

UPgrade@UTeM

PPS



POSTGRADUATE ASSOCIATION



The gateway to a
meaningful through
postgraduate life.

Attempt to explode
the myth through
multi-tasking via activity

POSTGRADUATE
LIFESTYLE HIGHLIGHTS

PPS

Centre for Graduate Studies



UTeM Postgraduate Association
(UPgrade)

“STRIVE TOGETHER”

Dr. Hyreil Anuar Kasdirin



Welcome to the 2nd edition of the UPgrade bulletin of UTeM. Unlike the first edition, this edition focuses on the overall achievements in postgraduate workshops and activities at UTeM in 2019. Alhamdulillah, overall, postgraduate students of UTeM have done well in attaining the workshops and activities that nurture their knowledge and experience throughout their research journey.

In this edition, we highlight the workshop outputs from our UPgrade activities in 2019. It's hope that this bulletin could give insight and motivation to other UTeM postgraduate students. They should and need to be highly motivated, staying motivated throughout their study is often a challenge. Maintaining motivation throughout the journey is very challenging especially if they are not supported with the right mind-set.

Postgraduate students need to join activities that create an environment to survive and thrive in their research fundamentals. Certain activities create a broad idea and information that can be used in their research progress. Moreover, they need a long-term strategic plan about their research timeline and produce a high-quality and novelty output in their research and focus on graduate on time.

UPgrade activities provide the opportunity to combine research study with professional experience. The structure of UPgrade activities enables postgraduate students to gain knowledge and confidence in their research that acts as a liaison between the faculties and postgraduate learners.

UPgrade activities are about postgraduate learning that supports postgraduate students in their pursuit of academic excellence in exchanging valuable insights with academic experts through exclusive workshops. And nothing is more rewarding than seeing our postgraduate make their mark in UTeM.

On behalf of the editorial board, I would also like to thank all postgraduate students and UTeM staff members especially from the Centre for Graduate Studies (PPS) who have contributed to the success of this edition. We hope that you will enjoy reading this 2nd edition of the UPgrade bulletin. We are looking forward to expanding the UPgrade bulletin to make it more interesting and beneficial for the readers.

Best regards and enjoy reading.



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1st Annual General Meeting UPgrade

Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a statutory requirement for an association. Every association whether society or club is required to hold an AGM every year. The main reasons for holding an AGM for UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) is to elect the board for the following year, to discuss and vote on amendments to the constitution or association rules and to highlight the achievements of the association over the last 12 months.

Therefore, the 1st AGM of UPgrade was conducted after UPgrade was officially registered as an Association under the section 58. (1) the establishment of another student body that refer to the constitution of UTeM and the registration number is UTeM/PP/(Kelab)/006/2018 created on 17/10/2018.

The AGM was extremely informative, transparent, open, positive and set the tone for the upcoming year. Moreover, this is a good opportunity to be informed and ask questions regarding UPgrade and activities for postgraduate students through information sharing sessions open to all members and postgraduate students of UTeM.



By:
Ts. Mailasan Jayakrishnan,
 PhD Student,
 President UPgrade 2018/2019,
 Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.



Booth Game of UPgrade 14th UTeM Convocation 2018

Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) Convocation was held on 26 to 27 November 2018 to celebrate the graduation of students for the year 2018 which located at the Convocation Hall of UTeM Main Campus Durian Tunggal, Melaka.

This year the UTeM Convocation was held with the theme of “Graduate Innovative Generating Industrial Revolution” and as usual convocation is a part of the agenda in conjunction with the 14th Ceremony of UTeM Convocation, which lasted for two days in a row on 26 and 27 November 2018 for the award of four sessions.

This time, the UTeM Postgraduate Association also known as UPgrade has taken one of the events known as the Booth Game of UPgrade and managed to interact and carry out the activities at the site. The game, called “Tin Bowling” was successfully attracting participants. This activity also encourages participants to build relationships with each other, especially postgraduate students and undergraduates.



By:
Faruq Hakimi Baharuddin,
Master Student,
Secretary UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Technology Management &
Technopreneurship.



Workshop on FORMATTING THESIS USING MS WORD.

Thesis Formatting Workshop conducted by Senior Lecturer from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Melaka, Dr. Mohd Zuli Jaafar. The workshop held on 9th February 2019 and 10th February 2019 at Bilik Kuliah 5, Pusat Pengajian Siswazah (PPS), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM). The main focus of the workshop is to gather and brainstorming the ideas from top management staffs, lecturers and students in rechecking the existing format of thesis. Recheck the format of thesis for master and Ph.D. students of UTeM very crucial because of the students able to accomplish a quality research thesis to be submitted at the end of studies. Dr. Zuli introduced MZJ Formatting Method and how is it works on Microsoft Word.

The workshop starts with the introduction of MZJ Formatting Methods (MZJ) and his ideas to be implemented in thesis formatting. The use of a template which has .dotx file extension to apply in different thesis documents with .docx file extension is one of the approaches in MZJ. Besides that, the used of Developer Tab and Style Pane Area play important roles in thesis formatting using Microsoft Word. In addition, MZJ introduces his ideas using Paragraph Marks button, Clear Formatting button, Back and Forward button and used of Draft and Outline Mode Formatting. The workshop involved four types of module. Module 1 is setting your pc for formatting to ensure smooth formatting process and it is vital to understand file extension for further processes. There are necessary buttons to use which are Word option which is to set your PC for formatting, Style option to set your template and the functions of Quick Access Toolbar and Shortcut Key. The session continues with understanding template file with the .dotx file extension in Module 2.

To understand the role of style in the template. dotx, participants need to know indent, hanging and spacing terms to be modified in style setting. Furthermore, the module introduces the implementation of one dotx file for many docx files. We can adjust the template without interrupt the content of the thesis. Additionally, the used of Draft Mode and Outline Mode in the formatting process also introduced to them.

Last day of workshop continues with the format of the body of the thesis in Module 3. From the preface part until the body of the thesis have their variation of styles. In the body of the thesis, we really need to know the style of the heading of every chapter, paragraphs, captions, tables, diagrams, page orientation and cross-references in order to produce a quality thesis. Besides the used of template.dotx as a template, template.dotm can be used as a template. The workshop ends with Module 4 which is an overview of the full content of the template. The full content of the thesis includes Page Numbering steps, inserting many chapters into one file and vice versa. To elaborate, the Page Break and Section Break give different functions in the thesis and the format of Table of Content is also crucial in the thesis formatting process.

To be concluded, Thesis Formatting workshop hopefully can help participate in managing their thesis and can save a lot of time by using the techniques which are available in Microsoft Word. Equally important, the workshop aims to ensure the quality of the presentation of a thesis by standardizing its format and layout and also to produce the thesis based on the requirements as given by Postgraduate Office.



By:
Rahillda Nadhirah Norizzaty Rahiddin,
Master Student,
Treasurer UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

Sharing Knowledge & Experience Through This Workshop

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PPS UTeM, UPgrade committees and people that have involved directly and indirectly for their effort on the preparation of this thesis formatting workshop.

This workshop was held for two days on 9 and 10 February 2019 at Centre of Graduate Studies (PPS) from 9.00 am until 5.00 pm. This workshop has been presented and taught by Dr. Zuli Jaafar from UiTM and Dr. Khairul Anwar Bin Ibrahim from UTeM. Both speakers have given a very good explanation and sharing regarding the topic of thesis formatting.

The thesis is a document that is a prerequisite for a student to meet the requirements of graduation while attending and passing the courses required. The thesis is the authenticity of student writing that shows the results and the results of the study.

Another name for the thesis is a dissertation, scientific research report or an essay / scientific document. In most of them different from the thesis and dissertation names, there are countries using thesis as scientific reports for bachelor's degree and Master's Degree, and dissertations are used for Doctorate Degrees, while reports/documents are in order to meet the requirements of the research grant that has been blamed.

In this workshop, the speaker has been a touch on the formatting method in which different university sometimes have different thesis format for their student. There are 4 subtopic/module important in this workshop which all of them has been touch by the speaker.



By:
Aini Khairani Azmi,
Master Student,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

- 1) Formatting method setup
- 2) Understanding template
- 3) Format the body of your thesis
- 4) Use full content of the template

The best part of this workshop is when the speaker asks all the student to go through the module together with him. This workshop is very helpful to us because we can have a try on formatting our thesis directly in our laptop and can ask any question if there is any problem arisen during this workshop.

On the first day of the workshop, students were required to bring along their laptop with Microsoft Word installed on the laptop. The version used by the speaker is on word 2013, but I got the old version which is word 2007.

