**Activity 4: Traditional Thesis Structure Analysis**

**Look through the following tables of contents from thesis in different disciplines.**

1. Identify whether the research is qualitative, quantitative or a blend of both.
2. What structural features are common to these theses?
3. Can you identify any differences?
4. Which of the thesis structures tells the clearest ‘research story’?

Note: The following are **extracts** from Tables of Contents. They are NOT complete. In most cases, sub-sub-sections (the third level) are not included. Front matter such as the dedication, acknowledgements, and thesis summary, and end matter such as references and appendices are not included. Page numbers are not included.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY**

Visit RMIT Library’s **Research Repository** and look for theses in your discipline area. The more models you become familiar with, the more likely you are to find one that best suits your ‘research story’. <http://www1.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=bn81hnmi05oqz>

**Example 1: Maths and Geospatial Sciences**

Adapted from Gupta, V. (2016). *Measuring fire-induced change in the understorey of an Australian dry sclerophyll forest using remote sensing.* PhD thesis. School of Mathematics and Geospatial Sciences: RMIT University.

**Chapter 1. Introduction**

1.1 Background and rationale

1.2 Research questions

1.3 Scope of thesis

1.4 Thesis structure and outline of chapters

1.5 Summary

**Chapter 2. A review of literature: measuring fire-induced change in sclerophyll forests**

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Fire effects on the Australian dry sclerophyll forests

2.3 Passive remote sensing of burn mapping

2.4 LiDAR and its applications in burn mapping

2.5 Summary

**Chapter 3. Methods**

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Study area

3.3 The burn event

3.4 In situ spectra measurement

3.5 Terrestrial Laser Scanning (TLS)

3.6 Field data assessments

3.7 Summary

**Chapter 4. Assessing metrics for estimating fire induced change in the forest understorey using Terrestrial Laser Scanning**

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Method

4.3 Results

4.4 Discussion

4.5 Summary

**Chapter 5. Reporting changes in burnt forest understorey metrics using Terrestrial Laser Scanning**

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Methods

5.3 Results

5.4 Discussion

5.5 Summary

**Chapter 6. Spectral changes in the understorey fuel layers of an Australian dry sclerophyll forest in response to prescribed burning**

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Methods

6.3 Results

6.4 Discussion

6.5 Summary

**Chapter 7. Investigating spectral indices to monitor changes in the forest understorey following a prescribed burn**

7.1 Introduction

7.2 Methods

7.3 Results

7.4 Discussion

7.5 Summary

**Chapter 8. Conclusions and recommendations**

8.1 Introduction

8.2 Key findings

8.3 Comparing structural and physiological changes

8.4 Future research directions

**9. Bibliography**

**10. Appendices**

**Example 2: Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Adapted from Hope, A.P. (2016).*Breaking the restrictions of nearest neighbour interactions in mass-manufacturable silicon photonics: Applications in quantum information systems*. School of Electrical and Computer Engineering: RMIT University.

**1 Introduction**

1.1 Vision

1.2 Adiabatic passage as a transfer protocol

1.2.1 STImulated Raman Adiabatic Passage (STIRAP)

1.2.2 Coherent Tunnelling Adiabatic Passage (CTAP)

1.2.3 Waveguide CTAP

1.2.4 Summary

1.3 Lateral leakage of shallow ridge silicon waveguides

1.3.1 Lateral leakage in coupled structures

1.3.2 Summary

1.4 Thesis outline

1.5 Publications and conferences originating from this doctorate

**2 Standard silicon foundry fabricated shallow ridge waveguides**

2.1 Quantitative analysis of TM lateral leakage in foundry fabricated silicon rib waveguides

2.2 Electrically tunable lateral leakage loss in liquid crystal clad shallowetched silicon waveguides

**3 Long-range photonic bus**

Long-range coupling of silicon photonic waveguides using lateral leakage and adiabatic passage

**4 Long-range adiabatic quantum gates suited for integrated photonics**

Adiabatic two-photon quantum gate operations using a long-range photonic bus

**5 Conclusions**

5.1 Research summary

5.2 Future outlook

**Example 3: Media and Communication**

Adapted from Pond, P. (2016). *Software and the struggle to signify: theories, tools and techniques for reading Twitter enabled communication during the 2011 UK Riots*. PhD thesis. School of Media and Communication: RMIT University.

