



PAGE LAYOUT AND PRINTING OF A MASTERS DISSERTATION OR DOCTORAL THESIS: A GUIDELINE

Technical and editorial requirements, examples of the front matter or preliminaries (title page to the end of the List of Figures), formatting of the contents and examples of the rear matter or appendices

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The Da Vinci Institute for Technology Management

Guidelines for Dissertations and Theses

A dissertation/thesis is a formal report on a research project undertaken for a masters/doctoral degree. The structure and presentation of the dissertation/thesis should comply with international conventions as customised by Da Vinci in this document. It should communicate effectively with the relevant research, innovation, professional and employer communities. Experience has shown that flawed research cannot be disguised in an elegant report – equally so can good research sometimes be obscured by poor structuring, language and technical editing - and a general careless approach.

This document first summarises the technical and editorial requirements a Da Vinci dissertation /thesis must comply with. Second, it offers examples of the front matter or preliminaries (title page to the end of the List of Figures), the formatting of the contents and examples of the rear matter or appendices.

Section 1 Technical Aspects

Font and line spacing

Use a clean uncluttered font (e.g. Calibri, Verdana, Arial or Times New Roman, font size 11 or 12pt and 1.15 line spacing (chosen for this document). Justifying the text creates a more professional appearance. (Keep in mind that supervisors and examiners could be reading your dissertation/theses late at night – assist them by making your dissertation/thesis ‘reader friendly’ from a technical point of view.)

Margins

Left margin must be set to 2.5 or 3cm and right margin to 2 or 2.5 cm for binding of document. Documents must be printed single-sided only.

Paragraph/section structure

Use the following numbering system to differentiate between different levels of content (also see Chapter a few pages further):

1.1 First-order heading

1.1.1 Second-order heading

1.1.1.1 Third-order heading

-
-

(The numbering system may be adapted according to specifications by the supervisor or specific online program used to create the list of content and headings within the text. This example is provided for those students who are not clear about what style to follow).

Preferably, keep the same font size for text and headings. Note: do not underline headings or parts of the text for emphasis or for any other reason – the two most acceptable conventions for emphasising text are **bold** and *italic* if really necessary.

Citations

The sources of any information used in the dissertation/thesis should be explicitly acknowledged and properly included in the List of References. **Citing such sources should be standardised.** The Da Vinci Institute is using the Harvard method as example for referencing sources. The following examples (here given in Times New Roman to distinguish them from the rest of text) cover the most common cases. Incidentally, note the difference in size between these two fonts:

- The surname, year of publication and page number(s) should be cited In the case of a direct quote (page can either be indicated by p. or by : - as long as it is standardised throughout the document and List of References):

In the words of Johnson and Smith (2005: 305), “The frequency of ...”

- Cite only the surname and year of publication, if it is not a direct quote:

Johnson and Smith (2005) found that the frequency of...

Alternate: The frequency of ... (Johnson & Smith, 2005).

- Three and more authors: Cite all the authors the first time and thereafter only the surname of the first author followed by *et al.* and the year of publication:

According to Smith, Marks, Venter and Anderson (2001) open source software opened new perspectives for small and medium enterprises.

Subsequent format: On this issue Smith *et al.* (2001) ...

Or: ... at low cost (Smith et al., 2001).

- Wikipedia must not be cited as a source because it is not peer-reviewed. Always try to access the original source of information (i.e. in which information was first published) and restrict to an absolute minimum relying on and citing secondary sources. Should only a secondary source be accessible (Peters, in the following example) the secondary source and **not** the non-accessible primary source (Botha) should be cited and included in the List of References:

In his review article, Peters (2004) referred to the following recommendations made by Botha as far back as 1986: ...

- Personal interview:
Second-order cybernetics is ... (Davis to Author, 2012)
- Personal communications should be used very sparingly, but always be clearly indicated as such in the text and List of References:
P. R. Samuels emphasised that ... (Personal communication, 10 February 2007).

Page numbering

Pages should be numbered at the bottom. The cover page is not numbered. The front matter (from the title page to the end of the List of Figures) should be small Roman numbers (i, ii, ...) and the text (from the first page of Chapter 1 to the last page of the Appendices) should be Arabic numbers (1, 2, ...).

Footnotes

Avoid using footnotes as far as possible – if information is important enough to mention, it can most of the time be included in the text (albeit perhaps parenthetically). It is recognised that there will be cases in certain study areas where some documents will need footnotes for additional explanation.