But I still can catch up even though the speaker using the other version because some of the functions even not exactly on the same side by mine, it can be found easily with the speaker's help.

Overall, this was a very good experience to be exposed to the newest things in the Microsoft Word while doing the formatting which I think that there are many more to be explored in the Microsoft Word.

I am very grateful to PPS to organize this workshop and help me to have some guidance in working on my thesis since I am on my writing phase. I really hope that many workshops like this can be proposed and conduct by PPS to make sure all student have some guidance toward finishing their studies.

Sharing Knowledge & Experience Through This Workshop

A well-formatted document creates an impression of professionalism and perfection on the documents that we had spent so much time doing and with help of Microsoft Word Template and a few clicks of buttons, a report, assignment or thesis, can look neat and presentable.

A lot of students, including me as well, will feel a pang of dreadfulness and tediousness when it comes to formatting a document because of the time and effort it took to make sure the margin, heading, subheading, table and figure captions, numbering table of contents and so much more are meeting the requirements.

I never knew that formatting could be as simple as “set it and forget it” until I joint Thesis Formatting Workshop organized by Pusat Pengajian Siswazah (PPS), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) on last 9th February 2019 and 10th February 2019.

During this workshop, Dr. Mohd Zuli Jaafar, Senior Lecturer from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Melaka taught us the techniques on how to set up Microsoft Word Template before we even start to work on our document. It may seem complicated at first, but after a few tries and errors, the steps are fairly simple to understand. There are so many wonderful benefits that creating a template on Microsoft Words could bring.

What I find particularly the most useful, is the ability to add in any content to any part of the document even after it is completed without the worry of messing up the numbering or captions. Moreover, using Microsoft Words Template, we can build a clickable table of content that will link us to that heading, and it will automatically update itself if there are any changes.



Participant:
Jee Jia Hui,
Master Student.

As a postgraduate student doing research is our main priority, however, by setting up a template can help us save time in the long run as it can be used repeatedly in the future without having to constantly create a new one. This can ensure all the documents we produce have the same layout and it will also provide our reader with a sense of consistency throughout the documents.

It is also important that a well-structured thesis will also help improve the coherence and cohesion of the thesis itself. This means that the paragraphs are organized, and the ideas are connected logically.

Therefore, making our reader feel comfortable and be able to transition from one idea to another idea smoothly. Hence, the workshop successfully bringing out the ideas through their papers.

Overall, personalized a template is a set of valuable knowledge that we never know we needed it. It should be taught and shared among each other.





New Postgraduate Students Registration For Semester 2 2018/2019

Registration for new postgraduate students in UTeM open twice a year, each at the beginning of Semester 1 and 2 follow the academic calendar. Students have two options for Master study: by research and by coursework, where Ph.D. can only be completed by research mode.

I still remember the first day when I've started my postgraduate life in UTeM. I registered myself late (2 months later) due to some inevitable reason, thus I have totally no idea what should do except to look for my supervisor. Yet luckily, I still have my lab mates and some old friends to refer, but not everyone encounters the same.

We as UPgrade committee mean to give a little helping hand to the postgraduate students out there from what we're capable to provide. Organizing seminars, workshops, bonding events and participate in postgraduate related activities are things we commonly do. Postgraduate students' registration in Semester 2 2018/2019 last for 2 days from 14 to 15 February 2019 in Bilik Kuliah 5, PPS.

In both days, 4 representatives from us are there to promote the new branding of postgraduate association: UPgrade, which has just established for less than one year. Besides, we also help in introducing the Very Important Person's in the faculty (PPS Dean), and some useful portals (e.g.: PPS website, FB page, SMP, student mail) to the new students.



By:
Wong Rui Zhen,
Master Student,
Vice President UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

Sharing Session

on Research Proposal

Defense & Research Tools

The thesis proposal is a document from the first important step in the process of completing studies at the tertiary level, both at bachelor degree, master degree, and doctoral degree. Thesis proposals that contain original student ideas certainly need to be well presented and defended. There is a saying that says "results will not betray an effort", I strongly believe that. In every activity, work, life, the effort must be maximal, regardless of what the outcome will be. Because I'm sure that, maximum effort always produces maximum results, of course coupled with prayer, hehe. Especially in the proposal defense seminar, must be "Well Prepare and Prepare the Worst". I am a "slow learner" student, I can only work hard to achieve what I expect, especially completing my Ph.D. study in a timely and smooth manner. Therefore, the proposal defense is the first step that must be passed well. I am very fortunate to be able to attend knowledge sharing with Prof. Datuk Dr. Izaidin Abdul Majid as a speaker organized by the UTeM PPS. Lots of knowledge, advice, suggestion, and tips on how we deal with proposal defense seminar.

The point is that when we prepare everything optimally and well, we will be more confident in facing the examiners in the proposal defence seminar. Well, here are some tips that I got from the knowledge sharing program with Prof. Datuk Dr. Izaidin. First, our thesis must have a contribution to the Body of Knowledge from the knowledge that we are involved in or have a contribution to Practice. Second, good proposals or acceptable proposals must have the substance delivered well, clear aims and objectives (such as, what are the implications and what to achieve?), the methodology that will be used must be clearly defined, a good and measurable schedule plan, and have the potential clear and affordable outcome. Third, as most students know, the proposal



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 PhD Student,
 Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.



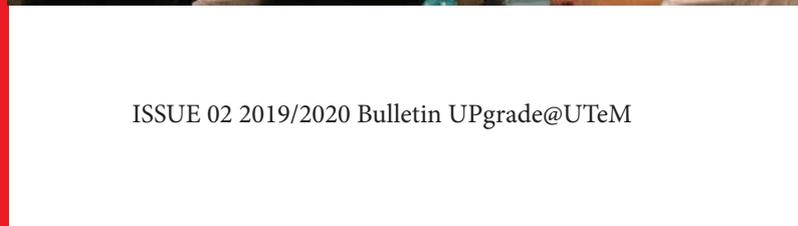
POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

document contains content that must be followed properly. Like the Title that should be descriptive and concise, the Background of the Study which contains “state of the art” of your research and make sure that background can be interesting, problem statements that must contain current issues which need to be addressed significant of the Study, Literature Review that reveals research gaps, Research Design, Schedule Estimates, and Expected Outputs (especially for publications, Scopus of course, huhu, Fighting !!!).

Then, there was an interesting class with Lecturer Ahmad Zaki bin Shukor who discussed the technical issues when we made a defense proposal. Actually, a defense proposal was carried out to: ensure the quality of research proposals, previous study compared, revealed the results expected well-written and well-planned methodology. The defense proposal is to ensure that students focus well in their research (in-depth knowledge on subject matter). Abstract presentation, we must present Abstract, Introduction with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) research objectives inside, Research Question / Hypothesis / Expected Result, Define terms clearly, Literature Review, Methodology, and Conclusion. All of the content must be delivered and maintained properly, and of course it must make the examiner understand what we are going to do, and finally accept our thesis proposal.

Before defense, we must prepare a good presentation, prepare presentation slides for 15-20 minutes of presentation (I think 10 slides are enough), present more diagrams/charts/tables/images, not to much narration (bullet points is better). Please discuss with supervisor, practice ... and practice. It is useful for timing estimation, voice clarity, and you will be more confident. Don't forget to make a list of estimated questions that will be asked.

At defense, do not go too fast; explain the details, but not too long; do not skip slides, but show; do not rush, clear voice an slide; avoid verbal topics (such as “ummm ..”, “aaa ...”); and do not read the slides, explain it !!! nd in Question and Answer sessions, please take notes / remember and remember the comment panels, listen carefully to question ask, please answer not only (please do not divert!), Admit the weakness, and assure the panels that you will improve later.



3 MINUTE Thesis Competition

2019



Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition is about delivering research outcome from the “3 years of Money and Time” you’ve spent in your Ph.D. journey, in only 3 minutes. Whereby, your presentation should be compelling to the non-specialist audiences because you need to let people know your contributions are something crucial that needed to be considered in the future. Thus, effective presentation and strong research communication skill are the keys to winning in the competition. The history of 3MT could trace back to a decade ago, where the Dean of University of Queensland (UQ) Graduate School, Emeritus Professor Alan Lawson got a thought from the severe drought incident in Queensland, Australia. In such a hard time, residents were urged to conserve water, therefore people had a three minutes timer in their bathroom to time their shower. Later, the 3MT competition is being proposed through the combination of graduate academic with the critical incident together. Initially, the 3MT competition started in 2008 at UQ and has successfully attracted 160 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates to compete. The enthusiasm for this competition is continued to grow, and now the concept has been adopted to over 600 universities from more than 65 countries worldwide.