**Chapter One**

The UK riots

Reading the riots: causes and explanations

Conceptualising the riots for study

Mediated mayhem: the riots as an acute event

Research themes

Chapter summaries

**Chapter Two**

Introduction

The role of the Internet in the modern mediasphere

Defining the Internet for study

Networked communication protocol

Defining software for study

Twitter: networked communication software

**Chapter Three**

Introduction

The democratic context for the UK riots

Democracy and the London Riots

The public sphere and deliberative democracy

**Chapter Four**

Introduction

Theorising Twitter as a communication system

Theorising digital time-space

Theorising discourse and meaning-making

Theorising democratic communication

**Chapter Five**

Introduction

Research Questions

Methodological discussion

Defining Twitter as an object for empirical study

Research Design

Data collection

Extracting riot discourse

Analysing discourse

Measuring Twitter time-space

Methods

Identifying hashtags

Identifying retweets

Identifying @ replies

Automated content analysis

Content coding

Thematic coding

Deliberative coding

Measuring Twitter time-space

**Chapter Six**

Describing discourse in the riot public

Automated content analysis

Content coding.

Thematic coding

Describing the deliberativeness of tweets

Describing Twitter time-space

Hashtag temporality

Retweet temporality

**Chapter Seven**

Introduction

Question 1: What are the features of discourse in the riot public, and how are these features distributed across Twitter’s software-structural layers?

Question 2: is there evidence of deliberation, or at least of discourse that does not preclude a normative deliberative model?

Question 3: How do the software-structures of Twitter shape the temporal and spatial dynamics of communication in the riot public

Question 4: Can the attempts to record Twitter time and to characterise discourse within the riot public be combined/synthesised to interrogate the central claim in the conceptual framework: that digital technologies shape communication environments that run too fast for deliberative democracy.

**Chapter Eight**

Introduction

Critical review of major findings

Limitations and suggestions

Recommendations for future research

**Bibliography**

**Endnotes**

**Example 4: Economics and Finance**

Adapted from Sveta Angelopoulos (2016). *Diversity and Creativity in Australia.* PhD thesis. RMIT School of Economics and Finance

**Chapter 1: Introduction**

1.1 Rationale and research questions

1.2 Structure, Method and Contribution

**Chapter 2: Literature Review**

2.1 Introduction

2.2 What is the Significance of Human Capital and the Creative Class?

2.3 Cultural and Economic Diversity

2.4 Creativity, Diversity and Tolerance

2.5 Concentrations of Peoples, Firms and Industries

2.6 Conclusion

**Chapter 3: Creative and Diverse Australia**

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Traditional Human Capital vs. the Creative Class

3.3 Identifying Creativity in Australia

3.4 Data Collation

3.5 Creative Australia

3.6 Diverse Australia

3.7 Creative and Diverse Australia

3.8 Conclusion

**Chapter 4: Does Residential Diversity Attract Workers in Creative Occupations?**

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Calculation of Measures

4.3 Summary Statistics and Associations in 2011

4.4 Econometric Analysis

4.5 Conclusion

**Chapter 5: The Bohemian Class**

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Bohemian Demographics

5.3 Calculation of Measures

5.4 Spatial Distribution of the Bohemian Class in 2011

5.5 Econometric Analysis

5.6 Conclusion

**Chapter 6: Industry Concentration and Diversity**

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Industry Concentration

6.3 Industry Diversity

6.4 Industry and Diversity Characteristics

6.5 The Creative Class and Industry

6.6 Conclusion

**Chapter 7: Conclusion**

7.1 Introduction

7.2 Thesis Contribution and Findings

7.3 Limitations and Future Directions

**Example 5: Civil, Environmental and Chemical Engineering**

Adapted from Spark, A. J. (2016).*Development of a novel test system for fundamental studies of microbial influenced corrosion (MIC) of carbon steel n a soil environment*.PhD thesis. School of Civil, Environmental and Chemical Engineering: RMIT University.

**Chapter 1 Introduction**

* 1. Background to project
  2. Scope of work
  3. Thesis structure

**Chapter 2 Literature Review**

2.1 MIC and corrosion in soil

2.2 Previous studies of MIC in soil

**Chapter 3 Experimental Methodology**

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Sample preparation

3.3 Agar preparation

3.4 Bacterial culture

3.5 Electrochemical analysis

3.6 Film property calculations

3.7 Surface analysis

**Chapter 4: Phase 1 results: Solid Agar**

4.1 Part 1: Nutrient agar

4.2 Part 2: pH variation

4.3 Part 3: oxygen control

4.4 Discussion on the effects of DO

4.5 Part 4: use of Viton seal

4.6 Detailed discussion of Phase 1 results

**Chapter 5: Phase 2 Results: Semi-solid Agar**

5.1 Phase 2.1: peptide nutrients

…

5.1.5 Detailed discussion of Phase 2.1 results

5.2 Phase 2.2: electrochemical properties of agar

…

5.2.3 Detailed discussion of Phase 2.2 results

**Chapter 6. Phase 3 Results: Bacteria**

6.1 Open circuit potentials

6.2 Potentiodynamic scans

6.3 Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS)

