Dissertation Proposal Outline: Nakorn Ratchasima Rajabhat University
Reviewed by Prof. Dr. Saman Asawapoom
17 August 203
………………………..…….

A dissertation proposal is an initial research plan that a graduate writes and submits to the curriculum committee to evaluate and accept or deny as a research plan that the student will conduct the research under advisors whom are appointed by the university o supervise the student while conducting the research. The advisors might be appointed before or after the proposal is accepted according the graduate school regulation. The student should not worry about that. The important thing now is to conform to the format and policy of university and he curriculum committee towards both the dissertation proposal format and, later, the dissertation report format. The dissertation proposal format issued by Graduate School, Nakorn Ratchasima Rajabhat University includes the following sections.

1. Research Title, Student Name, Advisors, and affiliation (see Cover Format enclosed)
2. Contents (see suggestions enclosed)
   2.1 Introduction Chapter
       This chapter should at least cover the following topics:
       2.1.1 Background and the Significance of the Problem
       2.1.2 Research Objectives
       2.1.3 Research Questions/or Hypotheses
       2.1.4 Research Significance (Benefit of the Research)Scopes of the Research
       2.1.5 Content Scope
       2.1.6 Data Resource Scope
       2.1.7 Area and Time Frames
       2.1.7 Research Conceptual Framework
       2.1.8 Operational Definitions
   2.2 Literature Review
   2.3 Methodology
3   References
       Use the university reference guide or use any style of references, and change to university format later.

Enclosed Documents
   1. Cover
      (see next page)

(Title)

(Student name)

This Dissertation Proposal is a Partial Process of Dissertation
For the Doctoral Degree of Philosophy in Educational Administration
Nakorn Ratchasima Rajabhat University
2023

2. Introduction Chapter Writing Suggestions

Background and the Significance of the Problem

The contents should include 3 areas: Background and issue, the present states so far, and what is/ are the problem(s)

Background and issue

- what is the origin of this issue?
- How and why does it become the issue?
- Any data, opinions, studies related to the issue?

Present States

- What is the present situation (states)?
- Any data, opinions, studies that support your ideas?
- What make you think that the present states are problematic, and needed researches?

Research Problem

- What really is the problem that researched (if possible state it in the statement of the problem)?
- What if the problem not researched, will cause trouble or lead to more problem, or what you think is significant enough that research has to be done.
- What good does it do if the research results solve the problem.

However when you write this part, you don't have to divided them into sections, just use paragraphs to divide the contents. Since it is your research, you must be the leaders of this chapter. Formulate you theme of thoughts, write your understanding, ideas, and talent. Other sources are used to support you theme of thoughts.

Research Objective

Research objective(s) is/are research activities or results, or both that you want to achieve from doing such research. You may begin with general objective (aim), and then specific objectives. For example: General objective : To propose a learning management model for …. And the specific objectives: 1. To investigate basic information to create a learning management model for …, 2. To create and revise the learning management model for…., and (3) To evaluate the model by using model users' opinions in three categories, suitability, feasibility, and utility. [And your specific objectives lead you to research steps, which shall be presented in Chapter 3: Research Methodology]

Research Questions/or Hypothesis

Research questions in this part mean a guideline questions on which you would do to achieve each of your specific objective, while hypothesis are predicted answers or outcomes of the research. In one research, the researcher might choose one over the other which is more proper to your research problem and design. For applied research, such as 'model building' or 'work processes, using R&D or PAR', I would suggest you use Research Questions rather than Hypothesis. But, if insist, both could be done.

Example of Research Questions for Objective One above:
1. What are element (components) of good learning management?
2. What are present states and expected states of learning management in ….
   Province?
3. What are present states of best practices of learning management in China?
   [Of course, these questions will guide you research activities and operation in your
   research work to achieve objective one.]

Research Significance

Specify the significances of your research result will do to the progress of theory, to improve work situation, or to solve such and such problem. For example, the significance of the research which includes 3 specific objectives mentioned above might be:
1. School administrators and teachers in … could use the learning management model found from this research to improve teachers' teaching in their schools.
2. Regional Administrators in …. Province could use this research findings to formulate Educational Policy in the region.
3. Etc. …

Scopes of the Research

Scope of the research should cover at least these 3 components: (1) Content Scope, (2) Data Resource Scope, and (3) Area and Time Frames. You might remember doing a Mater Degree Thesis, you might add 3 more components (Research Tools, Data Collection, Data Analysis], it will cover you research design. However, for Doctoral Degree Dissertation, the research design is more complicated because its credits is 3 times over (12 to 36 credits). Therefore, writing copes of the research for doctoral degree dissertation has to be more complicated, too. I suggest two styles of writing the scope of the research for a doctoral degree dissertation: **Research Stage Style** and **Grouping Research Activities**.

