#)

[Example 2 \(Thesis Checklist\)](#)



Source: <https://academiac.net/2018/11/20/guidelines-to-draw-a-timeline-of-your-phd/>

4- Ask your supervisors: What are their expectations?

Ask your supervisors for continuous feedback

- Your advisor is your biggest champion, your biggest promoter
- This person *wants to see you succeed and will rave about you and your work* enthusiastically to everyone
- Discuss your thesis layout, problem definition, goals of the month, etc.
- For sticky issues, your advisor will find you the right “connections” to fill in the gaps in your thesis

Source: Priya Narasimhan, (2006), How To Write a Good (no, Great) PhD Dissertation

Keep good relationship with your advisor (even after you graduate).

[Source: Useful Things to Know About Ph. D. Thesis Research, by: H.T. Kung](#) , Harvard University

Find a proper Table Of Content (TOC) according to your supervisor expectation. If you could not find it, follow the following slide structure:

Thesis structure

Materials preceding the text

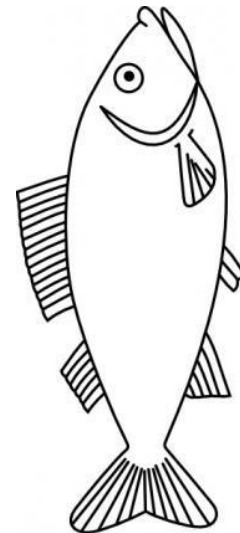
- Title Page
- Original Literary Work Declaration
- Abstract
- Acknowledgements
- Table of Contents
- List of Figures , List of Tables, List of Symbols and Abbreviations, List of Appendices

The main text

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature Review
- Chapter 3: Methodology (or Materials and Methods)
- Chapter 4: Results (or Experimental Results)
- Chapter 5: Discussion
- Chapter 6: Conclusion

References and

Appendices



4- (Con.) Present your activity indirectly

- Dear Nader Ale Ebrahim:

Your paper, "Virtual R&D Teams in Small and Medium Enterprises: A Literature Review", was recently listed on SSRN's Top Ten download list for ORG: Contemporary Organizational Structures (Topic) and Structural Dimensions & Organizational Behavior eJournal. As of 06/16/2010, your paper has been downloaded 107 times. You may view the abstract and download statistics at <http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=1530904>.

Top Ten Lists are updated on a daily basis. Click on the following link to view the Top Ten list for the journal [ORG: Contemporary Organizational Structures \(Topic\) Top Ten](#) and [Structural Dimensions & Organizational Behavior eJournal Top Ten](#).

Click on the following link to view all the papers in the journal [ORG: Contemporary Organizational Structures \(Topic\) All Papers](#) and [Structural Dimensions & Organizational Behavior eJournal All Papers](#).

To view any of the Top Ten lists, click the TOP button on any network, sub network, journal or topic in the Browse list reachable through the following link: <http://www.ssrn.com/Browse>

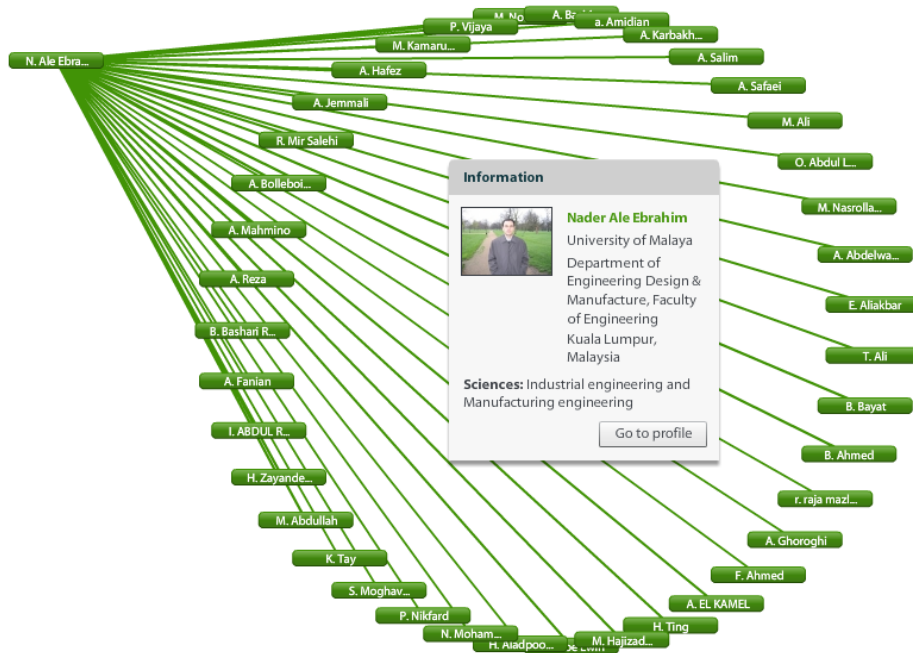
Your paper may be listed in the Top Ten for other networks or journals and, if so, you will receive additional notices at that time.

If you have any questions regarding this notification or any other matter, please email AuthorSupport@SSRN.com or call 877-SSRNHelp (877.777.6435 toll free). Outside of the United States, call 00+1+585+4428170.

