

Transferable skills?

Writing support for PhD candidates

Creating Knowledge

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Overview

- Transferable skills and the PhD candidate
- PhD on Track: Review and Write
- Writing education on PhD level

PhD candidates' needs



Orientation, information literacy



Tailored, individual guidance



Research process support

Libraries' research support

- Courses in transferable skills
- Individual guidance
- Workspaces for collaboration and working side by side
- Internet resources
 - Increased focus on the research process
 - Increased focus on writing
 - Increased focus on reviewing

Reviewing literature: a transferable skill?

On the one hand:

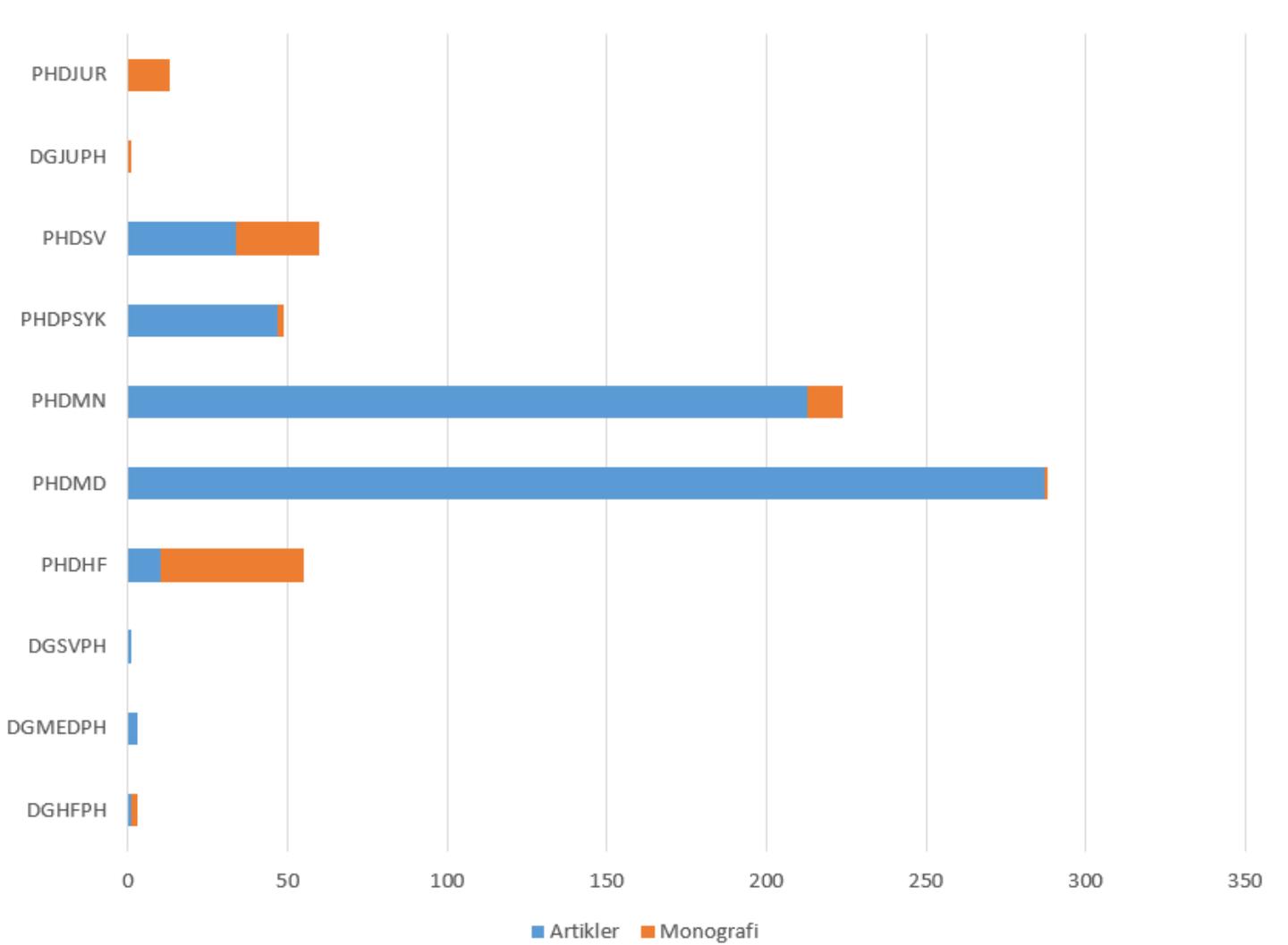
- Reviewing literature as a general part of all research
- Searching, selecting, assessing, presenting literature as general parts of all reviewing

