Introduction to Sentiment Analysis

-- Session 5: How to Write a Term Paper--

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Acknowledgements:

The slides are basically a summary of the document *Wie schreibt man eine Hausarbeit?* by Prof. Manfred Pinkal and Andrea Horbach *(there is a link on the course webpage)*.
Purpose of a Term Paper

- To show that you have understood the topic (paper) given to you.
- To show that you know how to do scientific writing.
Who is the Addressee of Your Term Paper?

- Actually it is your instructor.
- BUT: better write this as if you addressed your fellow students who have not attended the (pro)seminar.
- Why?
  - Your instructor already knows the work you are going to write about.
Outline of Your Term Paper

▶ General outline:
  ▶ Introduction
  ▶ Main part
  ▶ Conclusion
Outline of Your Term Paper

Introduction:

- What is the topic?
- What is the concrete research task?
- What is the motivation for doing this kind of research?
- Give a brief outline how the rest of the paper is structured.
Outline of Your Term Paper

- Main part:
  - The actual content
  - The most important thing: train of thought must be clearly visible.
  - Hint: the structure of the paper(s) you summarize need not be best for your term paper (different audience).
  - Have subsections!
Outline of Your Term Paper

- Conclusion:
  - Summarize the task.
  - Summarize the proposed approach.
  - Where did the proposed approach succeed?
  - What are the limitations of the approach?
  - What could be proposed as future work?
Literary Research

- In a proseminar, it suffices to use the literature given to you.
- However, if you include further literature then this will certainly be regarded as a plus of your course work.
- The choice of further literature needs to be approved of by your instructor in advance.
Not every pdf you find on the web is a research publication.

Check whether the work has been really published (e.g. journal, conference, workshop).

Focus on published work that has also undergone a peer-reviewed process.

Check Google-Scholar for citation statistics: a frequently cited work is also a good hint that this a significant piece of research.
Structure of the Term Paper

Your paper should have the following structure:

- Cover
- Table of contents
- List of figures (if applicable)
- the actual content
- Bibliography
- Appendix (optional)
Structure of the Term Paper

- Best way to enforce that structure:
  - Use LaTeX
  - A Detailed introduction is given in the course: *Einführung in wissenschaftliches Schreiben*
Importance of Examples/Illustrations

- Examples and illustrations are important in order to convey your content.
- They can be much more effective than a mere textual description!
- Do not restrict yourself to those examples/illustrations from the paper(s) you present.
- Example sentences should be indexed.
Tables, Formulas and Figures

- Purpose is to visualize important content.
- You need to address every table/formula/figure in your text.
- Have a caption for every table/formula/figure.
- Index them; address the tables/formulas/figures in the text by their index!
- **Hint:** LaTeX is very helpful in enforcing this!
Writing Style

- Write the paper in your own words!
- Use the 1st person (singular or plural) in order to present your own thoughts.
- Use the 3rd person for reporting other people's thoughts.
- Avoid excessive unpersonal writing style (e.g. all sentences in passive voice).
Writing Style

- Use a formal writing style.
- Copying/extending your presentation slides is certainly inadequate!
- Use linguistic terminology.
- Introduce new terminology the first time you mention it.
- See that you use (and spell) your terminology consistently.
Citations

► Everything what is not your own idea, thought, statement etc. needs to be marked as such.

► In case there is some concrete literature from where you have got that content, then make an entry in your bibliography.

► Otherwise, state the source
  ► in brackets or
  ► add its URL as a footnote
Citations

- Please use APA citation format.
- APA: American Psychological Association
- Basic idea: author's last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text.
- Again, there exist predefined commands in LaTeX for this!
- One important distinction:
  - *Method X was found to outperform state-of-the-art baselines (Meier et al., 2008).*
  - *Meier et al. (2008) examined phenomenon Y in a large-scale analysis.*
  - Name of author is **not** enclosed within brackets if the citation is a proper constituent of the sentence.
Bibliography

- Have a consistent format for entries in your bibliography.
- Easiest way to ensure this: LaTeX (more specifically bibTeX).
- Bibliography must only contain publications that are explicitly cited in your term paper!
In what order should the paper be written?

- Often writing in linear order (i.e. starting from the introduction and finish with the conclusion) is a bad idea!
- Better start from the middle (i.e. main part).
- Start with tables/figures reporting results of experiments.
- Then think about what you have to explain to your audience (concepts, algorithms etc.) so that they understand these results/experiments.
- Start with bullet points rather than fully fledged sentences!
Proofreading

- Use spell-checking.
- Use grammar-checking.
- Avoid run-on sentences.
- Avoid orphan lines.
- Check that the cross-references are correctly set.
- Check that your paper has a consistent format.
Proofreading

- Ideally, have someone else proofread your paper.
- It is often more effective to proofread your own paper after a few days rather than proofreading it twice or three times one after the other.
- The paper should be easy to read!
- If the reader has to do much guesswork, you did not do a good job.
Some Formal Issues

- Length: 10-15 pages
- In German or English
- Deadline for term paper: TBA
- The only file format that is accepted is pdf.