Research Stage Style

If you choose to write the scopes of the research in this style you should begin with providing how the scopes shall be written such as: This research will be conducted in three states, namely (1) Investigating basic information to create a learning management model, or Investigating basic information, for short, (2) Creating and revising the model, and (3) Evaluating the model. So the scopes of the research are as follow:
1. Investigating basic information
   1.1 Content Scope
       Variables used in this stage
   1.2 Data Resource Scope
       Population/sample; or Informants, or Experts, or Documents
   1.3 Area and time frame
       Geographical area, Criteria to select informant, experts, or documents
2. Creating and revising the model
   2.1 Content Scope
       Variables used in this stage
   2.2 Data Resource Scope

Population/sample; or Informants, or Experts, or Documents
2.3 Area and time frame
Geographical area, Criteria to select informant, experts, or documents

3. Evaluating the model
3.1 Content Scope
Variables used in this stage
3.2 Data Resource Scope
Population/sample; or Informants, or Experts, or Documents
3.3 Area and time frame
Geographical area, Criteria to select informant, experts, or documents

Note: each stage might consist of many different data resources, you have to write to cover them all.

Grouping Research Activities

If you choose to write the scopes of the research in this style you should begin with providing how the scopes shall be written, too, such as: This research will be conducted in three states, namely (1) Investigating basic information to create a learning management model, or Investigating basic information, for short, (2) Creating and revising the model, and (3) Evaluating the model. However, in the scope of the research I will group all research activities of the same or similar categories under the section of each scope as So the scopes follow:

1. Content scopes
1.1 Content scope for stage one

.....
1.2 Content scope for state two

.....
1.3 Content scope for state three

.....
2. Data resource scopes
2.1 Data resource scope for stage one

.....
2.2 Data resource scope for state two

....
2.3 Data resource scope for state three

.....
3. Area and time frame
3.1 Area and time frame for stage one

.....
3.2 Area and time frame for state two

.....
3.3 Area and time frame for state three

.....

Research Conceptual Framework

A research conceptual framework is a scheme of thought which might come in many forms, but for the purpose of writing a doctoral dissertation proposal, I would suggest 3 styles of writing a research conceptual frame work, namely, **Variables Relation Style**, **Narrative Style,** and **Procedure Style**, as suggested here by.

Variables relation style

A variables relation style as a research conceptual framework is composed from two or more sets of variables, often seen in quantitative research such as structural model of affecting variable towards affected variable. If we use this type of research conceptual framework in applied research, such as working model, we could simplified the set of variables into two groups, namely dependent variables and independent variables. From the sample mentioned above, a set of independent variables is called 'learning management model' and a set of dependent variables is called 'school teachers' teaching behaviors' for example. So, the research conceptual framework should be something like this:

<div>

A Learning Management Model
- Curriculum design
- Learning and Instructional design
- Effective Student-teacher interaction
- Resource management
- Authentic evaluation