On the other hand:

- Manifold methodological requirements
- Diverse genre conventions
- Individual research workflows
- Individual writing processes

Monographs and article dissertations University of Bergen, 2018-2020

studieprogran	Artikler	Monografi
DGHFPH	1	2
DGMEDPH	3	0
DGSVPH	1	0
PHDHF	10	45
PHDMD	287	1
PHDMN	213	11
PHDPSYK	47	2
PHDSV	34	26
DGJUPH	0	1
PHDJUR	0	13



«Transferable skills», and what's in it for me?

PhD in the Humanities →

PhD at The Faculty of Law →

PhD in medicine and health sciences →

PhD at The Faculty of Dentistry →

PhD at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences →

PhD in Social Science →

PhD at The Faculty of Theology →

PhD at the Faculty of Educational Sciences →



How to answer PhD candidates' needs of customized and process-related guidance in an interdisciplinary internet resource?

New to PhD?

REVIEW AND WRITE

learn about:

- [reviewing](#)
- [types of reviews](#)
- [searching](#)
- [searching techniques](#)
- [writing](#)
- [the dissertation](#)

SHARE AND PUBLISH

learn about:

- [how to publish](#)
- [submitting articles](#)
- [co-authorship](#)
- [copyright](#)
- [the Crstin system](#)
- [citation impact](#)

OPEN SCIENCE

learn about:

- [open access publishing](#)
- [open archives](#)
- [research data](#)
- [data management](#)
- [sensitive data](#)
- [preregistration](#)

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Search and review > Review and write

- Everyone must review literature
- We cannot say exactly how, but illuminate why
- The whys should always guide the hows

- Aim and function of reviewing as starting point
- Searching and writing as means, not ends
- Focus on work process and best practice

CONTENT

Aims of reviewing literature

Elements of the review process

Stand-alone versus integrated reviews

References

Reviewing



As a PhD candidate, you are expected to place your work in the context of current research. Reviewing scholarly literature, i.e. analysing and synthesising results, points of view or approaches, is critical to all scholarly work. The manner in which it is done depends on the discipline, the topic, and the individual research project.

CONTENT

Monograph or article-based dissertation?

Elements of dissertations

The IMRaD structure

Rights and permissions

Examples of best practice

References

The Dissertation



The dissertation is the result of all the work you have done to qualify for a doctorate. Just as there are many ways to reach that goal, there are many ways to write a dissertation. Therefore, we cannot offer you a manual, but we will provide you with some good advice you might want to consider.

Subject area, traditions, terminology, genre and practice may differ
- this challenge is addressed in *Elements of dissertation*

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The following list gives an indication of frequently used elements in a dissertation. The list is not exhaustive.

Typical sections of a dissertation are

Title	+
Abstracts	+
Acknowledgements	+
List of abbreviations or other explanatory material	+
List of papers you include in your thesis	+
List of tables, figures and other kinds of illustrations	+
Introduction (monograph)	+
Summary chapter (article-based dissertation)	+
Literature review	+
Conclusion	+
Bibliography	+
Appendices	+

Monograph or article-based dissertation?

List of tables, figures and other kinds of illustrations +

Introduction (monograph) -

A presentation of your *research question*, including definition of focus, research context, discussion of relevance and possible hypotheses should be given at the very beginning of your dissertation. The *overview of the structure of the dissertation* is a crucial part of the introduction. Your reader wants to know what to expect, and for you, the overview is an opportunity to explain your line of reasoning and possibly the progress of your research project. You can provide a brief *outline of your methods and key theoretical concepts* in the introduction, but a detailed discussion of methodology and theory might be contained in a chapter of its own. *Results* are usually presented in the concluding part of the dissertation. In some disciplines, however, the introduction provides an account of the research process, expected outcomes and even the results of the research. Whether your *literature review* will be comprehensive or selective will depend on the topic and form of your dissertation and the standards in your discipline. By identifying the current state of research and possible gaps, your review of literature can serve as an introductory part of your dissertation, but if it is done in a more comprehensive or systematic manner, the literature review should have a chapter of its own. Look to other dissertations in your field of research to find out more about standards for introductions.