- Sincerely,

Michael C. Jensen
Chairman
Social Science Research Network

5- Expand networking



1. Attending conferences for networking and making contacts
2. Build an academic network around yourself outside your university
3. People should get to know you, not just your advisor

6- Continuously write/revise and Publish

- ✓ your published papers, as a permanent record of your research, are your passport to your community
- ✓ Publishing is one of the necessary steps embedded in the scientific research process. It is also necessary for graduation and career progression.
- ✓ You need a **STRONG** manuscript to present your contributions to the scientific community

Source: How to Write Great Papers, 2012, By: Anthony Newman Publisher, Elsevier, Amsterdam

How not to write a PhD thesis

Tara Brabazon gives her top ten tips for doctoral failure

Source: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/how-not-to-write-a-phd-thesis/410208.article>

Top ten tips for doctoral failure

- 1. Submit an incomplete, poorly formatted bibliography**
- 2. Use phrases such as “some academics” or “all the literature” without mitigating statements or references**
- 3. Write an abstract without a sentence starting “my original contribution to knowledge is...”**
- 4. Fill the bibliography with references to blogs, online journalism and textbooks**
- 5. Use discourse, ideology, signifier, signified, interpellation, postmodernism, structuralism, post-structuralism or deconstruction without reading the complete works of Foucault, Althusser, Saussure, Baudrillard or Derrida**
- 6. Assume something you are doing is new because you have not read enough to know that an academic wrote a book on it 20 years ago**
- 7. Leave spelling mistakes in the script**
- 8. Make the topic of the thesis too large**
- 9. Write a short, rushed, basic exegesis**
- 10. Submit a PhD with a short introduction or conclusion**

Source: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/how-not-to-write-a-phd-thesis/410208.article>

Tasks for the fifth session

1. Create your own thesis/paper table of contents
2. Identify the main topics from your collected documents
3. Create your literature review/Thesis Mind Map
4. Plan your Thesis/Paper writing process



Thank you!

Nader Ale Ebrahim, PhD
Research Visibility and Impact Consultant



aleebrahim@gmail.com



[@aleebrahim](https://twitter.com/aleebrahim)



<https://publons.com/researcher/1692944>
<http://scholar.google.com/citations>



All of my presentations are available online at:
https://figshare.com/authors/Nader_Ale_Ebrahim/100797

My recent publication:

1. A. Ghanbari Baghestan, H. Khaniki, A. Kalantari, M. Akhtari-Zavare, E. Farahmand, E. Tamam, N. Ale Ebrahim, H. Sabani, and M. Danaee, (2019) ["A Crisis in "Open Access": Should Communication Scholarly Outputs Take 77 Years to Become Open Access?"](#), *SAGE Open*, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 1-8,
2. Ale Ebrahim, S., Ashtari, A., Pedram, M. Z., & Ale Ebrahim, N. (2019). Publication Trends in Drug Delivery and Magnetic Nanoparticles. *Nanoscale Research Letters*, 14(59). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s11671-019-2994-y>
3. Parnianifard, A., Azfanizam, A., Ariffin, M., Ismail, M., & Ale Ebrahim, N. (2019). Recent developments in metamodel based robust black-box simulation optimization: An overview. *Decision Science Letters*, 8(1), 17-44. doi:10.5267/j.dsl.2018.5.004. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3192794>
4. Elaish, M. M., Shuib, L., Ghani, N. A., Mujtaba, G., & Ale Ebrahim, N. (2019). A Bibliometric Analysis of M-Learning from Topic Inception to 2015. *International Journal of Mobile Learning and Organisation*, 13(1), 91-112. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJMLO.2019.096470>
5. Nordin, N., Samsudin, M.-A., Abdul-Khalid, S.-N., & Ale Ebrahim, N. (2019). Firms' sustainable practice research in developing countries: Mapping the cited literature by Bibliometric analysis approach. *International Journal of Sustainable Strategic Management*, 7(1/2). doi.: <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJSSM.2019.099036>

My recent presentations:

1. Ale Ebrahim, Nader (2019): Research Skills Session 4: Evaluate a paper quality. figshare. Presentation. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.10032167.v1>
2. Ale Ebrahim, Nader (2019): Research Skills Session 3: Finding Research Papers. figshare. Presentation. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.9993059.v1>
3. Ale Ebrahim, Nader (2019): Research Skills Session 2: Selecting keywords. figshare. Presentation. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.9946706.v1>
4. Ale Ebrahim, Nader (2019): Research Skills Session 1: Introduction. figshare. Presentation. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.9931163.v1>
5. Ale Ebrahim, Nader (2019): Introduction to "Research Tools": Tools for Collecting, Writing, Publishing, and Improving Research Visibility. figshare. Presentation. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8258957.v1>

References

1. [Mind Map Tools, By:Seyyed Ali Fattahi Computer PhD Candidate FTSM UKM](#)
2. Priya Narasimhan, (2006), How To Write a Good (no, Great) PhD Dissertation
3. [Creswell, J. W. \(2012\). *Educational research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research \(4th ed. ed.\)*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.](#)
4. [Useful Things to Know About Ph. D. Thesis Research, by: H.T. Kung , Harvard University](#)
5. How to Write Great Papers, 2012,By: Anthony Newman Publisher, Elsevier, Amsterdam