Composition of the dissertation /thesis

A dissertation/thesis normally consists of the following sequence of distinct elements, examples of each presented in Section 2 below:

- Cover – soft cover ring-bound for examination copies and hard cover glued spine for the final post-examination copies
- Title page
- Declaration
- Acknowledgements
- Summary
- Table of contents
- List of tables
- List of figures
- Chapters
- References
- Appendices

Section 2

Examples

The following pages represent examples of the front matter, the typography, lay-out and formatting of the contents and examples of the rear matter (note the page numbering). The first example will apply for a dissertation while that for a thesis will follow.

Please note that text boxes on the following pages contain explanatory information and will not appear in the dissertation/thesis

TITLE OF DISSERTATION: SUBTITLE

Full names and surname of student

Cover

Soft cover spiral-bound for examination purposes; hard cover glue-bound only after examination and oral examination; the student can choose the type of material (leather or book board) (4 copies).

- Title 18 to 20pt font size
- Rest of page: 14 to 16pt font size
- Same font type as the rest of the dissertation
- No degrees behind the name of the student
- No other headers or footers in content
- This cover page should not be confused with the title page which contains more information

Spine (only on hard-bound cover!)

- Same font type as title page, but the font size should be adjusted according to the width of the spine
- A relatively long title may require smaller font size and/or a two line title and/or not including a subtitle (if any)
- No degrees should follow after the name of the student

Candidate's Initials + surname

TITLE OF DISSERTATION: SUBTITLE

2013

Title page

- The page should not contain any pictorial material except for the Da Vinci logo.
- Just list the **highest** qualification of the supervisors, behind their names; do not use titles such as Dr or Ms.
- Title: Font of choice, **BOLD SMALL CAPS**, not exceeding 20pt letter type
- Rest of text: Normal, 14pt letter type
- No other headers or footers in content
- No degrees behind the name of the student.

TITLE OF DISSERTATION

Full names + Surname of Candidate

Student number: xxxxxxx

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

Master of Science in the Management of Technology and Innovation

at

The Da Vinci Institute for Technology Management

Academic supervisor: A Supervisor, PhD

Field supervisor: F Supervisor, MSc

2013



Declaration of authenticity

I declare that the research project, *Title of the dissertation: subtitle*, is my own work and that each source of information used has been acknowledged by means of a complete reference. This dissertation has not been submitted before for any other research project, degree or examination at any university.

.....
(Signature of student)

.....
(Date)

....., South Africa
(City/town of student's residence)

Da Vinci copyright information

This dissertation/thesis may not be published either in part (in scholarly, scientific or technical journals), or as a whole (as a monograph), by the researcher or any other person unless permission has been obtained from The Da Vinci Institute

I agree that I have read and understand the copyright notice

.....

TITLE OF THESIS: SUBTITLE

Cover

Soft cover spiral-bound for examination purposes (4 copies); hard cover glue-bound only after examination and oral examination; the student can choose the type of material (leather or book board).

- Title 18 to 20pt font size
- Rest of page: 14 to 16pt font size
- Same font type as the rest of the thesis
- No headers or footers included
- No degrees behind the name of the student
- This cover page should not be confused with the title page which contains more information

Full names and surname of candidate

2013

Spine (only for hard-bound cover!)

- Same font type as title page, but the font size should be adjusted according to the width of the spine
- A relatively long title may require smaller font size and/or a two line title and/or not including a subtitle (if any)
- No degrees should follow after the name of the student

Candidate's Initials + surname **TITLE OF THESIS: SUBTITLE** 2013

TITLE OF THESIS

Title page

- The page should not contain any pictorial material except for the Da Vinci logo.
- Just list the **highest** qualification of the supervisors, behind their names; do not use titles such as Dr or Ms.
- Title: Font of choice, **BOLD SMALL CAPS**, not exceeding 20pt letter type
- Rest of text: Normal, 14pt letter type
- No other headers or footers included
- No degrees behind the name of the student

Full names + Surname of Candidate

Student number: xxxxxxx

Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
Philosophiae Doctor in the Management of Technology and Innovation

at

The Da Vinci Institute for Technology Management

Academic supervisor: A Supervisor, PhD

Field supervisor: F Supervisor, MSc

2013



Declaration of authenticity

I declare that the research project, *Title of the thesis: subtitle*, is my own work and that each source of information used has been acknowledged by means of a complete reference. This thesis has not been submitted before for any other research project, degree or examination at any university.

.....
(Signature of student)

.....
(Date)

....., South Africa
(City/town of student's residence)

Da Vinci copyright information

This dissertation/thesis may not be published either in part (in scholarly, scientific or technical journals), or as a whole (as a monograph), by the researcher or any other person unless permission has been obtained from The Da Vinci Institute

I agree that I have read and understand the copyright notice

.....

