Coursework Specification

Module: COMP6220: Qualitative Research Methods for Assessing Technology
Assignment: Web Science funding bid
Weighting: 100%
Lecturer: Dr Mark Weal (mjw)
Deadline: 12/Dec/2018
Feedback: 7/Jan/2019

Instructions

The Web Science Institute has established this fund to further the understanding of the Web in the context of aging populations.

The Aging Population Web Science Fund - priority areas

The Aging Population Web Science Fund (APWSF) covers a five-year period from 2019 to 2024 to identifying priority areas for research and development. This strategy will help us to actively encourage improvement and innovation.

The priority areas for 2019 are:

- Understanding the role of the Web in the lives older people.
- Understanding the role of the Web in supporting independent living.
- Understanding the role of the Web in social care.
- The use of qualitative mixed-method research methods for understanding the Web.

Project Criteria

The funds can be used for study projects of one year in duration for up to two person years of Research Fellow time. Funds will not be allocated to proposals seeking to develop new technologies. The intention is to focus on developing novel approaches to understanding the Web’s role in the lives of older people.

The criteria that will be used to select projects to be funded are:

- Alignment – with the Funds priority areas as set out above
- Enhancement - of the understanding of the impact of the Web on older people
- Transferability – across different contexts
- Potential of the project – for further development
- Evaluation of outcomes and impact - Clear method to evaluate success/outcomes of Project

Late submissions will be penalised at 10% per working day.
No work can be accepted after feedback has been given.
You should expect to spend up to 50 hours on this assignment.
Please note the University regulations regarding academic integrity.
Group Report Assignment

In your groups, you are to produce a funding bid that meets the following specification.

Your Case for support should include:

- A description of the proposed research and its context (up to 6 sides of A4)
- Work plan (up to 1 side of A4)
- Brief CVs (1 paragraph) for each named researcher

**Description of Proposed Research and its Context**

This section (maximum 6 sides of A4) should include:

**Background**

- Introduce the topic of research and explain its academic and industrial context.
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of past and current work in the subject area in the UK and/or abroad.

**Research Hypothesis and Objectives**

- Set out the research idea or hypothesis.
- Explain why the proposed project is of sufficient timeliness and novelty to warrant consideration for funding.
- Identify the overall aims of the project and the individual measurable objectives against which you would wish the outcome of the work to be assessed.

**Programme and Methodology**

- Detail the qualitative methodologies to be used in pursuit of the research and justify these choices in detail. You should incorporate at least two qualitative methods and explain their relation to each other clearly.
- Describe the programme of work, indicating the research to be undertaken and the milestones that can be used to measure its progress. The detail should be sufficient to indicate the programme of work for each member of the research team. Explain how the project will be managed.

**Work Plan**

The programme of work for the project should be illustrated with a simple diagrammatic work plan, for example, a PERT or Gantt chart.

**Curriculum Vitaes (not assessed)**

CVs should be included for named research staff. CVs must not exceed 1 paragraph each.
Deliverables

Expression of Interest
In order to give early feedback on proposals, those seeking funding are required to submit a one page EOI indicating the scope of the project, the basic research questions and a brief outline of the research methodology proposed. Feedback will be given to help applicants adjust their research approach where applicable.

Funding Bid
Your funding bid, conforming to the guidelines stated above. To be submitted to the handin machine as a single PDF file. In line with normal funding practice, bids received after the deadline may not be considered.

Assessment Panels
In order to assess the commitment to the proposed research and assess the abilities of the named researchers to understand and carry out the research, a series of short interviews will be conducted by an assessment panel.

Submission
Expression of Interest submitted - Friday 19th October 2018, 16:00 (0% of mark for module)
Funding Bid submitted – Wednesday 12th December 2018, 16:00 (80% of mark for module)
Assessment panels – Thursday 10th January 2019, 11-1pm (tbc). (20% of mark for module).

Relevant Learning Outcomes
1. plan a programme of research
2. clearly communicate your research

Marking Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>A review of the relevant literature.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research objectives</td>
<td>A summary of the research aims and objectives.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>A detailed, justified methodology to address the research objectives.</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work plan</td>
<td>A clear, plausible plan to carry out the research methodology.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
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