In UTeM, the 3MT competition is conducted annually since the year 2016, where the winning candidates will entitle a chance to compete in the national level fully sponsored by the university.

This year, our university level 3MT competition has completed on 21st March 2019 in the Main Meeting Room, PPS. On that day, registration started at 9:00 morning and everyone had their breakfast before the competition begins. A short greeting to the floor and welcoming message to our special guests which are: Datin Dr. Suraya (FPTT), PM Dr. Hidayat (FKE), and Dr. Lee (PBPI) as the competition judges to evaluate our candidates. A total of 15 candidates involve competing in 3 categories: Engineering, Social Science and ICT. However, the competition runs in combined session and begins after a brief explanation on the rules, started with Master and then followed by Ph.D. candidates. All presentations finished in 2 hours, with a 15 minutes short break in the middle. Before the event ends, each panel provides concluding remarks as input for candidates to perform better in future research presentation.



By:
Wong Rui Zhen,
Master Student,
Vice President UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.



SHARING Knowledge & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS COMPETITION.

I am a third year Ph.D. student in the Faculty of Electronic and Computer Engineering (FKEKK) at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM). I work with a team of experts in Microwave Biosensors to detect and characterize either solid or liquid materials. One of the main strand of my work focuses on the detection of either solid materials (such as: Beef, Chicken, Pork, Fruit, Vegetable, Expired Food or a mixture of any other solid) or liquid materials (such as: Alcohol, Methanol, Ethanol, Acetone, Water, or a mixture with any other liquid materials). By characterizing and detecting contaminated materials using Microwave Biosensor, thousands of lives will be saved and that's what I touch upon in my 3MT presentation.

Before I share some of the experiences on 3MT Competition at the University level and national level in 2019, I would like to take this opportunity and thank my Supervisor Prof. Dr. Zahriladha Bin Zakaria for encouraging me to join the 3MT competition and give it my best shot. Even though I wasn't confident with giving presentations, I found that the 3MT competition was a unique and truly rewarding as it offered me the opportunity to develop my skills and how to present my work in a fun and interesting way within a very short limited time.

Why participate in 3MT Competition?

My advice to those who are considering entering the 3MT Competition in upcoming events is to challenge yourself and sign up for the competition. Because during your research, there is a strong focus on your thesis production. Thus, the ability to explain and demonstrate the importance of your research work and findings is very valuable and challenging at the same time due to the short time of presentation. Therefore, 3MT bring you an opportunity for:

- Sharing the ideas and research experience of your work effectively to the wider community;
- Demonstrating the research findings to a non-specialist audience;
- Illuminating your thoughts about your thesis; and
- Connecting with other research students from other universities.



Participant:
Rammah Alahnomi,
PhD Student,
Faculty of Electronic & Computer Engineering.

As research students, we may look at our research from a perspective specialist and we focus on details. However, the 3MT competition helps you to search for the bigger picture and you may ask yourself what's the impact of your research project in the real world? How does it relate to the need of industries and people? How does it going to solve the problems?

Preparing Your SCRIPT

You need to have a killer story. This is the most important part where you have to include in the story a beginning, middle, and end by ensuring the last sentence (WAW Sentence) focuses on the take-home message. This not only makes it easy for the audience to follow, but a good story is also memorable.

Check out other stories done before.

One of the most useful things I find is looking at how other people tackled the problem that is going to be solved by their research project in the previous 3MT Competitions. This is the most useful thing and it can be helpful to draft your story.

Start your talk by introducing why this topic would be of interest to the audience

In 3MT competition, there is no need to introduce yourself or acknowledge your members in the lab because the audience wants to know the bigger picture of your research project during the presentation. Thus, you need to make it relevant to the audience so that they focus on your presentation instead of not listening to your presentation and bother you in the first place.

Body language

This is important to attract audience attention and make them focus on your presentation. You need to plan the movements and facial expression alongside with your script.

Practice, practice, and practice

You have to practice and memorize your script and make sure you finish it within the specified time. You need to practice in front of the mirror, or among your friends especially those who don't have a background of your research project so that you can make sure that they understand your topic research.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS COMPETITION.

It is raw. It is real. It is one of the most challenging and taxing experiences as a researcher can undertake and present my Three Minute Thesis completely redefined my approach to research.

Naively I assumed preparing for this competition would be a breeze. The rules of the competition were simple. You have 3 minutes to give an overview of your Ph.D. thesis. External judges would score the talk based on set criteria related to the comprehension, content, engagement, and communication. When I entered the competition at UPSI University, I set low expectations. This is just for practice, I told myself. No pressure here. The initial heats took place in June 2019, at which point I was only officially 2 years into my Ph.D. candidacy. Here we go.

Initial Heats: What was I thinking?

The day of the competition, I began to feel I was in way over my head. All my competitors were presenting data from their studies and most were in year 3 or beyond. The speakers were dynamic and engaging, and I realized very quickly that I had not put as much time and energy into the preparation as my peers.

5 participants from three different categories are selected to enter the finals, as well as an overall winner, a runner-up, and a people's choice. Although my presentation is not selected by the judges to advance to the final, still I have learnt a lot through the preparation process.

I spent exactly two months to prepare for this tournament. This time I dove headfirst into the process. I analyzed, reworked, tweaked and rehearsed my talk so much that I had it memorized two weeks early. I even recorded myself speaking so I could listen during my morning commute. Despite all the extra preparation, my nerves were even higher than the first time. My heart was beating out of my chest, and I could hardly breathe.

As I tapped my foot, shook my head and started to hyperventilate, my friend provided some sage advice. Tell your story, she said. You know your story. Forget the words and remember the story. That was it. From then on, I was in the moment.

Although after two months of preparation and I still did not manage to win any prize, I am happy that I manage to have this opportunity to represent UTEM for this 3MT Thesis competition. Well it is tough and there are so many participants for the Science Social category. So, I had known right before the competition had even started that it will be extremely difficult for me to even think about entering the finals. True to it when the result is announced, I did not manage to enter the finals. Despite not being able to enter the finals, I am glad that I manage to present and say the things that I had wanted to say during the competition. As a summary I really learn a lot from participating in 3MT Thesis competition.



Participant:
Hoo Chai Sing,
PhD Student,
Institute of Technology Management & Entrepreneurship.

Workshop on PLS-SEM Using SmartPLS 3.0

Today, many researchers are extensively working on developing and validating the conceptual model based on some hypotheses to verify. Their conceptual model involves multiple variables to answer the particular research question. The variables in a conceptual model can be based on an independent and dependent variable, can include the mediating variable to explain a relationship between the independent and dependent variable, can comprise the moderating variable to strengthen or weaken the relationship between IV and DV.

Sometimes, the author has many independent and dependent variables in the conceptual model which they require to analyse simultaneously. Recently, a new debate has emerged where the authors have put much emphasis on understanding the nature of variables used in the conceptual model. That means researchers should specify the variables first whether a variable is to assess as reflective or formative and uni-dimensional or multidimensional because the scholars have to perform their analyses.

This workshop focus on the use of Partial Least Squares - Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) in management and social sciences. For your information, SmartPLS, developed at the University of Hamburg (Germany), is currently a freeware application for path modeling with latent variables using the PLS approach. Currently, there are more than 10,000 registered SmartPLS users worldwide.

The present workshop intended to use SmartPLS software to perform PLS-SEM analysis in two steps; step one is measurement model assessment, and step two is a structural model assessment.

The measurement model includes the reliability and validity of constructs which are either specified as reflective or formative. Whereas, the structural model measures the estimates of a structural model.

This workshop was about the use of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) when ordinary assumptions such as multivariate normality and large sample size are not met. These situations would require the use of a special method for SEM, namely, Partial Least Squares (PLS) method. In this workshop, the use of a sophisticated statistical software SmartPLS for assessing the SEM models were demonstrated. This workshop also engaged SEM researchers in “hands on” activities relating to the use of SmartPLS to assess the SEM. As opposed to covariance based on SEM approaches (exemplified by software such as AMOS, LISREL or EQS) which require normality assumption and sufficiently large data, the PLS method has been shown to have less restrictive requirements for sample size, missing data and data distribution characteristics (e.g. normality, skewness, kurtosis, etc.). Numerous research articles reporting PLS-based SEM analyses have been published in leading journals, including MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, and Journal of Management Information Systems, among others. Participants were required to bring laptops and to download and install the (currently free) SmartPLS software, and sample data sets, prior to the workshop. Then, in the workshop, participants were instructed on how to use SmartPLS in ‘live’ SEM modeling exercises.