6.4 Potential hold measurements

6.5 Visual inspection of agar

6.6 Scanning electron microscopy

6.7 Detailed discussion

**Chapter 7. General Discussion**

7.1 Agar as an analogue for soil

7.2 Unique capabilities of the agar system for the study of soil MIC

7.3 Further applications of semi-solid agar analogue for soil

**Chapter 8. Conclusions and future work**

8.1 Conclusions

8.2 Future work

**Example 6: Global, Urban and Social Studies**

Adapted from Nimbtik, G. (2016). *“ Worlds in Collision”: An inquiry into the sources of corruption within Vanuatu government and society.* PhD thesis. School of global, Urban and Social Studies: RMIT University.

**Chapter 1: Introduction**

* 1. The statement of the problem
  2. Corruption in Vanuatu
  3. Good governance
  4. Research aims and objectives
  5. Research question
  6. Rationale and the significance of the study
  7. Structure and outline of the thesis
  8. Conclusion

**Chapter 2: Literature Review**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Governance as a global discourse
  3. Traditions as the opposite of modernity
  4. Building a post-colonial state
  5. Challenges to post-colonial states
  6. Constructing “traditional society”
  7. Tradition and social order: Vanuatu context
  8. Traditions and politics
  9. Civil society and democracy
  10. Participatory development and democracy in developing societies
  11. Participation as a democratic right
  12. Institutional design and citizen participation
  13. Institutions and corruption
  14. Patron-client relationship network
  15. Civil society and development
  16. Conclusion

**Chapter 3: Research Methodology**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Theoretical framework
  3. Ontological considerations
  4. Researcher position within the research paradigm
  5. Research design
  6. Analysis of research findings
  7. Ethics
  8. Conclusion

**Chapter 4: The Cultural Landscape**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Traditional society
  3. Christianity
  4. Traders and planters, 1820-1906
  5. Joint colonial agreement 1906-1980
  6. Post-colonial Vanuatu
  7. Conclusion

**Chapter 5: Case Study One: *Jifly* Institution and Governance**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Overview
  3. Institutional design
  4. Effectiveness and relevance of *jif’*s role at national level
  5. Relevancy
  6. Institutional legitimacy”
  7. Organisational change for participatory development and transformation
  8. Conclusion

**Chapter 6: Case Study Two: Tension Between *Kastom* Practice and Formal Rule of Law**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Overview of institutional design: Development Bank of Vanuatu: 1979-1997
  3. The nature of corruption in the Development Bank of Vanuatu
  4. Public perception and understanding
  5. Institutional legitimacy
  6. Organisational change for participatory development and transformation
  7. Conclusion

**Chapter 7: Understanding Corruption in Vanuatu**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Research aims and questions revisited
  3. Revisiting key concepts and their applicability to the Vanuatu context
  4. What is corruption on Vanuatu?
  5. Understanding corruption within the Vanuatu context
  6. Explaining corruption in Vanuatu
  7. Corruption and governance
  8. Conclusion

**Chapter 8: Building a Resilient Governance System in Vanuatu**

* 1. Introduction
  2. *Nakamal* as public venue for meeting
  3. Protocols and process of *nakamal* meeting
  4. Existing consultation processes between state and society
  5. Collaborative and deliberative governance framework between state and *kastom* authority
  6. Conclusion

**Chapter 9: Conclusion**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Linking research aims, key research findings and the research conclusion
  3. The original contribution of this research
  4. Implications of the research
  5. Limitations of the research
  6. Recommendations for further research
  7. Conclusions

**References**

**Appendix A: Interview questionnaires**

**Example 7: Business IT and Logistics**

Adapted from Huynh, T.T. (2016). *Library leadership and succession planning in Vietnam*. PhD thesis.School of Business IT and Logistics: RMIT University

**Chapter One. Introduction**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Research objectives and questions
  3. Rationale for the study
  4. Significance of the study
  5. Overview of Vietnamese libraries and leadership
  6. Current government policies on succession planning
  7. Thesis structure

**Chapter Two. Literature Review**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Definitions of succession planning
  3. Succession planning process
  4. Succession planning models
  5. Recent research on library succession planning
  6. Overview of leadership theories
  7. Transformational leadership theory
  8. The leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam
  9. The communist Party of Vietnam and librarianship
  10. Summary

**Chapter Three. Methodology**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Case studies
  3. Multi-method approach
  4. Research population and samples
  5. Instrumentation
  6. Research design
  7. Research process
  8. Data analysis
  9. Thematic analysis
  10. Rigour of the research
  11. Ethical issues
  12. Limitations and delimitations
  13. Summary

