

MSc Research Methods – Presentation

Student Robbie McIntyre

Topic Hieroglyphic character recognition

Tutor Dr Nik Whitehead

Final mark

71%

Project Presentation	Marks Available	Marks Awarded
<i>Background – what is the project and why does the student want to do it?</i> Good background on the use of ML in archaeology. Are there any previous attempts to use ML with ancient scripts? Katarina might know.	10	7
<i>Literature review – is the project sufficiently rooted in a suitable research field?</i> Good set of referenced techniques to be investigated, although it would have been good to talk a bit more about the paper by Franken as it seems to be working in a similar field.	20	14
<i>Aims and Objectives – are these SMART?</i> Clear aim and objectives. Why store in a database rather than a flat Unicode file?	20	14
<i>Methodology and research process – is this a practical process and does the student understand how to carry out the research?</i> Good methodologies, well justified. Good consideration of ethics and data protection issues. Reliability: Would the research get the same results if someone else carried out the project? Yes, so the research has a high reliability. Validity: Are you measuring the right things? Yes, because you're using images of genuine hieroglyphics, so the research has a high validity. Generalisability: Can you apply algorithms you develop based on hieroglyphics to work with another script? No, because the shapes of hieroglyphics are very specialised, so the research has a low generalisability.	20	14
<i>Resources and planning – are these appropriate to the project?</i> Travel to the British Museum (not the Natural History Museum) may not be possible, but the available datasets should make the project possible anyway. Alternatively contact the British Museum about close-up images for research purposes. Good planning and resource identification other than this. This is a viable MSc project.	20	14
<i>Presentation</i> Slides were clear and the vocal presentation was professional. Good to see the reference numbers in the main text.	10	8