By:
Neerosha Rajah,
 Master Student,
 UPgrade FPTT Representative 2018/2019,
 Faculty of Technology Management & Technopreneurship.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS WORKSHOP.



I am delighted to get participated in the workshop of Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) using SmartPLS 3.0. SmartPLS has become a popular choice to perform PLS-SEM among researchers and students today. Although the software is very user-friendly compared to other SEM software, it is never about clicking just to get things easily done.

When going reading articles on statistical analysis, including the use of SmartPLS, I found that I am only interested in clicking to solve their analytical problems. I was fixated to getting things done easy and quick. Consequently, I failed to understand the mechanism behind the analysis and the reasons for using certain software and technique. This worried me, thus prompting me to attend this workshop. SmartPLS users must understand why they are clicking certain functions, are aware of other available options and make informed decisions related to their analysis with literature support and sound justification. It is my earnest hope that this workshop achieves just that.

This workshop was unique in the sense that it encapsulates four elements in a concise manner. Firstly, the speaker provided step-by-step guidance and explanation to statistical analysis using SmartPLS 3.0. Secondly, it is highly graphical as each section related to the use of SmartPLS is illustrated by screenshots of the software interface and/or output. Thirdly, she incorporates her experience as users of SmartPLS into the writing so as to make every explanation more practical and comprehensible.

Fourthly, she provided citations, reading materials and references throughout the manual to substantiate our explanation and to facilitate the readers to read them in greater detail.

Although the materials cover only certain functions of SmartPLS, it does not mean that the content is elementary and unsuitable for a more seasoned researcher. Whether research is up to the level of Ph.D. and whether a paper is accepted by good journal are largely dependent on the research problems, methodological clarity, and conceptual contributions; SmartPLS is but a useful tool to facilitate the analytical process. Therefore, it is vitally important that the readers understand what the software stands for and acquire the requisite skills to utilize it.

Overall, this workshop was very useful for researchers. I wish to take this opportunity to thank PM Dr Nor Hazana Abdul Hamid as a great speaker. The way she delivered the information and gave examples that related to the research was very good and easy to understand. We are really appreciated that she as an academican and was able to share her knowledge with us. We are told that even she is pleased with it. All in all, it really compels us to learn more and continuously to keep ourselves abreast with the development of methods and analytical procedures so that we could be of relevance and help to the users of SmartPLS in Malaysia. And also big thanks to the organizing committee of UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) who well arranged the workshop just for us.

Thank you all for the information!



Participant:
Ummu Ajirah Abdul Rauf,
PhD Student,
Faculty of Technology Management & Technopreneurship.

SHARING Knowledge & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS WORKSHOP.

Workshop on PLS-SEM using Smart PLS 3.0 was organized by UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) and Centre of Postgraduate Studies (PPS) UTeM on 4th April 2019 from 9.00am – 5.00pm at Bilik Makmal Pascasiswazah, PPS.

I would like to convey my appreciation to the speaker at the workshop, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nor Aziati Binti Abdul Hamid from Department of Production and Operation Management, Faculty of Technology Management and Business, University Tun Hussien Onn Malaysia (UTHM) for sharing her latest knowledge and experience when conducting the data analysis. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank individuals who have been directly and indirectly engaged in the preparing of this workshop.

This workshop was a wonderful workshop and has a awesome speaker who shares the abilities and usability of Smart PLS. The status of myself as a MSc student did not prevent me from taking part and directly involving myself in this program, as this is a great chance to improve the social skills in the management of a program.

Overview of PLS-SEM

Usually, PLS-SEM or known as Partial Least Squares Structural Equation are the tools used by social science students to analyze the data in Chapter 4. Why should students choose Smart PLS? Based on the research goals of selecting PLS-SEM if the research is exploratory or an extension of an existing structural theory. The speaker has provided important information and tips on when to select the different type of SEM which is Covariance based SEM and Variance Based SEM.

Overall, PLS-SEM studies in the strategic management discipline rely on much smaller sample.

PLS-SEM also facilitates more flexibility in estimating complex models and those incorporating formative indicators, situations in which the uses of classical covariance-based techniques often reach their limits. These characteristics make PLS-SEM particularly useful for strategic management research that often

deals with small sample sizes, complex models, and formative measures especially when analysing the sources of competitive advantage. Based on prior methodological discussions, particularly the present review of previous applications of PLS-SEM offer the following general guidelines to future users of the technique.

1. First, more careful thought should be given to data characteristics. Even though PLS-SEM performs well with small samples and non-normal data, researchers should not be careless in implementing these advantages. Small sample sizes and skewed data easily increase sampling error yielding inflated bootstrap standard errors. When this occurs, the technique's statistical power is reduced, offsetting one of PLS-SEM's major advantages.
2. Second, researchers should pay closer attention to model specification issues. For example, using formatively measured constructs in PLS-SEM implies that the indicators capture the entire construct domain (or at least major parts of it).
3. Third, researchers should make greater use of model evaluation criteria, especially when assessing the quality of formatively measured constructs. Review shows that current practice leaves much to be desired in this regard, casting doubt on the validity of some of the measures.
4. Lastly, it is important to note that some of the criticism stated in the review might be misplaced since there is no indication whether some of the admonished reporting elements have been discarded in the course of the revision process.



Participant:
Nur Salsabilah Hamdan,
Master Student,
Faculty of Technology Management & Technopreneurship.



Workshop on Effective RESEARCH ARTICLE READING *FOR POSTGRADUATE*

Reading has always been a part of student life whenever in which stage you are. What we normally do during undergraduate studies was “read it, jot it and forget it” because the information that we encountered were mostly to be used in the examinations only. However, the knowledge obtained from academic reading for your research at higher-level study will still be required years later. Thus, it is vital to read effectively due to a great deal of time will be spent in massive reading. An effective reading strategy can manage your articles and your time well, and easily identified the important parts that needed to apply in your study.

The “Workshop on Effective Research Article Reading for Postgraduate” happen on 16 to 17 April 2019 in Bilik Kuliah 5, PPS. New researcher or those who just started writing a paper will finds this workshop rather useful. The two days speech is given by Dr. Lee and supported by Dr Noorli (both from PBPI), with 30 postgraduate students participated. The entire workshop covered 3 contents: journal searching in Scopus and ISI, exploration on Mendeley, and language structure on research content.

First, searching journal articles from trustworthy databases are important from being trapped by unethical party such as predator journals. Most of the reading resources required payment, however the university has provided the access to several well-established databases and Inter Library

Loan (ILL) service to access some restricted resources. Setting alerts in the online databases can help you aware of the latest research trends. Next, compiling large number of articles manually are pain but the Mendeley software are here to help in better managing your research papers. Some useful function from the software such as standard citation, one-click bibliography, digital highlighting, insert side notes and general comments, keyword searching, etc. There is even a web and mobile application version of Mendeley to ease your reading management.

So, what’s more while reading a paper, other than identifying your target paper, jotting down important notes and save it in a preference destination? Generating a phrase bank is something more you can do, and this is rather helpful when comes to writing a paper. Generally, the sections (e.g.: abstract, introduction, methodology...) in a paper are containing similar components in every article. Understanding the components that appears in each section can help in delivering out your content very quickly. However, referring phrases from others that used in every component can help reduce time in bringing out your idea and generates a paragraph that connect sentences smoothly. Therefore, extracting the phrases from others and compile it to form a phrase bank possible to reduce your struggle every time when begins to write a paper.



By:
Wong Rui Zhen,
Master Student,
Vice President UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

SHARING Knowledge & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS WORKSHOP

Reading a research article is a completely different process from reading a newspaper or a blog. Not only do you read the sections in a different order than they're presented, but you also must take notes, read it multiple times, and probably go look up other articles in order to understand some of the details. Reading a single research article may take you a very long time at first but be patient with yourself. The process will go much faster as you gain experience. Most research articles will be divided into the following sections: abstract, introduction, methods, results, and conclusions and discussion.

1. Begin by reading the introduction, not the abstract.

The abstract is dense in the first paragraph at the very beginning of a paper. In fact, that's often the only part of a paper that many scholars read when they're trying to build a scientific argument. Always read the abstract last because it includes a succinct overview of the entire document and the readers may accidentally become biased by the authors' interpretation of the outcomes.

