

A framework to analyse PhD thesis in Design.

Rita Almendra

João Ferreira

University of Lisbon

107 PhD theses in Design completed



Database

Database

Meta-analysis

Research threads

Promising results

Gaps

Analytical Framework

Analytical Framework

1. Identification
2. Territory
3. Processes
4. Results

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

AUTHOR
& SUPERVISORS

Names and
affiliations

THESIS

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

AUTHOR
& SUPERVISORS

Names and
affiliations

THESIS

Title
subtitle
Year
Word count
Page count
Type of thesis
Language

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

Discipline

Scope

Topic

Keywords

Classification

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

Discipline

Scope

Topic

Keywords

Classification

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

Discipline

Scope

Topic

Keywords

Classification

People

Processes

Products

Philosophy

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

Study sequence

Designation

Research phase: exploratory, generative, or evaluative

Type of information: attitudinal or behavioural

Type of method: traditional adaptation original design
research method.

Quantitative or qualitative approach

Researcher role

Object of study

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

1. Identification

2. Territory

3. Processes

4. Results

Research
Questions and
hypotheses

Potential

I. Identification	II. Territory	III. Processes	IV. Results
Author: name and affiliation	Taxonomy	Sequence	Research questions
Supervisors: name and affiliation	Discipline	Designation	Research hypotheses
Thesis: title, word count, page count, typology, and language.	Scope	Phase	Expansion
	Topic	Type of Information	
	Keywords	Type of Method	
		Quantitative or qualitative	
		Researcher Role	
		Object of Study	

Analytical Framework (Almendra & Ferreira, 2019)

STRONG POINTS

LIMITATIONS

STRONG POINTS

Effective

Allows aggregate of large
amounts of data

Facilitates meta-analysis
Versatile

LIMITATIONS

STRONG POINTS

Effective

Allows aggregate of large
amounts of data

Facilitates meta-analysis
Versatile

LIMITATIONS

Dependent on interpretation

Examination of research
results is complex

STRONG POINTS

Effective

**Allows aggregate of large
amounts of data**

**Facilitates meta-analysis
Versatile**

LIMITATIONS

Dependent on interpretation

**Examination of research
results is complex**

Our aim is to disseminate this research tool and encourage researchers to adapt and use it in their own studies, so that the design research community can collectively reflect on the outcomes, processes, and underlying epistemologies of its investigations.