Bachelor’s/Master’s thesis: Information seeking report

* The information seeking report will be attached to your thesis plan.

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| --- | --- |
| Name |       |
| Degree programme |       |
| Thesis supervisor |       |

# Topic

What is your topic? Describe your topic with a few sentences or questions. Do you know if there are previous theses about your topic?

Theses of the Universities of Applied Sciences: [Open Repository Theseus](https://www.theseus.fi/) and [Finna.fi](https://finna.fi/?lng=en-gb).

# Concepts

Start by dividing your topic into search terms or keywords. Try to find concepts that you could use to describe your topic.

* Draw a mind map or make a list of words related to your topic to define the search terms.
* Mark the key concepts clearly. Can you use them in your search?
* You may copy and paste your mind map here.

# Search terms and index term lists

* Look for more search terms. Remember dictionaries (e.g., MOT), handbooks and textbooks. Look for synonyms, broader/narrower terms, and alternative terms.
* Search for suitable index terms using the [Finto service](http://finto.fi/en/). Notice also the narrower, broader, and related terms.
* Write down the index terms you could use for searching and the abbreviation for the index term list you have used, e.g. [lifelong learning](http://www.yso.fi/onto/yso/p6262) (YSO).

Other search terms:

Suitable index terms:

# Search queries in information seeking

Build search queries with your search terms.

* Combining search terms with different commands: AND (narrow), OR (broaden to choices), NOT (excludes).
* Remember that you can truncate search terms and use quotation marks around phrases, e.g., accessib\* or “sustainable development”.
* With brackets () you can define the order of search operations.
* Examples:
	+ “social responsibility” OR ”corporate responsibility”
	+ learning AND motivation
	+ (sport AND physiology) NOT injur\*

Go to the subject guides for information seeking on Janet Finna or select a suitable database in Janet Finna and click on the Database interface link. Remember, you must be logged in to Janet to access full texts.

Write down some of your searches/search queries and in which databases you tried them:
(e.g. Finna.fi: accessib\*)

[Jamk University of Applied Sciences Online Library Janet Finna](https://janet.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb)

[Information Seeking Compass, Jamk Library](https://infoguides.jamk.fi/InformationSeeking/)

# Evaluating sources and information search

* Did you find enough references with good quality? Did you use the most suitable databases or other sources for your topic?
* Do you need to modify your search by adding or changing search terms? Use filters (e.g. Full text, publication year, peer reviewed, scholarly journals) if you get too many search results or if you want sources of higher quality.
* See the [[Tables of Genres of non-fiction](https://www.suomentietokirjailijat.fi/media/lomakkeet_julkaisut_tietokirjallisuuden-lajit/genres_of_non-fiction.pdf)](https://www.suomentietokirjailijat.fi/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/genres_of_non-fiction-1.pdf) and evaluate to which genres the sources you have found could be categorised. Is there a genre which is most used? Prefer the professional and scientific sources.

# References

Name a few good sources you have found. Follow the Jamk Project Reporting Instructions.

Note: You may find and copy references from the databases (usually the button “Cite” or “Citation”) and then modify it to the style described in the reporting instructions.

[Jamk Project Reporting Instructions](https://help.jamk.fi/raportointiohje/en/)

# Evaluating the search results

Evaluate your information seeking skills at this point.

* Do you feel you can build the necessary, relevant knowledge base for your thesis?
* Can you select appropriate sources? Write also if some of the questions were unclear or that despite your efforts, you could not find enough sources.