2. Identify the big question.

Start asking yourself, "What problem is this entire field trying to solve?" Not "What is this paper about?". This helps you focus on why this research is being done. Look closely for evidence of agenda-motivated research.

3. Summarize the background in five sentences or less.

What work has been done before in this field to answer the big question? What are the limitations of that work? What, according to the authors, needs to be done next? You need to be able to explain briefly why this study has been done in order to comprehend it. questions, or just one. Write them down. If it's the kind of research that tests one or more null hypotheses, identify it/them.

4. Identify the approach.

What are the authors going to do to answer the specific question(s)?

5. Read the methods section.

Draw a diagram for each experiment, showing exactly what the authors did. Include as much detail as you need to fully understand the work.

6. Read the results section.

Write one or more paragraphs to summarize the results for each experiment, each figure, and each table. Don't yet try to decide what the results mean; just write down what they are. You'll often find that results are summarized in the figures and tables. Pay careful attention to them! You may also need to go to supplementary online information files to find some of the results.

7. Determine whether the results answer the specific question(s).

What do you think they mean? Don't move on until you have thought about this. It's a good habit to start forming your own interpretations before you read those of others.

8. Read the conclusion and discussion section.

What do the authors think the results mean? Do you agree with them? Can you come up with any alternative way of interpreting them? Do the authors identify any weaknesses in their own study? Do you see any that the authors missed? What do they propose to do as a next step? Do you agree with that?

9. Go back to the beginning and read the abstract.

Does it match what the authors said in the paper? Does it fit with your interpretation of the paper?



Participant:
Zareena Rosli,
PhD Student,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

Sharing Knowledge & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS WORKSHOP.

On 16th and 17th of April 2019, UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) with the collaboration of Pusat Pengajian Siswazah (PPS) has organized a workshop on Effective Research Article Reading for Postgraduate. This workshop was held at Bilik Kuliah 5, PPS. The speaker of this workshop was Dr. Lee Mei Ph'ng from Pusat Bahasa dan Pembangunan Insan (PBPI), UTeM. This workshop focuses on the specific reading strategies that effectively support students, especially for first-year postgraduate students with special needs in reading articles. A lot of knowledge gained through participating in the workshop. Before attending the workshop, pre-installed Mendeley software on the participant's laptop is compulsory. Participants also need to bring along journal articles in their related field due to use them during the workshop session. The overall concept of the workshop session is undergone by having a talk for a specific topic from the speaker and hands on session right after the talk was done.



As mentioned before, this workshop was undergone for two days. The first day of the workshop, the speaker delivers us the knowledge of searching journal articles for Scopus and ISI and also exploring Mendeley. During the first day, workshop session, the speaker gives the exposure to searching the journal articles on various sources and also identifying the reliability of the journal. Moreover, the speaker also teaches the students to get notified by the sources of journal when there are any related journals for their study. The exploring Mendeley session, the participants were exposed on how to upload the journals into Mendeley software which can be used to include the in-text citations and reference list in the thesis or paper written using MS Word documents after installing the MS Word plugin from the Mendeley desktop. Besides that, Mendeley software also the best platform to share some journals or papers to colleagues.

The journals or papers shared can be commented by the receiver and also sender so that both sides can share their opinion. Mendeley also allows the user to read the articles wherever they go as this software also have the android applications on mobile phones which is very convenient.



Participant:
Nur Adlina Ab. Aziz,
Master Student,
Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

The second day of the workshop, the speaker comes across with the structure of journal articles. A printed journal article from the participant's related field is needed during this session. The speaker gave some tips on how to read a journal article effectively and obtained the essential points from the journal reading. Dr. Lee outlined the basic element contained in the journal article which should be understood before read through it from understanding the abstract to organising the conclusion. The approaches and contents of every section helped in organising the whole journal article. The suitable phrases used by the journal authors in order to introduce the article approach is important as different field of studies having different point of view. Implementing the phrases used by the journal authors might contribute to the student's writing process of thesis or publication of papers. Hence, the listing and categorized session of phrases done during the workshop with the guidance from the speaker assist the students in applying throughout their thesis or paper writing phase.



In a nutshell, this program helped the postgraduate students in understanding the content and structure of research article thus having an effective reading process. The ability to read journal articles effectively drives to produce good publication materials among postgraduate students. The valuable reading material contributes to the writing process of other author to be smoothly done. Therefore, I hope that this program will on by PPS due to great impact from the UTeM postgraduate students.



“Sesi Aspirasi & Hala Tuju Kepimpinan Mahasiswa UTeM”

Meeting of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) with leaders of the Association / Club / Uniformed Bodies Secretariat was held on 28 February 2019 at the Faculty of Electronic and Computer Engineering (FKEKK). The aim of this meeting is to discuss the current activities in the university which will improve the productivity and quality of the programs.



TUAH is a concept initiated by Associate Professor Dr. Nurulfajar bin Abd Manap, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM). TUAH is a professional ethical compassionate and high fighting spirit that blends with student's character. Plus, it is new platform for university to enhance their student's capability in future. TUAH is described as: TANGKAS-Learn and explore science, technology, corporate entrepreneurship, and technical skills. UNGGUL-Loyalty, integrity, competent leadership, manner, character, and morals. ADAPTIF-Adapting to a dynamic environment, technology adaptation and balance it with the adapter and morals. HOLISTIK (Image of UTeM Students)-Sustainable and integrated, balanced IQ, EQ, manner, and morals.

The meeting was held to highlight the issues and recommendations made in the Association / Club / Uniformed Bodies Secretariat for the duration of their services. This meeting was important for the leaders of the Association / Club / Uniformed Bodies Secretariat because they can meet with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) to obtain a transparent answer. Moreover, everybody can get the latest information and expected to carry out the tasks entrusted to them. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) also introduced the concept of TUAH that will be the backbone of managing the Student Affairs of Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM).



By:
Faruq Hakimi Baharuddin,
Master Student,
Secretary UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Technology Management &
Technopreneurship.

Coffee & Cake Session with FTMK Postgraduate Students

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the dean, deputy dean and administration staff of FTMK for choosing me to be the UPgrade FTMK Representative 2018/2019.

I have discussed, heard and received many students' problems and difficulties that they faced during their study journey. Therefore, a coffee and tea session were organized to encounter these dilemmas.



By:
Mohammed Saad Talib,
PhD Student,
UPgrade FTMK Representative 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

Bowling Activity

with POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

On 24th April 2019, a bowling friendly match was held at Melaka International Bowling Centre (MIBC), Ayer Keroh, Melaka. This 8.30 pm match involved the PPS staffs and postgraduate students. In addition, we get support from SKR Holiday Sdn Bhd who sponsor three hampers for the champions, 1st runner up and 2nd runner up. There are four teams registered and each combined with staffs, sponsor, and students to increase the strength of our bonding and sharing experiences. The bowling friendly match started at 8.30 pm and finish at 11.30 pm.

Get a perfect strike in your game.

Here I want to share a few tips on how to bowl a strike. Make sure do not give up and spend your time to practice and practice.

1.Perfecting your shot.

Make sure you have a bowling ball that feels comfortable in your hands and your fingers are firmly in the holes but come out without sticking, just lightly gripping it. Choose a suitable weight of ball for you. Another important thing is to get good bowling shoes. You can rent it and pick the half size bigger than your regular shoe size.

Next, start in an athletic, upright bowling stance. You need to know where you hold the ball and keep your wrist strong as do not droop down towards the floor. Then, find the right mark on the lane. You will be noticed there were seven arrows on the lane and do not aim for the centre because it usually leads to a split. Aim to the right arrow if you are right-handed and if you left-handed, aim to the left arrow. This mark is the best starting place for strikes.

Land with the foot opposite your throwing arm in front of the lane. Walk forward comfortably, then swing out of the way, allowing you to throw the ball freely.



By:
Rahillda Nadhirah Norizzaty Rahiddin,
 Master Student,
 Treasurer UPgrade 2018/2019,
 Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

Push your arm forward on the first step of your approach. Do not keep the ball in the middle of your body but keep the ball out to the right side.

Following that, drop your arm so that the ball arcs back towards your leg. Keep your grip on the ball and let it fall freely. Let the ball continue arching behind you and up towards shoulder height. Remember, do not go too far as this could cause injury. After that, swing the ball down as you plant your left foot by the line and release it as you pass your leg. Release the ball by flicking your wrist and fingers up towards your head.

2. Hitting more strikes

Continue with know where you want the ball to hit. Scatters the front set of pins, cascading them into all the pins behind them. You also need to know lane conditions affect your throw for strikes and then while warming up, find your strike mark. Adjust it for your personal thrown. Move your starting stance closer to the centre as the lane dries up.

