

Faculty of Health and Wellbeing

PhD Students' Training

Session 8, Wednesday June 14 2017: The Viva

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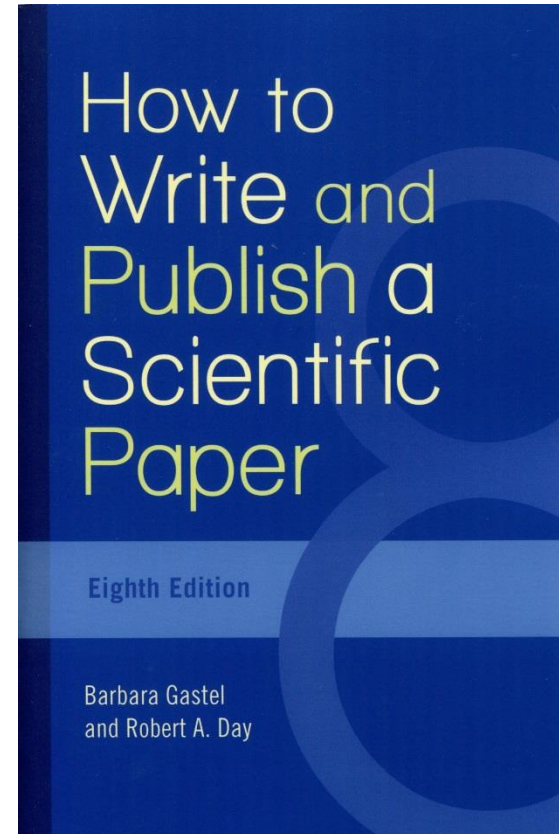
The thesis . . .

The thesis . . .

"I've just got the write up to do . . ."

The thesis . . .

Day and Gastel



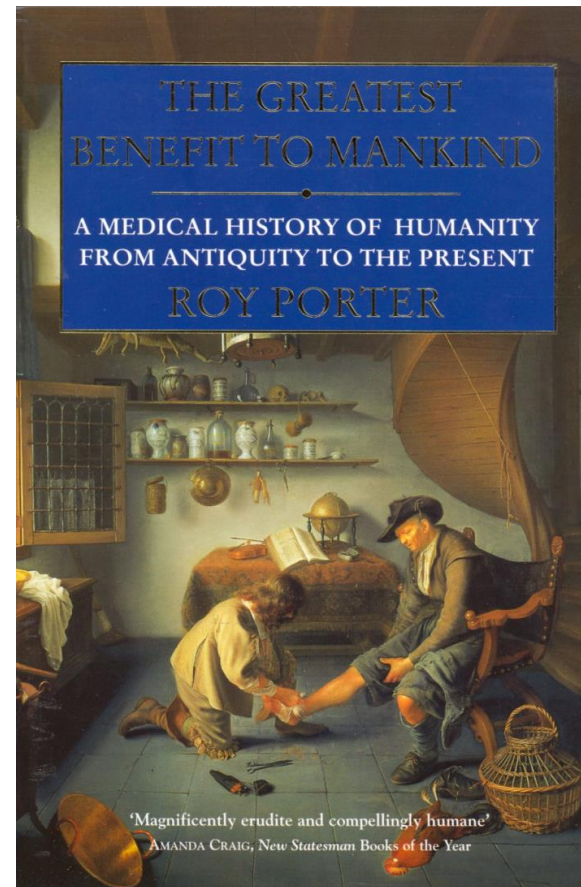
The thesis . . .