Introduction (monograph) +

Summary chapter (article-based dissertation) -

In the summary chapter of an article-based dissertation (*kappe*), you are expected to discuss the overall coherence of the submitted articles and to situate your results in the wider context of international research and relate them to the methodological and theoretical framework of the project. Guidelines and practice in different academic disciplines may vary in details, and we recommend that you look at other dissertations for a better understanding of what is most common in your field. The summary chapter typically contains:

- an introduction to the overall dissertation
- a [literature review](#)
- the theoretical framework of the dissertation
- an account of methodological choices
- a summary of the individual articles of the dissertation
- a discussion of results and overall conclusion
- a reference list

The summary chapter in an article-based dissertation serves both as a synopsis and a contextualisation for the separate journal articles. The chapter should not be merely a summary of the articles, but be of stand-alone research nature. It should not merely attest to

In doubt? Find completed dissertations in your field of research - become familiar with standards and get inspiration for your own work

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Examples of best practice

The academic disciplines are considerably different in terms of the form of dissertations. To become familiar with the particular standards for the style and structure of dissertations, reviewing literature and methodology in your field of research, we recommend that you examine completed dissertations, reflect on strengths and weaknesses and find examples of best practice.

FIND DISSERTATIONS IN YOUR FIELD OF RESEARCH

The following databases and archives provide dissertations in most academic disciplines:

[DART-Europe E-theses Portal](#) Searchable database of electronic open access research theses held in European repositories. The portal does not store dissertations, but it provides a link to at least one electronic copy of every dissertation listed in its database.

[OATD - Open access theses and dissertations](#) Resource for finding open access graduate theses and dissertations published around the world.

[Nora](#) Resource for finding publications in all Norwegian open access archives.

CONTENT

Getting started

Relating to previous research

Referencing

Writing process and workflow issues

Getting your research read

References

Writing



Being an academic entails authorship, meaning that writing is a prerequisite for doing research, for communicating research results to others and for positioning yourself in the academic conversation. The main product of your research will be a dissertation, in the form of either several articles or a monograph. However, during your PhD study programme, you will very likely write other texts, such as conference papers and other articles or book chapters, as well as popular research summaries, press releases and the like. Some of our writing tips will be useful for writing these, too.

The writing process can be challenging... for all of us

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Getting started

Academic writing is a highly individual process, depending on personal attitudes, creativity, everyday workflow as well as the requirements of academic disciplines, dissertation genres, and the specific research project. Therefore, there is no standard recipe for writing. Some writers like to begin right away; others will first carefully draft an outline. Some will start by reviewing the existing research literature; others prefer to work with hypotheses and their own observations before engaging in a dialogue with previous research. However, the start of every writing process can be challenging. We have collected some suggestions that might help to get the ball rolling:

-
- Commit to your research question** +

 - Preliminary texts** +

 - Start in the middle** +

 - Do not wait for the right moment** +

 - Do not do everything at once** +

 - Avoid perfectionism** +

 - Writing as a thinking tool** +

Every writer, regardless if you are a philosopher, an engineer or a musicologist might run into writer's block or face other workflow issues

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Some practical tips for the writing process

Most PhD candidates commence their work with great optimism, eager to realise their project and not always aware of possible difficulties they might encounter in the course of their process. Nevertheless, unforeseen problems are a part of any writing process, and they can be handled if the workflow is managed carefully. In the following, we do not intend to suggest universal solutions, but we offer some food for thought and practical advice.