3. Picking up loose pins and spares

You must understand how scoring works to plan your shots well. It helps you decide which pins to go for and when. Remember that speed makes it easier to pick up spares. Higher speeds mean there is less time for the ball to react and turn offline. You can practice a straight, consistent spare shot.

Start your shot with your wrist curved slightly down, towards the floor to weaken your wrist because to get less spin and straighter throw. This provides a more accurate shot, as less spin means the ball will hook less.

Adjust your starting position based on your spare so you can often throw right at your normal mark and still get a spare. Use the middle of the lane when trying to hit the far right and left pins because most lanes are the slickest in the middle. Lastly, you need to aim for the most pins possible during a split unless you are skilled enough to hit the outside edge of a lone pin.



Participation of POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS in 8th International conference on Postgraduate Education



ICPE is the short form for International Conference for Postgraduate Education, which was held once in two years. This time was held at University Malaysia Terengganu. This 8th year of conference, UMT and UniSZA have been given the honour to organize it. This conference one of the great platforms to postgraduate student to create local and international networking opportunities for local and foreign postgraduates through research presentations and discussions.

With the theme of Postgraduate Research and Education Towards IR 4.0, technology and research must be moving in tandem to get a good impact. Plus, a variety of paper category gives a huge platform to most of the postgraduate students to joint. UTeM has sent 9 presenters in Engineering category.

This is my first time joining ICPE since it was started in 2004. Since the due date of abstract submission just in the corner, I decide to submit my first review paper. It was titled Review on Welding Inspection on Steel Material. When the abstract submission is already done, I need to complete my full paper with correct format journal. There are two presentation categories, which are the poster and oral. I decided to present in the oral category since my full paper is already done at that time.



Participant:
Suraya Laily,
PhD Student,
Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering.

The preparation for the oral presentation was smooth. Being nervous and thought of many things came in my mind. Even though I have experience with other conferences before, but the feeling is different. We moved to UMT Saturday night and arrived on the morning of Sunday. So, there is some free time to look around Kuala Terengganu. We have stopped at famous places such as Pok Nong and Dapo Pata and tried a lot of famous dishes.

The conference day is coming!!! We are so excited!! Starting with an open ceremony and keynote speech, we move to the presentation room to support our team members. My turn was on Tuesday morning. It still running in my mind how I am shaking and sweating waiting for my turn to present. But I try to keep calm by making a joke with others presenter. Indirectly, it was the beginning of sudden research networking. How funny!!

I still remember when my slideshow cannot link to my video. It was so upset at the beginning since it interrupted my presentation. But overall, it ended with super satisfied.

The final activity is the closing ceremony. The MC started to announce the best presenter for each category. And suddenly he called my name!!! What a huge surprise!! I am very thankful for this award. Best presenter for Engineering category.

ICPE will always be special to me. The experience increased my confidence in presentation and talking in front of many peoples. I look forward to having many more conferences after this.



Workshop on Viva Preparation

On 10 September 2019, UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) and Pusat Pengajian Siswazah (PPS) have been organized the Workshop on Viva Preparation. These workshop aims to help UTeM Postgraduate students to prepare for their viva section. The purpose of this workshop is also to expose the valuable of the viva preparation method to the participants.

There are 29 postgraduate students of UTeM from various faculties have been participated in the workshop. This workshop also gives the opportunity to the new postgraduate students to gain knowledge from Prof Madya Dr. Shajahan Maidin, from the Faculty of Manufacturing (FKP), UTEM.

In addition, the participants are given the opportunity to learn about quality thesis writing and thesis examining strategies. They also have been exposed to the UTeM Academic Regulation for Thesis Submission and the criteria for appointment of external examiners. The workshop received good feedback from the participants and hope that it would continue in the future.



By:
Noraishah Othman,
 Master Student,
 UPgrade IPTK Representative 2018/2019,
 Institute of Technology Management & Entrepreneurship.

SHARING Knowledge & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS WORKSHOP.

In cooperation with Pusat Pengajian Siswazah (PPS), and UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) have organised a workshop on “Viva Preparation” on 10 September 2019. This workshop took place at Bilik Kuliah 1, PPS UTeM and the speaker was Associate Professor Dr. Shajahan bin Maidin from Fakulti Kejuruteraan Pembuatan (FKP), UTeM. He is a senior lecturer in UTeM and holds a Ph.D. in Design for Additive Manufacturing (Univ. Loughorough, UK). During his tenure of service, he successfully graduated 4 Master students and 1 Ph.D. student. He is actively conducting research on Additive Manufacturing, Sustainable Product Development, Concurrent Engineering, Reverse Engineering, Computer Aided Design, and Product Design.

During the workshop, the most highlighted issue was UTeM Academic Regulation for Thesis Submission. Most students are not conscious of the University regulation of the thesis and have made a mistake in their thesis writing. For your information, a thesis can be written in English or Bahasa Melayu as well. All students in Ph.D., DEng and MSc candidate is required to produce and submit a research work that constitutes an original contribution to the field of research. These are some regulations that students should be aware of:

1. A Doctoral Thesis shall be between **35,000 and 60,000 words** (excluding footnotes, exhibits, figures, tables, graphs, appendices, bibliographies, etc).
2. A Master thesis shall be between **20,000 and 35,000 words** (excluding footnotes, exhibits, figures, tables, graphs, appendices, bibliographies, etc).

In addition, the amount of plagiarism may not exceed 25% in the turnitin process and 3 additional documents required for the submission of the thesis, which is: 1) Approval Letter of Research Proposal Defense, 2) Turnitin Report verified by Principal Supervisor, and 3) Abstracts written in English and Malay, confirmed by Principal Supervisor. All this information was effective on 1 November 2016. Among these additional documents, students are not aware of the ‘Approval Letter of Research Proposal Defense’ that should be carried out by the faculty once the defense process is over. Thus, students should take valuable action to ensure that this issue is not overlooked.

In order to minimize the risk of language and grammatical error, students should send the thesis to a professional proofreading service. Students will not fail because of typos/language errors, but poorly written work may annoyed examiners and cause them to doubt your professionalism and the quality of your work. Therefore, here is a trusted professional proofreading service, as stated below:

1. **Proofreading by a UK Ph.D.**
[proofreadingbyphd@gmail.com]
2. **MPWS Rich Proofreading**
[mpws.proofreading@gmail.com]

Last but not least, the publication requirement. This is a very crucial part that students should take into consideration. No publication, no graduation. A minimum of 2 or more Scopus-indexed articles is required for Ph.D. student whereas 1 scopus-indexed article should only be published for Master student. This workshop is compulsory to be conducted and it helped postgraduate students to understand the rules and procedures for writing thesis very well. Therefore, I hope that this workshop will be organized ongoing basis by Pusat Pengajian Siswazah (PPS) for every new entrance of postgraduate students.



Participant:
Mohamad Aidil Hasim,
Master Student,
Faculty of Technology Management & Technopreneurship.

UTP Benchmarking & Networking Visits To UTeM



Benchmarking is a practice of making comparisons to the baseline or recognized performances where students normally encounter during their research studies. For an association, it is important to understand the success factor so that opportunities for improvement can be identified and adapted through the benchmarking process. Besides, networking refers to communicating and exchanging ideas with people in similar interest, to establish relationships and will possibly work together in the future.

The meeting starts with welcoming remarks by the UTeM CGS Dean, Prof Ts Dr Noreffendy. Next, the representatives from PGSC UTP and UPgrade shared information about the postgraduate studies in respective university, the postgraduate association, and events that have conducted and planned throughout the effective year. The session carried on with a discussion among both associations regarding the postgraduate's studies inquiry, organization inquiry, and potential collaboration opportunities.

On 29th August 2019, the Postgraduate Student Council (PGSC) from UTP has come for a benchmarking and networking visits in UTeM. The visit was led by Mr. Ghali, the project leader, and accompanied by two of the officers, Mr Naqib and Mr Shamsul from Center of Graduate Studies (CGS) UTP, with another 6 representatives from PGSC UTP participating.



Before the day, our guests have departed straight after their program in Cyberjaya and has safely arrived UTeM at 9 pm. Every one of them was accommodated in UTeM Satria hostel for one night with the assists of Mr Adznan (PPS executive), hostel for staffs, and 2 representatives from UPgrade. Meanwhile, we take this opportunity to interact with each other and make ourselves to be more familiar. Our guests from UTP were delighted with this new hostel in UTeM.



