

So the thesis is going well:
what else should I do with the work I've done?

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Who is James Davenport?

- ▶ PhD 1979 (Cambridge)
- ▶ Then industry (IBM), then a postdoc,
- ▶ At Bath since 1983
- ▶ 14 successful Ph.D. students
- ▶ ≥ 2 Associate Professors, 1 Senior Researcher, 1 Chief Technology Officer, rest mostly industry

Also 1 took a Masters, 2 (part-time) lapsed

- ▶ 4 ongoing
- ▶ Significant examining: Bath (c. 10), rest of U.K. (10), France 12 (+ Doctorat d'Etat, Habilitation), Sweden, Germany (Habilitation)
- ▶ Has recruited British, Belgian, German, Russian, American, Chinese colleagues

Who are you?

- ▶ Doing a Ph.D. by thesis
- ▶ Not necessarily in English
- ▶ Probably a mixture of theory and practice
- ▶ Not necessarily convinced you want to be an academic
- ▶ Probably have a love/hate relationship with your thesis

i.e. you love to hate it

- ▶ (at least some of the time)

A bad attitude to your thesis



If it was hard to write, it should be hard to read

Some facts about your thesis

- ▶ For most of you it will be the longest piece of sustained writing you do
- ▶ (but neither you nor I can predict who will be the counter-examples)
- ▶ We certainly can't predict which bits of your thesis you'll re-use/mine/extend from, and when

Publishing your thesis

The average thesis is read by 4 people (folklore)
(the candidate, mother/father/partner, supervisor and *one* of the examiners)

If your University library has an open-shelf collection of theses, look at the dust on them!

This is not going to change — therefore the aim is to promote the electronic version!

Promoting your thesis **Ethically**

This is a very rapidly changing area.

- ▶ Countries are setting up data bases (sometimes globally, sometimes by subject), e.g. <http://ethos.bl.uk/> in the U.K.
- ▶ Individual universities are doing the same, **generally** University-wide.
- ▶ With luck, the two are joined up!
- ▶ (this happens at my University, but only because I was pretty scathing at Senate!)
- ▶ There's always <http://arXiv.org>.
- ▶ (They say they'll make exceptions to the size limits for theses)

Use **at least two of** university, national, arXiv. These should give you permanent URL's — **use them** (rather than home page).

Another bad attitude to your thesis



If it was hard to write, it should be hard to find

How will people find my thesis?

- ▶ Choose a good title
- ▶ (I regret to say this, but if you can use an English title, do)
- ▶ If you think of a cute title, make it the sub-title
- ▶ “A LISP through the Looking Glass”
- ▶ Would have been bf much better as
- ▶ “Reflection in Functional Programming **or** a LISP through the Looking Glass”

How will people find my thesis?

- ▶ Choose a good title
- ▶ (I regret to say this, but if you can use an English title, do)
- ▶ If you think of a cute title, make it the sub-title
- ▶ **Do** spend some time on the abstract — they exist for a reason
- * If you have the option of a multi-lingual abstract, use it
- ▶ Refer to it consistently
- ▶ But in practice it'll be Google Scholar 90% of the time

Make the thesis readable

(in particular by Google Scholar!)

- ▶ Use the most recent of PDF \LaTeX
- ▶ This will **reduce** the problems with ligatures, hyphenation etc.
- ▶ Few things are more frustrating than being told “I searched for XXX and didn’t find your theses”
 - * when it’s in the thesis, but not picked up.
- ▶ If you’ve got text in diagrams, make sure it’s also in the text

Write papers

- ▶ It would be nice to appear in the most prestigious conferences/journals
- ▶ (but note the lead times — a paper that spends the next year being refereed won't help in the short term)
- ▶ Set your sights reasonably — there's (almost) no such thing as a bad citation/appearance

Keep your bibliography

First of all maintain a good bibliography. If you read something, add it to the bibliography. **Be consistent.**

JHD uses (his own) keywords to help find things.

This may well be the longest-lasting fruit of your thesis. Mine is now

- ▶ over 30 years old (and has survived 2.5 machine translations)
- ▶ about 10,000 items; 2.5MB
- ▶ is generally used by my research students
- ▶ (One of whom wrote the translator to BiBTeX)

Keep your bibliography **and the data**

One development that was not open to me is electronic versions of documents (conference papers, journals etc.). Try to keep

- ▶ One consistent library (instead of files in various working directories)
- * (you can use symbolic links if necessary)
- ▶ File name = BiBTeX key!



D. McDermott.

Artificial Intelligence Meets Natural Stupidity.

Mind Design, pages 143–160, 1981.



E. Phillips.

How to get a PhD: a handbook for students and their supervisors.

Open University Press, 2005.

There are doubtless non-U.K. equivalents, and the chapter on the examination is pretty U.K.-centric.

Further Reading

- ▶ If your thesis tends to AI, you should read [1]
- ▶ If your thesis doesn't tend to AI, you should still read [1]
- ▶ Whatever your subject, you should read a *general* book, e.g. [2]
- ▶ Do *not* fall victim to “computer science is different, therefore I needn't ...” traps