[Structuring your workflow](#) +

[Dealing with large amounts of literature](#) +

[Dealing with writer's block](#) +

[Writing together or side by side](#) +

Writing education on PhD level – example

Exercise in advance of the course:

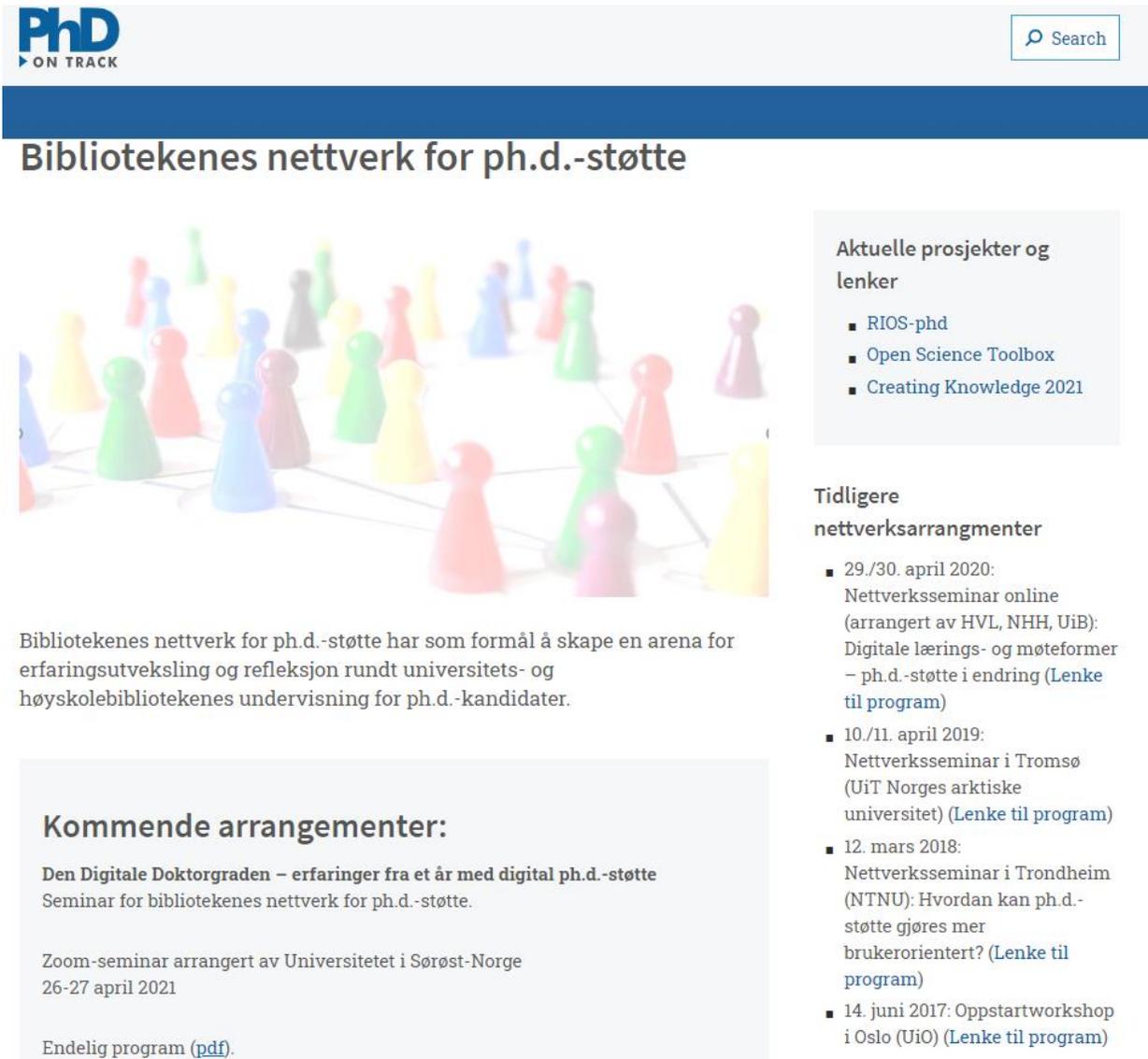
Find and read a dissertation within your field of research, identify strengths and weaknesses regarding literature review and structure of thesis

In sets of three or four:

- Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the theses you have read (20 min)
- Exercise (30 min):
Describe strategies of planning a literature review (aims, methods, article-based vs. monograph, integrated or separate chapter, ...)
<https://padlet.com/michaelgrote1/kqx9tby3y3ad38a7>
- Presentation plenary (3 min. per group)