Next morning, we have breakfast together with our guests before the discussion session.



By:
Wong Rui Zhen,
Master Student,
Vice President UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



The last agenda was a campus tour, where we managed to visit only one faculty due to time constraint. The tour happened in FKP and assisted by AP Hadzley with full of his enthusiasm. Before sending off our guests, we had lunch together and exchanging souvenirs, wishing best of luck for any future planning.

Summary of the Discussion

UTP has University Initiated Fund (Graduate Assistant Scheme) to support postgraduate student studies, where full-time students without any financial support will get the opportunity to secure. Next, every postgraduate student in UTP has chances to secure a workstation where applications were made through an online booking system. Besides, their attendance was tracked using thumbprint system, where the attendances need to fulfil for 80% as the graduate requirement (no matter students are with a grant or not). Therefore, students should be more engaged in their studies and stay on the campus with such strict attendance policy.



Briefing on Postgraduate Rules & Regulation Semester 2 Session 2018/2019



Approaching the new semester, Pusat Pengajian Siswazah (PPS) held a briefing session for the new intake of students. The aim was to share important information relating to the student's postgraduate studies in UTeM and addressing important issues faced by them.



The session was officiated with a welcoming speech delivered by the Dean of PPS, Prof. Ts. Dr. Noreffendy Bin Tamaldin. Accompanying him was Deputy Dean, Dr. Hyreil Anuar Kasdirin. Other PPS staffs included Assistant Registrar, Mr. Mohd Adznan Bin Mohd Nayan and Madam Nurul Syuhada Binti Haron.

"I am glad that all of you are becoming part of the UTeM family and I look forward to getting to know you all better", said Prof. Ts. Dr. Noreffendy. In his speech, the Dean introduced to the student about each program offered and its respective functions.



The session continued with a presentation on UTeM Graduate Studies Rules by Deputy Dean, Dr. Hyreil Anuar Kasdirin. The 30 minutes presentation explained about the basic underlying rules and regulations governing postgraduates' studies in UTeM.

Towards the end of the session, a Q&A session was held. Graduate studies rules were the main topics being discussed. Overall, the programme was held successfully, and students are expected to gain useful insights prior to the start of their academic journey in UTeM.



By:
Ts. Mailasan Jayakrishnan,
PhD Student,
President UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

Workshop on

Systematic Literature Review

Literature review (LR) is a very important process when conducting research as it required in almost the entire research timeline. Basically, LR helps in referring to the existing work done, identifying critical research problems, obtaining relevant support for interpretation, and etc. With a massive amount of reading materials available out there, researchers always spent time on getting to the right articles and often wasted time on dealing and reading the information that actually out of scope. Being meticulous is good, but spending the right time on literature helps to complete your research in a time constraint.

Towards such necessity, the UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) are pleased to have Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Sabrina Ahmad to share on conducting Systematic Literature Review for fellow researchers in UTeM. The workshop was conducted on 25th Sept 2019 in Auditorium PPS with 36 postgraduate students participating. It was a half-day program so students might find it handy. Basically, the module covers 3 major contents: introduction to SLR, the motivations, and SLR step by step. Besides, the speaker has demonstrated some successful examples from her and her students' past works (e.g.: published journal, conference papers, and thesis).

Summary of the Workshop Outcome

Systematic literature review (SLR) is the extension of the conventional LR as it still covers the fundamental process of reviewing literature, but SLR rigorously searches for the complete list of relevant literature in a particular topic to answer a focused research question that produces a fair evaluation and unbiased results. Also, the searching methods used in SLR are often described, such as search term, databases covered, and etc.

Generally, the SLR involved 3 steps: Planning, Conducting and Reporting.



By:
Wong Rui Zhen,
Master Student,
Vice President UPgrade 2018/2019,
Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.

Stage 1: Planning

- i. In the planning stage should draw research questions (RQ) and determine review protocol.
- ii. RQ can be formulated follows the PICOC elements, and RQ will be guidance during the search process because the analysis and compilation of outcome should answer back the RQ.
- iv. The review protocol consisting of several components that need to clarify: Background, RQ, search terms, etc.

Stage 2: Conducting

- i. Getting relevant literature through identifying subject matter, defining search string (keyword to use), defining evidence source (databases), documentation and etc.
- ii. Select primary studies through setting inclusion and exclusion criteria that derive from RQ.
- iii. Extract knowledge from primary studies through reading full articles (the interesting part should read first), extract relevant information and record it in tabulated form. However, data in the table should answer the RQ.
- iv. Assess studies quality by looking back the on inclusion and exclusion criteria. This is to check whether the study was done enough or not.
- v. Synthesis data from the results of primary studies through descriptive (textual approach, storytelling) or numerical synthesis (meta-analysis).

Stage 3: Reporting

Organize the findings and write it out! General components of an SLR write-up include an introduction (RQ, motivations), main body (search strategy: search string, sources; inclusion & exclusion criteria, results & discussion) and conclusion.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE THROUGH THIS WORKSHOP.



Participant:
Liew Siaw Hong,
PhD Student,
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On 25th September 2019, UTeM Postgraduate Association (UPgrade) have organized a workshop on preparing a systematic literature review. The purpose of this workshop was to give an overview of the systematic literature review and the difference between literature review and systematic literature review. The workshop was held in the Auditorium of Centre of Graduate Studies (PPS). The speaker for this workshop was Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Sabrina Ahmad from FTMK, UTeM.

This was a great opportunity for me for gaining new knowledge and information on conducting and writing a systematic literature review. The purpose of systematic literature review is to systematically accumulate, organize, evaluate, and synthesize all existing research evidence of research area.

Furthermore, it is also able to present fair evaluation of a research topic by using a trustworthy, rigorous, and auditable methodology. With this systematic literature review, we can identify the gaps in the existing research that will lead to topics for further investigations. As a researcher, identify the gaps is the most important step in order to carry research. The speaker has explained in detail on the 3 important steps to conduct systematic literature review. The 3 important steps are planning, conducting and reporting steps.

Last but not least, I am sincerely encouraging all my research friends, master and Ph.D. candidates to attend this kind of workshop.

This workshop will give you a clear direction on conducting a systematic literature review to support evidenced-based research.

A Glance at Web of Science Publication

The Web of Science (WOS) abstract database is the world's most trusted publisher-independent global citation, indexing and analysis of citation database of most diverse scientific works in all possible scientific fields of activity. It was originally produced by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and maintained by Clarivate Analytics. The journals that appear in Journal Citation Reports (JCR) are considered ISI journals:

1. **Science Citation Index (SCI)/Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE).**
SCI covers only the most highly cited, highest impact journals in each category.
2. **Social Science Citation Index (SSCI).**
A multidisciplinary index to the journal literature of the social sciences.
3. **Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI).**
Multidisciplinary index to the journal literature of the arts and humanities.
4. **Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).**
Journals indexed in the ESCI will not receive Impact Factors and is the easiest

one to get into and that as a result it contains many predatory journals. ESCI is the waiting list to be evaluated for JCR every year and those qualified will be transferred to SCIE after 2 years.

1. **Book Citation Index.**
 - a. **Book Citation Index-Science (BKCI-S).**
 - b. **Book Citation Index-Social Sciences & Humanities (BKCI-SSH).**
2. **Conference Proceedings Citation Index.**
 - a. **Conference Proceedings Citation Index-Science (CPCI-S).**
 - b. **Conference Proceedings Citation Index-Social Sciences & Humanities (CPCI-SSH).**

Verify the status of the journal whether it is indexed in WOS. Master Journal List: <http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/mjl/>

To avoid submission of manuscripts to potential, possible or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers, check Beall's List: <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>



By:
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Automated Visual Inspection in Wood Industry

One of the major revenue contributors to the economy is the wood-based industry. It contributed 2.8% of the total exportation in the country. The percentage was calculated by MIDA in the year 2018.

Malaysia is rich in its wood's species. Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia enhances the development of the Malaysian timber industry. Malaysian woods divided into four categories such as heavy hardwood, medium hardwood, light hardwood, and softwood. The colour difference of sapwood and heartwood, texture and grain can be analysed for the appearance of wood species. The deviation of the appearance between wood species will produce us with a great test on the robustness of our solution between different species. Malaysia wood industry divided into two major stages which are primary stage and secondary stage. The process that transforms trees to timbers includes in the primary stage while the secondary stage is from rough sawn timber process until final wooden products, as shown in Figure 1.

