

CM50175 – Research Project Preparation

More Quick Notes — Mostly on Picking a Project

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Picking a Supervisor

- Do you share interests?
- Do they have more than one project you're interested in? (list them both / all!)
- Are you likely to be able to communicate?
- Has everyone else chosen them too?
- Don't Panic!

Picking a Project

How will you prove what you've done?

- Statistics and Measurements. Examples:
 - Average, best & worst case performance with various features.
 - Usability – user studies of your system.
 - Evaluations — e.g. how long it took **you** to understand packages or APIs.
- Formal Proofs.
- Demonstration.
- Other people's evidence — the literature.

Next Week:
Introduction to Literature Research

- Lecture by Hannah South, Bath Science Librarian.
- Seminar: Discussions of a Research Paper (To be handed out at lecture.)

Literature Research Helps You By...

- Providing data you don't have time to gather.
- Providing arguments you haven't had time to think of.
- Telling you what other people currently find relevant.
- Telling you what other people currently find useful.

In short, a literature brings you into a community. It provides you with their wisdom, and gives you clues about how to be a valued participant.

Referencing and Citation: The Importance of Saying Where you Got Your Ideas

“Iraq’s declaration even resorted to unabashed plagiarism, with lengthy passages of United Nations reports copied word-for-word (or edited to remove any criticism of Iraq) and presented as original text.”

Condoleezza Rice *Why We Know Iraq Is Lying*, New York Times, January 23, 2003.

Referencing and Citation: The Importance of Saying Where you Got Your Ideas

“I was a bit disenchanted because they never cited my article . . . any academic, when you publish anything, the only thing you ask for in return is that they include a citation of your work... There are laws and regulations about plagiarism that you would think the UK Government would abide by.”

Ibrahim al-Marashi, quoted in *The Times* (London)
February 7, 2003.

Today and Tomorrow

- Extra time this morning because Prof. Davenport is away — so discussions will probably continue in 3W 2.2.
- Extra time this afternoon — just like last week.
- Tomorrow
 - Read all the web pages again.
 - Hand in your selections to Angela Cobban
 - Relax! (There's nothing more you can do.)
 - **Exception:** **MMT** students may have more time to talk to EE.