The Libraries' network for PhD support

- Forum for teaching issues
- 5 network seminars 2017-2022
- Mailing list
- Website
- PhD on Track

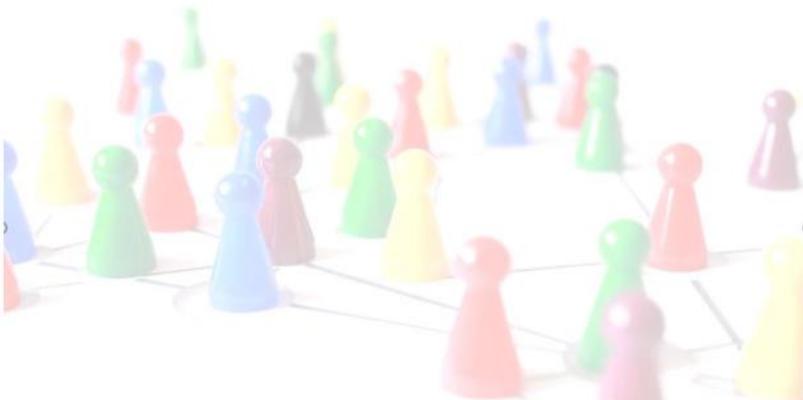


The screenshot shows the website for the 'Bibliotekenes nettverk for ph.d.-støtte'. At the top left is the 'PhD ON TRACK' logo. A search bar is located at the top right. The main heading is 'Bibliotekenes nettverk for ph.d.-støtte'. Below this is a large image of colorful chess pawns connected by lines, symbolizing a network. To the right of the image is a sidebar with two sections: 'Aktuelle prosjekter og lenker' and 'Tidligere nettverksarrangementer'. The 'Aktuelle prosjekter og lenker' section lists three items: 'RIOS-phd', 'Open Science Toolbox', and 'Creating Knowledge 2021'. The 'Tidligere nettverksarrangementer' section lists four events with dates and descriptions, each with a link to the program. Below the image is a paragraph describing the network's purpose: 'Bibliotekenes nettverk for ph.d.-støtte har som formål å skape en arena for erfaringsutveksling og refleksjon rundt universitets- og høyskolebibliotekenes undervisning for ph.d.-kandidater.' Below this is a section titled 'Kommende arrangementer:' which lists a seminar 'Den Digitale Doktorgraden – erfaringer fra et år med digital ph.d.-støtte' for the network, a Zoom-seminar on April 26-27, 2021, and a link to the program PDF.

PhD ON TRACK

Search

Bibliotekenes nettverk for ph.d.-støtte



Aktuelle prosjekter og lenker

- RIOS-phd
- Open Science Toolbox
- Creating Knowledge 2021

Tidligere nettverksarrangementer

- 29./30. april 2020: Nettverksseminar online (arrangert av HVL, NHH, UiB): Digitale lærings- og møteformer – ph.d.-støtte i endring ([Lenke til program](#))
- 10./11. april 2019: Nettverksseminar i Tromsø (UiT Norges arktiske universitet) ([Lenke til program](#))
- 12. mars 2018: Nettverksseminar i Trondheim (NTNU): Hvordan kan ph.d.-støtte gjøres mer brukerorientert? ([Lenke til program](#))
- 14. juni 2017: Oppstartworkshop i Oslo (UiO) ([Lenke til program](#))

Bibliotekenes nettverk for ph.d.-støtte har som formål å skape en arena for erfaringsutveksling og refleksjon rundt universitets- og høyskolebibliotekenes undervisning for ph.d.-kandidater.

Kommende arrangementer:

Den Digitale Doktorgraden – erfaringer fra et år med digital ph.d.-støtte
Seminar for bibliotekenes nettverk for ph.d.-støtte.

Zoom-seminar arrangert av Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge
26-27 april 2021

Endelig program ([pdf](#)).

<https://www.phdontrack.net/nettverk/>

Interdisciplinary courses and internet resources for PhD candidates

How can we answer PhD candidates' needs of customized and process-related guidance?

Experiences, comments, questions?

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