Abnormal or irregular texture, shape, and color of woods can be defined as wood defects. Defects of wood bring a few drawbacks towards wood's economic value. The production of woods become decreasing because of many wastes of woods. The quality of wood products also affected because wood defects give a drop of the wood strength, durability and usefulness. Another essential point, wood defects disturb the appearance of wood products and wood defects also lead to wood decay, as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Automated Visual Inspection (AVI) in Wood Industry.

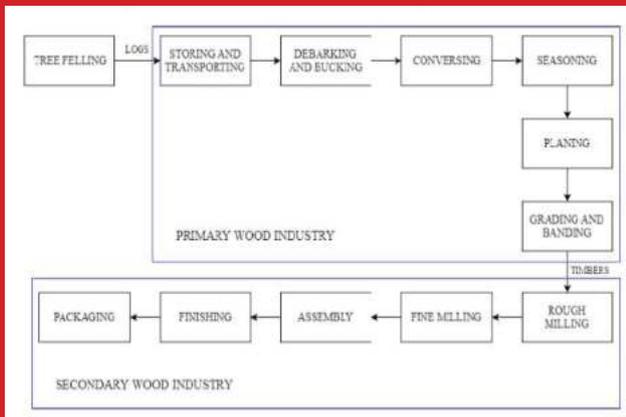


Figure 1: Wood Stages.

Historically, AVI for wood is explored by Pham and Allcock in the year 1998. They implement a camera to scan and capture the image of wood that passed through conveyor belt and detection and classify of wood defects by image processing hardware and software. Image acquisition, image segmentation, feature extraction, classification, wood grading, and wood cutting optimization are stages that involve in AVI for wood.

The wood defects that defined going through wood grading that will determine the grade of the wood and wood cutting optimization to cut the wood according to their usages. The grade of woods and the wood cutting techniques related to the market price of wood and customer satisfaction.



By:
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 Treasurer UPgrade 2018/2019,
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5 Simple TIPS That Will Help You with Your Dissertation Proposal Defence

As a candidate for postgraduate, you will need to plan and prepare for a dissertation proposal defense presentation. It should adequately summarize your research intentions and how you plan to go about the study. Your supervisor needs to approve your proposal before you start your work and the following dissertation proposal defense tips should assist you to adequately prepare and improve your chances of earning approval on your first try:-

Tip #1 Review Other Presentations Documents

Your supervisor will probably have a lot of presentation documents archived from his or her former students. You can also acquire one from the library. Read a dissertation proposal defense presentation that is close to the dissertation you are defending. This will give you an idea of what you should incorporate and prepare for. Specifically, take note at the kinds of questions committee members are likely to ask you.

Tip #2 Learn from Others Who Will Also Present

A great way of learning how to present a dissertation proposal defense is to attend others' presentations. This allows you to get a feel for how long presentations usually take, the process for the defense, and how the questions are delivered. Look for tendencies in students' delivery. You will notice how different styles have different effects – so by evaluating what works (and what does not) will allow you to make adjustments accordingly.

Tip #3 Know Your Supervisor's Expectations for You

Throughout the process of research and writing your dissertation, you had the chance to work closely with your supervisor. This should give you a great idea of what he or she expects from you. Take a look at your notes and focus on the discussions the two of you had in the previous year. You can take this a step further and learn what tendencies and requirements members of the dissertation proposal defense committee look for with these types of presentations.



By:
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Tip #4 Make A List of All the Likely Defense Questions

About a week before your presentation make a list of the likely dissertation proposal defense questions that you can expect to see, using all the information you've gathered. Practice your responses in front of a mirror, and then ask a few of your members to ask you more questions. The more practice you get the more you can work on your delivery. Confidence is key to a great presentation, so practicing questions will prepare for anything.

Tip #5 Make Sure You Know the Available Literature

In order to make a successful defense of your proposal, you absolutely need to know all the relevant available resources related to your topic. You want to focus on recent publications but do not ignore literature that has been published years before. Summarize the material and think critically about how the material does not fully answer the questions you want to explore in your study, and how your work will build on what is existence.

After preparing your dissertation proposal defense powerpoint have a friend review your presentation. You can also hire a professional academic editor to provide you with feedback and revisions if you want to ensure you have created an excellent document.



FOR ORGANIZING AN EVENT

Thanks to the opportunity and trust that have been given to me to involve in all kind of UPgrade events as a committee (program director and secretariat). Simple sharing from what I've learned throughout organizing activities. Points below go in sequences, and can be generalized to any types of event:

a. Form committee team

Things cannot be successful in a big way alone. A group of effective committees that understand each role helps in great achievement.

b. Avoid Clashing with others event

Check any happening events in the recent months (to your planned date). It might be another event is going to conduct on the same day, so that the location will be too crowded. Or there's another similar event that has the same interest as yours going to conduct on your recent date so that the crowd will be diverse and affect the participation responses.

c. Check the availability

Check the availability of the venue and VIP. This can help you to decide a date for your event. Please remember to book the venue and mark your VIP's calendar once confirmed.

d. Set a date

Before that, you maybe just roughly set the month that you would like to conduct your event. But after doing some surveys from (b) and (c), you can now decide a suitable date for your event.

e. Prepare relevant documents

You might need to get approval from the university/organization, also please remember the letters to invite your VIP's.

f. Start the preparation

Registration: online forms, payment method
 Promotion: poster, banner, official page, official website
 Protocol: emcee, scripts, montage/video, certificates, prize, souvenir
 Food: for VIP's, for participants, etc.
 Operation: materials to set-up the venue and to be used on the day.

g. Start promotions

Before the official promotion, just make a "Coming Soon!" notice in your official page to let people aware of your event. Promotion can be made to group chats, official page, official website (faculty, university), emails, etc.

h. Track the registration responses

This can help you to decide to stop receiving participants or need to do another wave of promotions.

i. Prepare the venue before the day

You might also need to book the venue before the event day for set-up. Rehearse the entire flow cater to any possible uncertainty that might happen during the actual day.

j. Run your event!

Floor manager plays an important role on this day to make sure everything run smoothly and on schedule.



By:
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 Vice President UPgrade 2018/2019,
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Why i Have Decide to do a Research Related TO PERSONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

1. Where on earth the ideas of thesis' topics come from?

In the beginning, I chose my first topic based on available data taken from several projects online. I did not know what to start, just thought that: Okay, I will choose this topic because there is available data, so I don't need to conduct my own study to collect data, it is really time and energy consuming. However, my classmate, after the first thesis seminar, asked me: "Do you really want to take that topic? Is that your serious interest?" I said hesitantly: "Ahh, probably no." Then she suggested: "Yeah, so believe me, forget it and make your own. The thesis journey can last more than 1 year, and the only thing can keep you along with it is your interest in the topic. Do something that you are really interested in!" I appreciated her advice, had thought a lot and changed my topic. Although the change requires me lots of efforts, time and energy to conduct my own study to collect data, I am happy and pleased about my decision. So far, close to the end to the thesis journey, I still stick on the topic I had changed. I found my thesis quite interesting and meaningful - enough to motivate me go through the journey.

2. How do I go through the journey?

In the beginning, I consulted myself, supervisors and friends to narrow down and finalize the possible topic and ideas for thesis. Next, I started to go online to find out more things related to Personal Learning Environment and what it is all about. Then, I started working with the data and writing the thesis with huge

supports and encouragements from my friends. Sometimes on the journey, I was so confused and really did not know how to proceed the process: too many issues, questions, problems raised. However, the more I am involved in it, the more it is clear and reasonable. I am still survived, and I hope to be able to do good research by the end of it.

3. Am I alone in that journey?

I consider myself as an introverted person. I don't comfortable with communicating, especially with strange people. Yeah, I prefer work alone, and so do I with the journey thesis. Ahh, but things are not always simple like that. Your friends will always be there to accompany you. The same for my situation. And through my journey so far, I would say I really appreciate, respect and feel super graceful because of those who are always there for me. My good friends. Their presences, advise, comments are super helpful, encouraging and motivating.

Now I am still doing my research. I am trying my best to blend everything in my thesis together. Well, I try to make my research topic that is related to Personal Learning Environment as interesting as possible. I try to blend in language with technology for my thesis. I hope that my research can really bring great benefits to all the undergraduates and help them to improve their communication skills.



By:
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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR Postgraduate Students 2019/2020

No.	Name of Program	Academic Program	Non-Academic Program	Month of Organizing
1.	AI Coaching Class	✓		November
2.	Industrial Visits- Malaysia Maritime Academy (ALAM)		✓	December
3.	E-Research Tools	✓		December



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