

Structure of a Thesis

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Master's Thesis¹
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January 2001

Abstract

Place your abstract here; it should not exceed this page.

“The purpose of your thesis is to clearly document an original contribution to *knowledge*. You may develop computer programs, prototypes, or other tools as a means of proving your points, but remember, the thesis is *not* about the tool, it is about the contribution to knowledge. Tools such as computer programs are fine and useful products, but you can't get an advanced degree just for the tool. You must use the tool to demonstrate that you have made an original contribution to knowledge; e.g., through its use, or ideas it embodies.” (Prof. John W. Chinneck, 2003)

¹ The Master Thesis corresponds to 20 academic credits for each author.

Sammanfattning

Translate your abstract into Swedish.

Preface

Not mandatory. (New page)

Acknowledgments

Not mandatory. (New page)

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Start by describing the topic at a general level and finish off with narrowing down the topic to the specific area that the thesis deals with. Basically it is a *general* introduction to what the thesis is all about.

1.2 Problem

The focus of the thesis, the problem should be of a general nature and a worthwhile problem or a question that has not been previously answered.

1.3 Purpose

Purpose of the thesis and how the problem is addressed. The work has to *be an original contribution to knowledge*. This could for example be a new:

- Framework
- Model
- Method
- System
- Algorithm

1.4 Restrictions

State the restriction made in the thesis. For example the thesis only deals with management in the retail industry.

1.5 Audience

State the audience that the thesis targets. Who would be interested of your work? Your thesis should target researches.

1.6 Methodology

A research methodology defines what the activity of research is, how to proceed, how to measure progress, and what constitutes success.

1.6.1 Preparatory work

The preparatory work, the result of this work is often described in the “Extended Background and Basic Concepts” chapter.

1.6.2 Methodology for eliciting the system requirements specification

Describe the development of the requirements that are used in order to evaluate if the purpose of the thesis is successfully achieved. Chapter 3 in this template.

1.6.3 Methodology for design and implementation

Describe the methodology for the design and implementation of the work in the thesis. Chapter 4 in this template.

1.6.4 Methodology for data acquisition

Describe the methodology for the data acquisition that was done in order to make a conclusion of your work. Chapter 5 in this template.

1.6.5 Methodology for evaluating the results

Describe the methodology for how the evaluation was done. Chapter 6 in this template.

2 Extended Background and Basic Concepts

Chapter 2 should include a detailed description of the problem area. The following topics could be included:

- Present situation of the problem and the purpose
- Other research that is done within the research area / problem area
- Presentation of the problem area in general

3 System Requirements Specification

Chapter 3 describes the development of the requirements that are used in order to evaluate if the purpose of the thesis is successfully achieved.

For example if you are creating a method for comparing “IT-security in small and medium size enterprises” this chapter would describe the requirements made on such a method and why they are made.

4 Design and Implementation

Chapter 4 describes the design and the implementation of your work if it is applicable. This could for example be a description of the design and implementation of:

- A prototype system
- An Algorithm
- A Questionnaire

5 Data acquisition

Chapter 5 describes the data acquisition part of your thesis.

For example if a prototype system has been developed there must be a test protocol.

6 Evaluation

Chapter 6 should summarize your data. The main part of this chapter is to evaluate the degree of fulfillment of your data. By comparing the result with the given requirements in chapter 3 you are able to evaluate your data.

7 Epilogue

7.1 Conclusions

This subsection should include a short and concise statement of the conclusions that you have made because of your work.

- How the problem stated in the thesis has been solved and shown in the thesis. Refer to the previous chapters in the thesis.
- Summarize the results.

7.2 Discussion

Discussion subsection includes the author's opinions

- There is no need to prove your opinions in this subsection
- There should be a logical reasoning

7.3 Future Work

Describe future work that can be done by yourself or other researches. Basically are there any new problem statements that originate from your work?

8 References

The two most common types of references are:

- Sequential numbering system [1..n]
- *Harvard* (author, year)

[1] R. Kemmerer, "Analyzing Encryption Protocols Using Formal Verification Techniques," *IEEE Journal on Secluded Areas in Communications*, v. 7, n. 4, May 1989, pp. 448-457

[Hawking,2000] Hawking, S. (2000) Professor Stephen Hawking's website [Online]. [Accessed 9th May 2002]. Available from World Wide Web: <<http://www.hawking.org.uk/home/hindex.html>>.