→

Effective Teaching Behaviors
- Instructional approach
- Achievement evaluation
- Effective class interaction
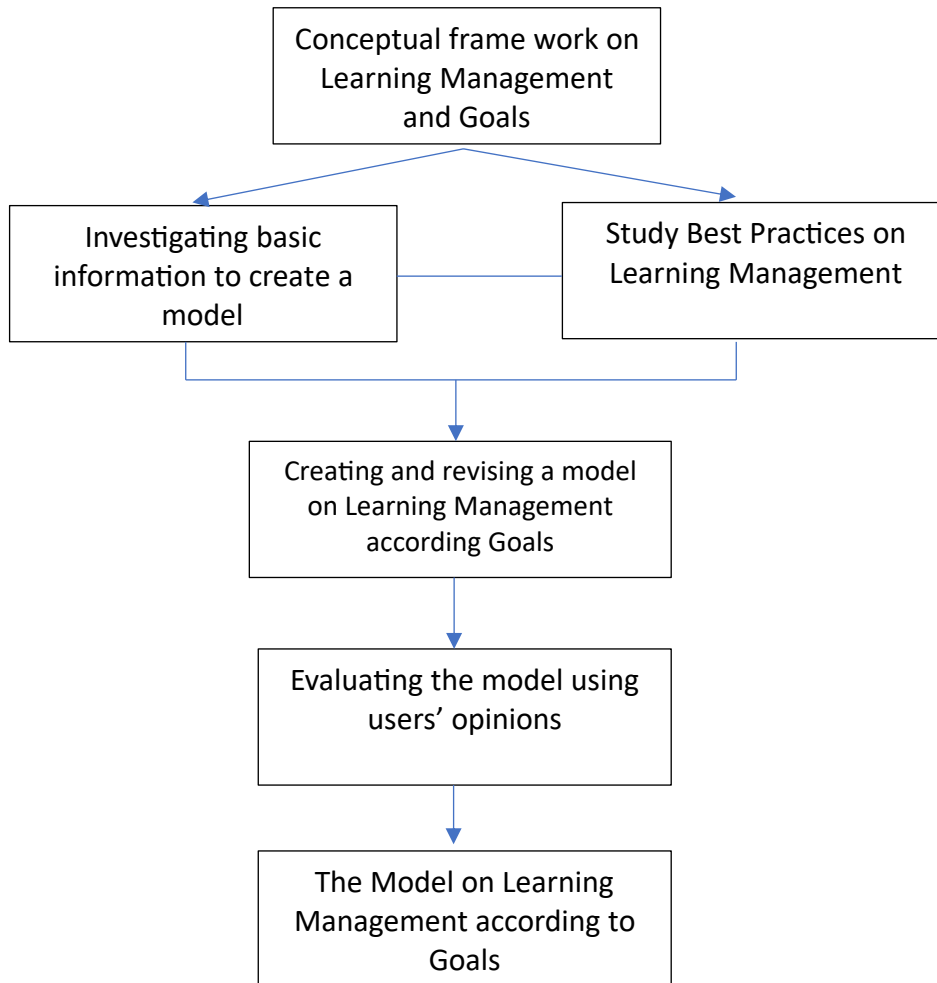
</div>
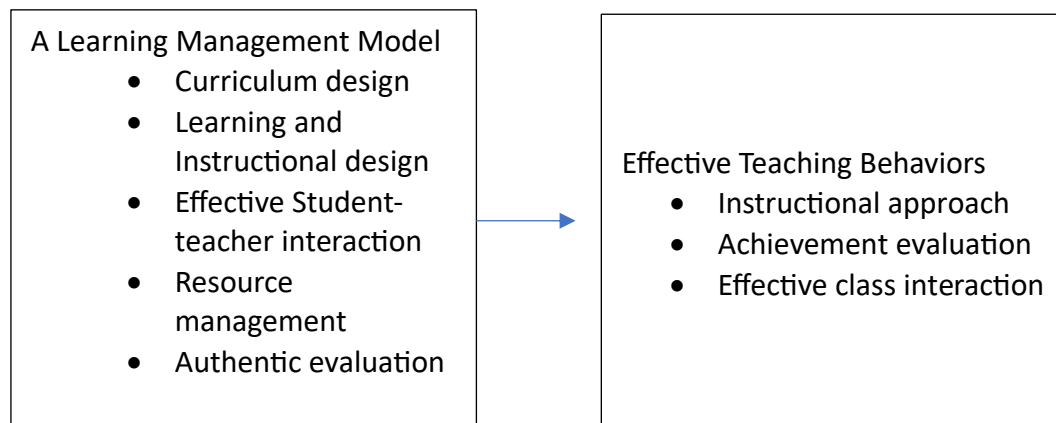
Narrative Style

Alternative of writing research conceptual framework is to write in a narrative style describing about important variables used in that research and propose how those variables might lead to the change of the other variables. What are principles or theories that support your line of thought. According to the research conceptual framework presented above, the writer might write it in narrative style as follow:

 Based on literatures related to learning management, all point out that the changing of learning activities affects the students' achievement directly and indirectly. However, this research aim to apply learning management concept as a model to enhance teachers behaviors in at least three areas, namely Instructional approach, Achievement evaluation, and Effective class interaction. The main components of learning management as found in literature reviewed

includes Curriculum design, Learning and Instructional design, Effective Student-teacher interaction, Resource management, and Authentic evaluation

