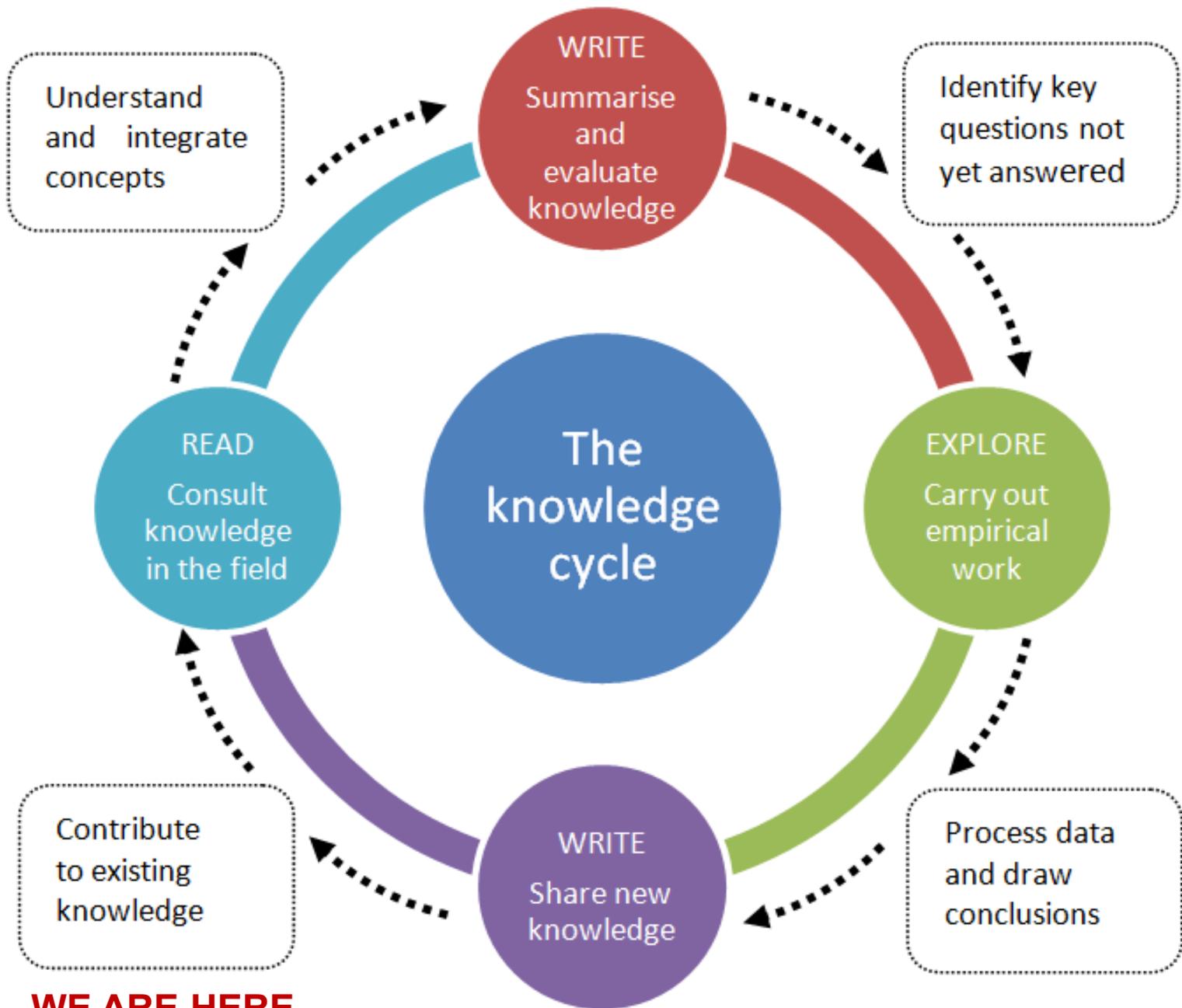


Research Capacity Building Workshop

20. Writing a journal article





WE ARE HERE

Online Forum

An online forum has been set up at the following web address:

<http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/>

Click on category *RPS Research Capacity Building*, and click on course *Research Matters*.

Materials are posted there online after workshops, including useful articles and books.

To log in:

User ID: staff or student number

Password: research

Writing a journal article

This workshop will look at targeting various journals, and drafting, structuring and polishing a research article. It will also look at how a thesis can provide the content for more than one journal article.

A thesis can also provide the content for conference papers, which are published more quickly than articles, and provide peer feedback on one's research. However, conference papers are not considered as authoritative as peer-reviewed journal articles, and do not generate much funding.

Your research as a source

Your research is a **source** for other writers/researchers:

- Citing your research demonstrates they read recent work in the field/area.
- They can use not just your research, but other researchers' work *you* cited.
- They can use your points as evidence to support their argument or methods.

Why write articles/papers?

Why bother? Can't they just read your thesis?