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

It is appropriate to acknowledge the contributions and support of the following role players and support mechanisms, if they actually impacted on the course of the study:

- Supervisors
- Other substantive research support
- Employer and professional colleagues
- Friends and family members

Keep the acknowledgements sober and balanced.

Preferably do not exceed one page.

Summary

The summary is the most-read part of the dissertation (thesis) and should in a succinct way summarise the work reported in the dissertation (thesis).

- It should preferably be only one page but not exceed 600 words (two pages).
- An obvious approach would be to briefly summarise the topic/background of problem and goal. The research design/methodology, findings, discussion and recommendations should normally account for approximately 80% of the summary.
- Make sure that the summary communicates in its own right, i.e. as a stand-alone section.
- In terms of content, the summary should stick very closely to the dissertation (thesis) itself and under no circumstances include any new information or cite sources.
- Do not include any sub-headings.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (EXAMPLE)

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<i>Acknowledgements</i>	iii	
<i>Summary</i>	iv	
<i>List of tables</i>	vi	
<i>List of figures</i>	vii	
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	1	
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1.2	General statement of the problem	3
	1.2.1 Effects on skills acquisition	4
	1.2.2 Effects on productivity	5
1.3	Past responses by the firm	5
	1.3.1 Line function responses	6
	1.3.2 Management response and new strategy	6
	1.3.3 Past research	6
	1.3.3.1 In-house 2002 project	7
	1.3.3.2 Commissioned 2006 project	7
1.4	Main aim and objectives of the study	
1.5	Research design and methodology used	
1.6	Research question and sub-questions	8
1.7	Summary and structure of the dissertation (thesis)	9
Chapter 2	Theoretical framework and overview of relevant literature	11
Chapter 6	Conclusions and recommendations	
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A dissertation /thesis is a research report and it stands to reason that readers would often consult the document to obtain information on a specific issue and that requires relative completeness and absolute accuracy of the table of the contents!

- Normally do not reflect more than three levels of subheadings, e.g. #1.3, 1.3.3, and 1.3.3.1.
- In order to enhance readability, headings in the table of contents should preferably not exceed one line. On the odd occasion of an unavoidably long heading in the body of the dissertation/thesis, it should be abridged, e.g. the following heading, Experiment 2: The effects of utilisation of the two-step innovation model in technology transfer in Mpumalanga, could be shortened to, Experiment 2: Results of the two-step model in Mpumalanga.
- Restrict the size of left indentations, tabs, to a minimum, to minimise empty white space.
- Rather obvious, but often overlooked: use the same letter type as in the body of the dissertation (thesis); also use the same font size, i.e. avoid different font sizes in the table of contents to emulate the headings in the text.

Description of Research design and methodology in chapters

It is very important to note the following about the description of research design and methodology:

- First the research design and methodology is briefly described in Chapter 1 and written in the future tense because it still forms part of the **students** planning of his/her entire research.
- Once the research is completed the students returns to Chapter 1 and changes the description on the process followed from future tense to past tense where applicable. Chapter 1 provides the **reader** a view on the context of the entire research which has already been completed.
- The chapter on the research methodology and process, as well as the analysis of results will similarly be written in the past tense where applicable.

LIST OF TABLES

- 1.1 Summary of previous solutions
- 2.1 Summary of Johnson's recommendations
- 2.2 Summary: Authors and their organisational diagnoses
- 3.1 Structure of the customer questionnaire
- 3.2 The sample: Demographic characteristics

All the guidelines for the Table of Contents also apply to the List of tables and the List of Figures. Do note that

- All tables should have titles added below the title and source should be added where applicable
- Headings should contain all the essential information that an informed person would require to understand what the table is intended to communicate
- Information (column and row headings as well as the body of the table) should be accurate, short, clear and explicit
- If the information was culled from a publication or some other source, the source should be acknowledged explicitly immediately below the table
- A table should not spill over from one page onto the next; if the table is unusually comprehensive a fold-out page should be considered.

List of Figures

- 1.1 Summary of previous solutions
- 2.1 Johnson's recommendations
- 2.2 Summary: Authors and their organisational diagnoses
- 3.1 Structure of the customer questionnaire
- 3.2 The sample: Demographic characteristics

A figure is normally included in a publication, if the complexity of a process can be better represented in a diagram or picture (to name two types of figures) than in words.

