Dublin City University  
School of Computing  
CA546: Research Skills

Assessment for this module will comprise the following components:

- **60%**: First stage group practicum research proposal and literature review.  
  Details of this assignment are given below.  
  This is a team assessment. Each member of your practicum team must contribute to this report.  
  Submission Date: Friday 14th December 2006 (Week 12).  
  Your review should be submitted in the appropriate box in L1.14

- **40%**: First stage group practicum oral presentation.  
  These will be held in week 12. Further details of arrangements will be distributed in due course.

Each practicum team should prepare a joint paper and give a single integrated oral presentation.

1 **Written Assignment**

You are required to write a research proposal for your practicum including a preliminary literature review. In this document you should explain the background and context of your practicum, and identify as clearly possible the exact topic and/or hypotheses that you will be exploring, bearing in mind the material from the project planning and literature review lectures from CA546. You should exercise your judgement over what material from the literature that you will have reviewed by the time you submit your review to include in your paper.

When reading papers, etc for your assignment for your literature review try to analyze: the way in which the paper is structured, including how the ideas are developed; the writer’s decisions of what material to include or exclude, which material is covered in detail, which is mentioned only briefly and which is referred to in references; and the style of language and choice of vocabulary. Try to use the lessons that you learn from this in writing your own paper.

1.1 **Format of Submission**

Your written submission should follow the structure of a research paper and be written in an appropriate style. Your paper should include the following sections:

- You should include the following disclaimer at the top of the first page of your paper.  
  **Disclaimer**: Submitted to Dublin City University, School of Computing for module CA546: Research Skills, 2007/2008. We hereby certify that the work presented and the material contained herein is our own except where explicitly stated references to other material are made.

- Concise title describing the topic to be addressed in your practicum.

- Name, email address, and student ID number of each team member.
• A short (150 word maximum) Abstract of your paper. The Abstract should overview the material described in your proposal. It should be possible for someone with a background in Bioinformatics to read and understand this Abstract without needing to make reference to the proposal itself, and to have a clear idea about the issues explored and any conclusions reached so far. The Abstract should thus stand as a separate piece of writing which makes sense independent of the main sections of your paper.

• The main body of your submission must include numbered sections (and where you feel appropriate numbered subsections) as follows:

  -- Introduction: An introductory section outlining the background to the subject you are addressing, this section should end with a very short preview of the structure of the rest of your paper.

  -- Literature Review: A section, possibly with subsections, giving more detailed reviews of relevant existing work discussing the current state-of-the-art and limitations of existing research. All material taken from your reading should be referenced in the text either by author name and year, e.g. (Smith & Kanade 1990) (Young 1998) or number [4], with full details of the publication included in the list of references at the end of your paper.

  -- Research Plan: A section, possibly with subsections, describing your research plan for your practicum. This should make clear the exact topic of your investigation and/or the hypotheses to be investigated. You should also include details of any conclusions which relate to your proposed investigation that you have been able to reach so far based on your reading. You should explain what you plan to do in your investigation, where appropriate this should be justified in terms of existing work as cited in the previous section.

  -- Conclusion: A short concluding section summarizing the material covered in your review and proposal, any conclusions that you are able to reach at this point, and outline details of the next steps in your investigation.

• References: A list of the references used in your report giving full publication details. You should aim to include the following details as appropriate: author(s), title, year of publication, conference/journal, page nos, volume no, geographical venue of a conference publication. Publications should be listed either in alphabetic order of first author or your first citation of the paper or book in your report.

Your paper should be no longer than 3000 words, excluding the abstract and reference list.

2 Oral Presentation

This should be based on your research proposal for your practicum and preliminary literature review. You should decide which material to include in your presentation and how to present it including visual aids, remember you will not be able to cover all the material in your report in the time available for your presentation.

• All members of your team should be involved in the presentation.
  -- It’s up to you to structure the presentation to make sure this happens!

• You will have 30 minutes in total for your presentation.

• You should plan the presentation to take 20 minutes maximum with additional 5 minutes for questions. (The other 5 minutes is to allow for setting up and changeover of teams.)

A data projector and PC will (probably!!) be available or you can use an overhead projector.

\(^1\)I will inform you if this will NOT be available.