Dissertation

Things what to do

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Start Early/Time Management

● Prioritise the right things!
  ○ Learn to say ‘No’ and to say ‘Yes’
● Make a plan.
  ○ Be aware of Dates such as Supervisor’s time, Coursework Deadlines, and Social Life.
  ○ If you can write something (anything) up, DO IT!
● Plans do not need to be rigid, be prepared to adapt it.
● Take a break… (more on this later)
Tips for citations

- Use Bibtex
- Use (Last name, year) (Appelgren, 2017) (natbib in Latex)
- Use DBLP to get bibtex entries
Make use of your supervisor

- They know what a good dissertation looks like
- Learn how to communicate with them
  - Meet regularly
  - Send them some questions beforehand
  - Send them your drafts
- If you are stuck, ask your supervisor for help to get unstuck!
Understand your procrastination

- Tim Pychyl - procrastination researcher
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhFQA998WiA
- You don’t work better under pressure
- Emotional Intelligence
- “Task Aversion”
  - Inception/planning stage: Lack of Meaning
  - Implementation stage: Lack of Structure
- Think about things concretely
- In situation X I will do Y to achieve Z
Keeping on Top of Stress

● Remain Calm.
● In the Final Month - Create a Routine.
● Take a break.
  ○ Learn to step-back and rest.
● Chip away at things!
  ○ Any contribution is still a contribution, and a step towards completion.
● If you are really struggling - https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling
● Try to Enjoy it!
  ○ This is one of the biggest learning experiences that Informatics provides us as Students.