582519 Scientific Writing for MSc in Computer Science:
Use of References
Time management

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Tiina Niklander
Last week’s task: How did it go?

- How many references?
  - in total
  - planning to use at the moment

- Structure version 1?

- Number of written pages? 0, 1, 2 or more?

- How many hours used? 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or more?
Outline

• Why references?
• Characteristics of references
• Where to refer?
• List of references and bibliography
• Different types of entries in the reference list
• Order of entries
• Use of references/citations

• Time management
Why references are needed?

- Scientific work must always be related to existing, relevant work
  - Connections, relationships
  - Differences

- These relationships are identified with references (or citations) to different scientific publications

- Each scientific article includes
  - a list of references in a standardized format
  - citations to publications in that list
Why references are important?

- Three main purposes for using references:
  - To give pointers to background reading
  - To demonstrate that the work done is new
  - To demonstrate the author's knowledge of the research area

- A way of telling the reader who has done the work in question or where to find more information!
Characteristics of references

- A reference has to be
  - Relevant
  - Necessary
  - Up-to-date
  - Possible to access

- References can point to
  - primary sources
  - secondary sources
Primary or secondary source?
Priority order in referencing!

IETF RFC
Web page
White paper
Electronic journal
Magazine

Conference
Journal

Workshop

Technical report
Course book
Wikipedia

Article collection

PhD Thesis
MSc thesis
Where to refer?

- Always refer to
  - a **primary source** instead of the secondary one
  - **well-written material** instead of badly-written
  - a **journal article** (or a collection book) instead of a conference article
  - a **conference article** instead of a technical report or an unpublished manuscript
  - a **printed document** (like course book) instead of a web document
Where to refer? (2)

- Avoid referring to private communications and information provided in seminars or talks
  - Not accessible or verifiable

- Do not refer to support common knowledge
  - What is common knowledge, depends on the topic and the publication forum of the article

- Main rule: refer to original, primary sources
List of references

- A list of articles, reports, books and other sources cited in the text
  - Just them, nothing else!
- Each entry in the list should include so much information (fields) that the reference/source can be easily found!
- Each source type has a certain type of an entry
- Fields of the same type must be formatted in the same way
Bibliography

- A larger, more general list of sources relevant to a topic
- Entries are not necessarily cited in the text
- Must be separated from the list of references
- Can be used in survey articles or course books
  - In course books related to the bibliographic notes given at the end of the chapters
- Not used in research articles or theses
Entries in the reference list

- Each publication forum has its own rules for
  - the syntax of the entries in the list of references
  - the form of the citations

- Different citation styles:
  - Harvard-style: Parenthetical, name-and-date
  - Vancouver-style: Sequential numbers

- Mnemonic abbreviations used at our department
  - Variation of the number style
Mnemonic abbreviations used at our department

- Three letters + two numbers
- The letters are the first letters of the last name(s) of the author(s)
  - Note the different ways of selecting the letters based on the number of authors from the examples on the following slides
- The numbers are the last two digits of the publication year
- If same author(s) have several publications in a same year, lower-case letters (a, b, c) are added to the end of those abbreviations
Journal article

- General form:
  - Author1, A., Author2, B., Author3, C., Title of the article. *Name of the journal*, volume, number (publication year), pp. x-y.

- Example
  - GGM04
Conference/workshop article

- General form:
  - Author1, A., Author2, B., Author3, C., Title of the article. Name of the conference/workshop proceedings, place of the conference/workshop, year of the conference/workshop, pp. x-y.

- Example
  - Altinel, M., Franklin, M.J., Efficient filtering of XML documents for selective dissemination of information. Proc. of 26th International Conf. on Very Large Databases (VLDB 2000), Cairo, Egypt, 2000, pp. 53-64.
  - AIF00
Collection article with collection information

- General form:
  - Author1, A., Author2, B., Author3, C., Title of the article. In *Name of the collection*, names of the editors, name of the publisher, publication year, pp. x-y.

- Example

  Moh96
Collection and collection article separated

- General form:
  - *Name of the collection*, names of the editors, name of the publisher, publication year.

- Example
  
Book

- General form:
  - Author1, A., Author2, B., Author3, C., *Name of the book*. Name of the publisher, publication year.