All the guidelines for the **Table of Contents** and the **List of Tables** also apply to the List of Figures. Do note that

- All figures should have a title added below the figure or image and source should follow the title where applicable
- Headings should contain all the essential information that an informed person would require to understand what the figure is intended to communicate
- Information (e.g. in text boxes) should be accurate, short, clear and explicit; a diagram can easily become confusing, if the verbal information is not well organised
- If the figure was culled from a publication or some other source, the source should be acknowledged explicitly immediately below the figure

List of Acronyms

ASSAf	Academy of Science of South Africa
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
.	
.	
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
.	
.	
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand

In principle, the use of acronyms or abbreviations should be restricted to the absolute minimum, especially in the case of uncommon ones (e.g. those that are unique to a specific organisation). Good practice is to spell out the full proper noun (followed by its acronym between brackets) the first time it appears in **that** chapter, where after the acronym can be used in the rest of the particular chapter. Repeat this process in each new chapter.

- ... the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) announced ...

If list of acronyms is used it should be added in front of thesis or dissertation. See Table of Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction to the context of the study

1.1 Background

This study was initiated lorem ipsum dolor si amet, incidunt ut labore et dolore eu fugiat nulla pariaat praesant luptatum delenit simil tempor sunit fuga,Tia non ob ea solu incommod quee egenium imprrob fugiendad putamuy sed muit etiam mag quod cuis.Lorem ipsum dolor si amet, incidunt ut labore et dolore eu fugiat nulla pariaat praesant luptatum delenit simil tempor sunit fuga.

1.2 General statement of the problem

In view of the motivation for the study, dolor si amet, incidunt ut labore et dolore eu fugiat nulla pariaat praesant luptatum delenit simil tempor sunit fuga,Tia non ob ea solu incommod quee egenium imprrob fugiendad putamuy sed muit etiam mag quod cuis.

1.2.1 Effects of skills acquisition

The general problem can be luptatum delenit simil tempor sunit fuga,Tia non ob ea solu incommod quee egenium imprrob fugiendad putamuy sed muit etiam mag quod cuis. Lorem ipsum dolor si amet, incidunt ut labore et dolore eu fugiat nulla pariaat praesant luptatum delenit simil tempor sunit fuga,Tia non ob ea solu .

1.2.1.1 Training techniques

One of the many fugiendad putamuy sed muit etiam mag quod cuis. Lorem ipsum dolor si amet, incidunt ut labore et dolore .

- Sghjklyuiop
- Cvbnuiop

- Use the above example outline numbering system of not more than three levels (1.1, 1.1.1, 1.1.1.1), there after use bullets
- The chapter number should represent the first digit of the numbering system, e.g. the sections in Chapter 4 should start with 4.1 and then proceed to 4.2, 4.2.1 and 4.2.1.1.
- Align the text left, irrespective of the level of the heading, in order not to end up with large areas of white space and little text!

References (Harvard style)

- Author, P.S. (2006). *Title of a book*. London: Publishing House.
- Contributor, A.M. (2006). Title of a chapter in a book. In P.S. Author (Ed.), *Title of book*. London: Publishing House. Pp. 101-134.
- Editorial. (2008) Future without technology. *Sunday Times*, April 21, p. 23.
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- Scholar, P.C. (2005). *Title of conference paper*. Paper presented at the 12th Annual Conference of the International XYZ Association, London, UK, 12-15 September.
- Scientist, V.C. (2012). *Title of the contribution*. [Full website address] (Date accessed)
- Task Group Y. (2007). *Report on whatever was investigated*. Johannesburg: Eskom Holdings.

The List of References should include all sources of information directly and indirectly **used** in the dissertation or thesis. Do not include other sources that may be relevant, but not actually used in this list. A bibliography, being a more or less exhaustive list of sources of information on a particular topic, should not be included in a dissertation or thesis.

An adapted version of the Harvard referencing style should be used; the most common cases are illustrated above.

- References should be listed in alphabetical order across categories of sources; in the case of more than one publication by the same author the references should be listed in chronological order.
- Do not differentiate between different sub-categories of sources (e.g. journals and books).
- Entries must be accurate.
- Author or title of website should be referenced and the link of website added behind.

Appendix A

Customer Questionnaire

Include as appendices information such as the following:

- Copies of data-gathering instruments, e.g. questionnaires, interview schedules
- Geographical maps used in the study , e.g. for sampling
- Site maps, e.g. factory lay-out, if necessary to understanding part of the study
- Transcriptions of essential parts of interviews (qualitative research)
- Analysed raw quantitative data
- Large correlation or other numerical matrices
- Other essential illustrative material

All appendices should be properly listed in the Appendices as well as discussed and cross-referred in the text.