- People don't want to wade through the whole thesis just to find the main points.
- Theses don't have the same authority as articles in peer-reviewed journals.
- You are rated on your publication output (a thesis is *not* a publication).
- The DHET grants ad hoc funding for articles.

What should a thesis generate?

Masters: at least two articles (can be co-written with the supervisor)

Doctorate: at least five articles (can be co-written with the supervisor)

Targeting journals

Take examples from ISSI list related to your research area:

Content - can be assessed by looking at other articles.

Style - can be assessed by looking at other articles.

Guidelines to authors usually give the number of words/pages, font type/size and line spacing, heading conventions, general layout and bibliography style.

Sometimes they specify structure and headings.

Drafting a journal article

What are the main points of your thesis?

- What was/is the topic of your thesis?
- What is the field/area involved?
- Were there any new or interesting results in your research?
- To whom might this be of interest?

Drafting contd.

Whether you have completed a thesis or not:

- Have you ever had a journal article published?
- What journal/s do academics in your field mostly consult?

In view of your subject journal's usual content/focus, what would provide the most useful content for readers?

Structuring

Introduction: What does article cover? Mention other research/ers in the field.

Body:

Theoretical approach

Methodology

Main findings and conclusions

Conclusion: Value of research, anything original or unusual (i.e. compared to other current research).

JOURNALS OFTEN PRESCRIBE HEADINGS.

Polishing a journal article

- Proof-read for language, style and grammar.
- Proof-read for research conventions (these may be *Journal-specific*).
- Ensure author guidelines are followed precisely.

Never send a rough draft or unformatted draft: The final draft must be correct and polished per author guidelines so as to be immediately publishable.

List publications in thesis Preface

PRIOR PUBLICATIONS ARISING FROM THIS STUDY

Pratt, D.D. (2005) Social mechanism and software design: the use of a stochastic social-process algorithm in the design of a writing tutor program. Proceedings of the *3rd International Conference on Computer Science and its Applications (ICCSA-2005)*. San Diego, California, USA, June 27-30 2005.

Pratt, D.D. (2005) Modelling writing as the basis for a writing tutor computer program. Proceedings of the *Ed-Media World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications*. Montreal, Canada, 27 June-2 July 2005.

Pratt, D.D. (2006) Modelling social algorithms as design templates for educational software. Proceedings of the *IADIS Virtual Multi Conference on Computer Science and Systems (MCCIS 2006)*, 15-19 May 2006.

Pratt, D.D. (2006) Social transformation and software design: a critical realist approach to the teaching of written composition. Proceedings of the *13th International Conference on Learning*. Montego Bay, Jamaica, 22-25 June 2006. (Available as an article in the *International Journal of Learning*, Vol 13 (<http://ijl.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.30/prod.475>))

Pratt, D.D. (2006) From social algorithm to pedagogical application: some implications for educational software. Proceedings of the *9th IASTED International Conference on Computers and Advanced Technology in Education (CATE 2006)*. Lima, 4-6 October 2006.

List publications contd.

The following papers dealt with further applications of the theoretical model as (1) an educational design principle and (2) as the basis for further empirical models (e.g. a model of blended learning delivery):

Pratt, D.D. (2005) An analysis of the design features of three mixed-mode courses in a master's degree programme. Proceedings of the *IASTED International Conference on Education and Technology (ICET 2005)*. Alberta, Canada, July 4-6 2005.

Pratt, D.D. (2005) Comm. Skills Online three years down the line: reflecting on design principles in blended learning. Proceedings of the *7th Annual Conference on World Wide Web Applications*. Cape Technikon, Cape town, 29-31 August 2005.

Pratt, D.D. (2006) No middle ground, but many mansions: how a consideration of the functional architecture of communication can assist the design of effective mixed mode courses. Proceedings of the *NADEOSA 10th Anniversary Conference*. Pretoria, 23-24 August 2006 [Accepted for publication in the *South African Journal for Higher Education* in 2007].

Pratt, D.D. & Gutteridge, R. (2006) The role of the social mechanism in social transformation: a critical realist approach to blended learning. Proceedings of the *8th Annual Conference on World Wide Web Applications*. Bloemfontein, 6-8 September 2006.

Pratt, D.D. (2007) Introducing newt@dut: a mixed mode writing clinic at a multicultural University of Technology. Paper presented at the *14th International Conference on Learning*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-29 June 2007.

Message



Reply



Reply to All



Forward

Respond



Delete



Move to Folder



Create Rule



Other Actions

Actions



Block Sender



Not Junk

Junk E-mail

Safe Lists



Categorize



Follow Up

Options



Mark as Unread



Find

Find

Related

Select



Send to OneNote

OneNote

From: Louise Remenyi [louise@academic-publishing.org]

Sent: Wed 2012/08/15 02:44 AM

To: Deirdre Denise Pratt

Cc:

Subject: Publish your dissertation with Academic Publishing

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