**Chapter Four. Findings: Library succession planning awareness and staff involvement**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Awareness of library staff of the role of succession planning
  3. Awareness of staff participation in succession planning
  4. Summary

**Chapter Five. Findings: Implementation of Succession Planning**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Awareness of criteria for selecting potential candidates
  3. Succession planning model
  4. Succession planning process
  5. Challenges of succession planning
  6. Suggestions to deal with succession planning challenges
  7. Summary

**Chapter Six. The Role of the Communist Party**

* 1. Introduction
  2. The role of the Communist Party in the library succession planning process
  3. Impacts of the role of the Communist party on library succession planning
  4. Summary

**Chapter Seven. Discussion**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Desirability of succession planning in Mekong Delta libraries
  3. Desired selection criteria
  4. The succession planning process
  5. The role of the Communist Party in library succession planning in Vietnam
  6. Required elements of and the impacting factors of succession planning
  7. Summary

**Chapter Eight. Discussion (cont’d)**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Staff involvement in succession planning
  3. Succession planning challenges and possible solutions
  4. Summary

**Chapter Nine. A Proposed Model for a Library Succession Planning Process**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Library succession planning process
  3. Required elements of library succession planning
  4. The Communist Party of Vietnam
  5. Proposed model for a library succession planning process
  6. Summary

**Chapter Ten. Conclusions**

* 1. Introduction
  2. Summary of key findings
  3. Implications for methodology
  4. Implications for theory
  5. Practical implications and recommendations
  6. Recommendations for future research
  7. Concluding comments

**Example 8: Education**

Adapted from Naghdi, M.B. (2016). *International student retention in the Australian higher education setting: the role of internationalisation of the curriculum*. PhD thesis School of Education: RMIT University.

**Chapter 1. Introduction**

1.1. Introduction

1.2. Statement of the Problem

1.3. Purpose of the Study

1.4. Research Questions

1.5. Context of the Study

1.6. Significance of the Study

1.7. Limitations

1.8. Assumptions

1.9. Definition of Terms

**Chapter 2. Literature Review**

2.1. Introduction

2.2. Profile of International Students in Australia

2.3. Internationalisation of Higher Education in Australia

2.4. Internationalisation at RMIT University

2.5. International Student’s Perspective, Satisfaction and Retention in Australia

2.6. Definition of Internationalisation

2.7. The Components of Internationalisation

2.8. Rationale for Internationalisation

2.9. Strategies for Internationalisation

2.10. Internationalised Curricula

2.11. Student Satisfaction

2.12. Student Retention

2.13. Theoretical Framework

2.14. Summary

**Chapter 3. Methodology**

3.1. Introduction

3.2. Research Design

3.3. Quantitative Research

3.4. Research Model

3.5. Target Population and Sample

3.6. Instrumentation

3.7. Operational Definition and Measures

3.8. Data Collection Procedure

3.9. Data Analysis

3.10. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

3.11. Identifying Outliers

3.12. Normality of Data

3.13. Multicollinearity

3.14. Goodness-of-Fit

3.15. Evaluation of the Measurement Model

3.16. Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Constructs Variables

3.17. Modification Indices

3.18. Correlation Analysis

3.19. SEM

3.20. Bootstrapping Method

3.21. Validity and Reliability of Instrument

3.22. Qualitative Research

3.23. Sample Selection

3.24. Interviews

3.25. Data Collection

3.26. Data Analysis

3.27. Ethical Issues

**Chapter 4. Findings**

4.1. Results

4.2. Quantitative Research findings

4.3. Correlations between Each Pair of Variables

4.4. SEM to Predict Student Retention

4.5. Bootstrapping Method to Test the Indirect Effect of Internationalised Curriculum

on Student Retention through Student Satisfaction

4.6. Qualitative Research Findings

4.7. Description of the Interviewees

4.8. Thematic Analysis and Discussion

4.9. Impact of Internationalised Curriculum on Student Retention

**Chapter 5. Implications and Conclusion**

5.1. Introduction

5.2. Purpose and Significance of the Study

5.3. Findings

5.4. Theme One: Internationalised Curriculum

5.5. Theme Two: International Student Satisfaction

5.6. Theme Three: International student retention

5.7. Recommending RMIT University to Others

5.8. Factors Causing Students to Drop Out

5.9. Impact of Internationalised Curriculum on Student Retention

**Chapter 6. Contributions, Limitations, Recommendations and Implications**

6.1. Contributions

6.2. Limitations

6.3. Future Research

6.4. Recommendations and Implications