Procedure Style

Writing a research conceptual framework in a procedure style is to integrate both research variables and research process into the framework. If the researcher would like to write the research conceptual framework above in a procedure style, the framework might come out somehow like this:

```
        ┌─────────────────────────┐
        │  Conceptual frame work on│
        │   Learning Management    │
        │       and Goals          │
        └─────────────────────────┘
           ↙                    ↘
┌──────────────────────┐  ┌──────────────────────┐
│ Investigating basic  │  │ Study Best Practices on│
│ information to create a│  │  Learning Management │
│       model          │  │                      │
└──────────────────────┘  └──────────────────────┘
              ↓
        ┌─────────────────────────┐
        │ Creating and revising a model│
        │   on Learning Management │
        │      according Goals     │
        └─────────────────────────┘
              ↓
        ┌─────────────────────────┐
        │  Evaluating the model using│
        │       users' opinions    │
        └─────────────────────────┘
              ↓
        ┌─────────────────────────┐
        │  The Model on Learning   │
        │ Management according to  │
        │         Goals            │
        └─────────────────────────┘
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Operational Definition

Operational definition is an important part of doing the research because it is the part that the research must provide 'measurable definitions' of all variables used in that research. When a researcher reviews literature, he/she will come across a lot of different definitions and concepts on the interested research variables. In the literature report, the researcher might

already summarize the definition, but to write 'operational definitions' the research need to choose only key words that best characterize the variables understudy. For example, the term 'learning management' which is the main variable of the study, the researcher might synthesize the concept and establish the table to choose the important variable of the term. From that finding, the researcher has to write an operational definition, specially for the purpose of this study, and of course in a 'measurable manner,' which might come out as follow:

'Learning management refers to planning, implementing, and evaluating learning and teaching according to the new approaches on Curriculum design, Learning and Instructional design, Effective Student-teacher interaction, Resource management, and Authentic evaluation'.

3. Literature Review

Although the literature review report is designed to be in chapter 2 in most research report format, but it must be done before drafting Chapter 1, during the research conducting, and while writing the report. The report of Chapter 2 should be updated until the last minute of the research final report. Some of my observations and suggestions are as follow:

3.1 All important variable used in the study must be identified and thoroughly reviewed.

3.2 The main variables must be intensively reviewed until the researcher crystalize the concept. The best way to get hold on all important variables is to establish the variable table. When you establish the synthesized table, don't go to the detail of each variable yet. The objective of establishing the synthesized table is to derive at 'the main variables' you will use in your study. After you has the list of the main variable, then open the new section to review the details on each variable.

3.3 Literature review objective is to assemble concepts, ideas, opinions, and others on the subject. Choose the reliable and expertized sources are crucial. After you got all or most of what you need for each section, you should summarize the concept as your own. The literature review is how we learn from the others and construct our own theories on the subject.

3.4 Report writing styles are so many, read a lot will shed lights on how to write a good paper. At hand, I have three styles to recommend, piling style, creating style, and eclectic style.
Piling style: just review what other academics or sources said, then summarize what you have gain.
Creative style: design your own theme on the topic, based on other sources. Write your own style using those sources as supportive ideas and content, cite them individually or in group.
Eclectic style: use both Piling and Creative style, that fit into your theme of thought and essence structure.

3.5 If you write your paper using the computer, I advise you open 3 word sheets same time, (1) the page you are writing, (2) garbage page, and (3) reference page. The garbage page is for keeping some piece of writing you might not feel like it, but instead of throwing away, copy it and paste on 'garbage page, for the future use.

4. Chapter 3: Methodology

The researcher should begin chapter 3 with the objective(s) of the research, and then the stages of the research. You might begin somehow like this:

The objectives this research are 1) …., 2)……, and 3)…. The research consists of 3 phases, the investigation of basic information to create the model on ….., the creation and revision of the model, and the evaluation of the model. Details on each phase are as presented below. [if you choose style one, but if you choose style two you need to let the readers know as follow) The research design will cover research data resources, research tools, data collection, data analysis, and research process. After that just write on each topic as mentioned. But if you choose style one, you just follow your style in chapter one and add other three sections into each of your stages. For example:

1. **Investigating Basic Information**

    In the first stage, Investigating Basic Information to create a model on learning management for ….. in this research will be conducted in three parts 1) Identifying learning management components and its goals, 2) Surveying the present states and expected states on learning management, and 3) Studying best practices on learning management. Detail of each step is planned as follow:

    1.1 Identifying Learning Management Components

        1.1.1   literature review

            [describe how this is done)

        1.1.2   Interview Academics

            [describe how this is done, how you choose the academics, and you interview them]

        1.1.3   Finalize the Components

            [describe how this is done]

    1.2 Surveying the Present and Expected States

        2.1.1   Construct a survey questionnaire using the framework from 1.1.3 (including how you find the quality of the research tool)

        2.1.2   Collecting Data

        2.1.3   Analyzing Data (including statistics)

    1.3 Studying best practices.

        1.3.1   Construct a research tool to student best practice (including how to find the quality of the research tool)

        1.3.2   How to choose the best practice site to visits, on what criteria, and who would be the informants.

        1.3.3   How you collect the data

        1.3.4   How you analyze the data (Statistics, content analysis)

2. **Creating and Revising the Model**

    (describe step by step like above)

3. **Evaluating the Model**

    (describe step by step like above)

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