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

James Davenport

University of Bath

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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
- $\geq$ 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
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!)


▶ (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 \textit{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
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)
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.

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

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