

Critiquing reviewed literature to 'wow' the examiners. A half-day workshop at the Woodhill Park Research Retreat Saturday August 20th, 2011, 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Facilitated by Dr Jens J. Hansen, Director of the Woodhill Park Research Retreat

Who is this workshop for and what will it cost?

- It's for anyone who is preparing an honours, masters or doctoral level dissertation thesis or exegesis.
- It could also be for beginning supervisors who have not yet supervised postgraduate candidates to successful completion.
- We'll restrict this workshop to ten people so do enrol now.
- The workshop will cost \$80.00 plus GST. You will receive a set of notes and a Woodhill Park style morning tea (includes vegetarian food). Coffee or tea will be provided upon arrival and parking is free.

Six good reasons for taking part

1. As a thesis candidate you need to learn how to seek out relevant literature effectively; you also need to learn how to manage what you assemble. We'll help you to become a literature sleuth for your topic and a selective but effective collector of materials and conveyer of theory.
2. Thesis candidates benefit greatly from learning how to focus their reading and identifying useful portions of literature and theory for easy retrieval. We'll introduce you to strategies for reading selectively and critically as well as storing and organizing what you read so that you can evolve a theory informed literature review.
3. Discovering how to process what you read into well formulated arguments is crucial. Your prime audience consists exclusively of the examiners (two for a masters degree and three for a doctorate). Learning how to influence them is pivotal. Discovering how to convey well reasoned thinking about theory and literature succinctly, clearly and unambiguously to your examiners, is, therefore, a very persuasive reason for taking part in this half-day workshop.
4. Finding out how to use selected software programmes which can help you craft your literature review is another good reason for registering. We won't force-feed you with software options but we will introduce some simple solutions for cataloguing, managing and searching literature. We'll also show you how to generate literature themes and teach you how to convert your notes into useful commentaries.
5. Learning how to write an intellectually gripping and potent literature review won't happen in a half-day workshop like this. (That would take a tad longer!) However, we will get you to try out some strategies for writing and telling the examiners what you want them to understand.

6. Critiquing reviewed literature to make selected evidence and arguments thread seamlessly throughout the whole thesis demonstrates academic credibility to examiners. We will show you what examiners typically look for and will help you to better understand how to build a convincing and scholastically rigorous literature review.

An outline of what we'll do.

8.30 a.m. Coffee and tea will be available upon arrival.

9.00 a.m. *The cock-tail party approach to speed-telling in fifty words or less.* AKA how to use key words, key statements and a simple sentence to tell others about your thesis.

9.30 a.m. *Sleuthing strategies 101.* Considering ways and means of finding, storing and managing literature. How much do you need and what should you do to store it for on-demand retrieval? How much may you copy without breaching copyright? Should you only be sleuthing and reading or are there other things to do?

10.15 a.m. *To read or not to read – that is the question.* So much material and so much to read! What are some smart ways of working? This will be a hands-on practical session.

10.45 a.m. Morning tea.

11.15 a.m. *All about technology.* What tools are available and how can you use them to work smarter? If you have your lap-top with you, we'll show you some simple tools you can use. We'll also get you to do a brief writing exercise.

12.15 noon. *Telling it persuasively, pithily and pointedly.* Understanding what examiners look for in a literature review is a sound way of ensuring your work is up to scratch. This will be a hands-on session where you'll look at theses completed by members of the Woodhill Park community of scholars. That way you'll be better able to discern quality so you can emulate it.

12.45 p.m. *Poroporoaki.* A brief evaluation and final questions.

1.00 p.m. Finish.

Please note that the time-table above will, in large measure, be governed by participants. We intend to cover as much as possible in a practical hands-on manner but we'll try to do this at your pace and according to your head-space. That means we're flexible.

Register now

Email jens@woodhillpark.com or phone 09 411 7703. Only ten spaces are available and cancellations will not be possible unless there is a waiting list and we're told well beforehand.