- Example
  - AHU74
Thesis or technical report

- General form:
  - Author1, A., Author2, B., Author3, C., Name of the thesis/report. Type of the publication, name of the publication series, number of the thesis/report, name of the publisher, publication year.
    - Number of the thesis/report included if it exists

- Example
  - Jal02
Other kind of sources

- Manuals, patents, standards
  - Can be used, but not very common sources
- Web documents
  - Same bibliographical information as from the similar printed sources + URL of the document and a date when the URL last existed
  - BUT: prefer printed sources to web documents!
- Other special cases: see, for example, Zobel's book!
Order of entries

- Depends on the style of the citations
  - Ordinal numbers in numerical order
  - Mnemonic abbreviations in alphabetical order

- In the case of ordinal numbers, entries can be in
  - the order of citations
  - the alphabetical order by the last names of the authors

- In a list with mnemonic abbreviations entries can also be in the alphabetical order by the last names of the authors
Order of entries (2)

• Example
  • Nie89a Nielsen, J., *Introduction to* ...
  • Nie89b Nielsen, J., *Methods of* ...
  • Nie90 Nielsen, J., *Algorithmic* ...
  • Nie93 Nielsen, J., ...
  • NiA91 Nielsen, J., Ahlblad, T., ...
  • NiM90a Nielsen, J., Mack, R.L., Teaching ...
  • NiM90b Nielsen, J., Mack, R.L., *Usability* ...
  • NMH88 Nielsen, J., Mack, R.L., Helms, H.-J., *Advances* ...
References and citations

- References (citations) tell the reader
  - where does the information come from
    - Work of others
    - Work of the author(s)
  - where it is possible to find more information on that topic

- The structure of the text has to indicate
  - the topic of the citation
  - the coverage of the citation
Placement of citations

- Close to the cited material
- Technically given in brackets, e.g. [Nie93]
- Usually references to page numbers or chapters are not included
  - Used when referring to books
  - Example: The following is based on the text book of Aho et al [AHU74, Chapter 41].
- Always placed within a sentence, but part of it!
- Never placed in titles of chapters or sections
- Can be placed in the caption of figures or tables
Placement of citations (2)

- References that are discussed should not be anonymous
  - Names of the authors of the source must then be mentioned in the text
  - Examples:
    - A method for filtering XML documents proposed by Altin et Franklin [AlF00] is …
    - Efficient filtering of XML documents has also been studied by Green et al [GGM04].
- References that are not discussed can just be listed
  - Example: For filtering XML documents, several methods have been proposed [ALF00, CFG02, GGM04, CHC06, ChN07].
Placement of citations (3)

- Should be punctuated as if they were parenthetical remarks
  - Wrong: According to [GGM04], ....
  - Correct: According to Green et al [GGM04], ....

- Each sentence should be understandable even without the citation!
Other remarks

- Footnotes and endnotes seldom used in computer science texts
  - They are never used for citations!
- Quotations also seldom used in computer science
  - Quoted material must be an exact copy of the original text
  - Copied text must be enclosed in double quotes
    - Example: Information retrieval is “the science of matching information needs to documents” [Bri91].
- Longer quotations given in an indented block
- **It is better to paraphrase than quote!**
Small group work

- Correct the given list of references
- What mistakes did you find?
- How would you correct them?
- Do you have enough information for the corrections?
Time management

- How to balance studies, sleeping and hobbies/family life / free time?
  - any ideas?

- Timetable for studies
- Study plan: which courses and when?
Self management of your own work

Feeling of control
Satisfaction of work
Quality of work
Keeping deadlines
Cyclic development of life management

Distributing one's own resources according to own values
Feeling of acceptance, value rapport
Process skills, leadership, subordinance skills, expert role

Self confidence

Threats, hinders
Stress, anxiety, exhaustion
Feeling of insufficiency
Avoiding larger tasks
Procrastination
Unclearly stated goals
Decisionmaking difficulty
Unrealistic expectations
Difficulty estimating quality of work
Failure to resource
Difficulty reporting
Difficulty completing task
Expectations on advisor's push

Decisions, skills, tools
Cristallising goals
→ motivation, plans, followup
Selection and priorisation of tasks
- based on values
- systematically
- clear subgoals in terms of Contents, quality, schedules
- persistence, courage
Long term resourcing vs instant pleasure
Control of own and shared Ways of work, e.g. Reporting, Feedback, splitting work
Removal of disturbance
- materials, tools, peaceful work Environment, notes available for No-delay access

Management of your own work

Feeling of control

Contents, quality, schedules
Persistence, courage
Long term resourcing vs instant pleasure
Control of own and shared Ways of work, e.g. Reporting, Feedback, splitting work
Removal of disturbance
- materials, tools, peaceful work Environment, notes available for No-delay access

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