Editorials



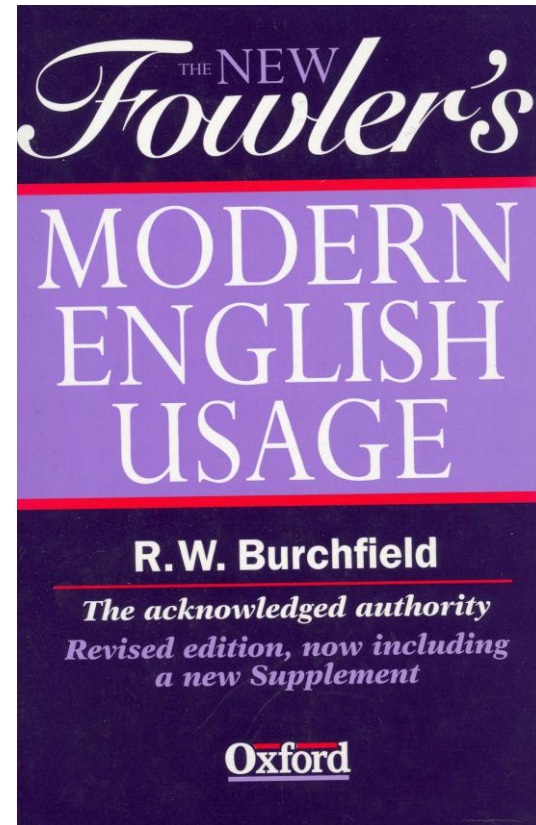
The thesis . . .

Historical background



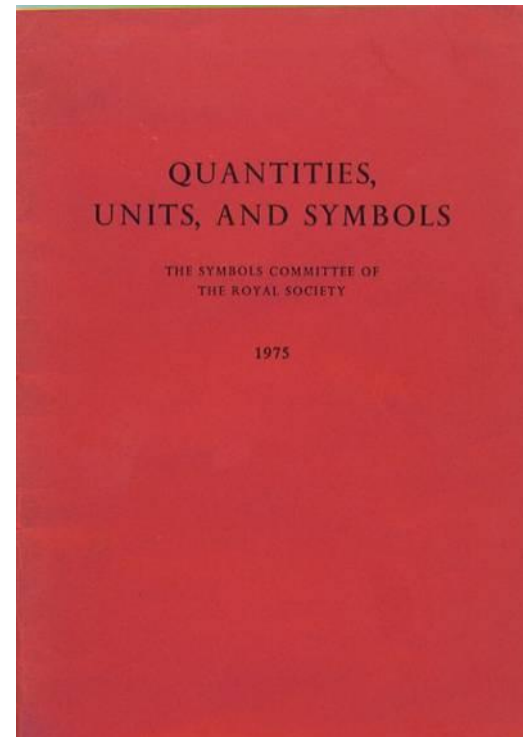
The thesis . . .

Fowler's



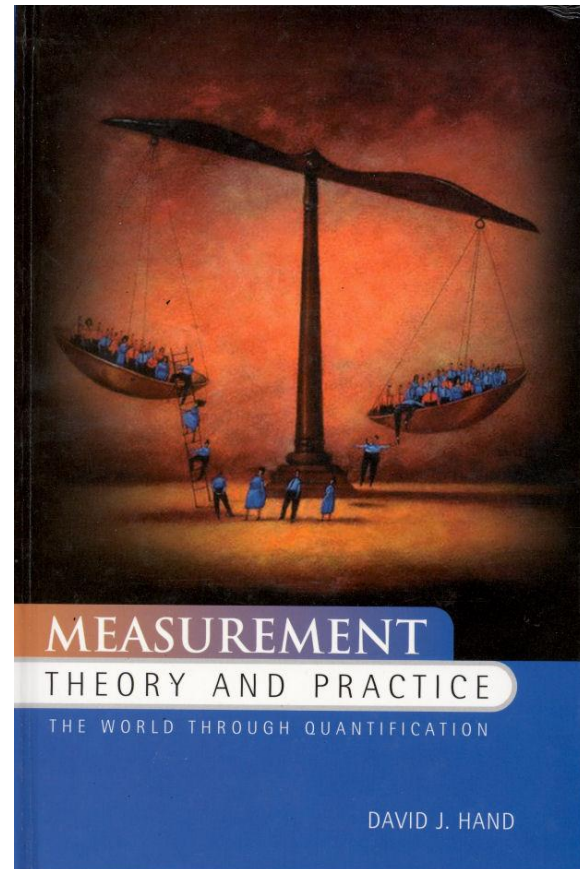
The thesis . . .

Royal Society



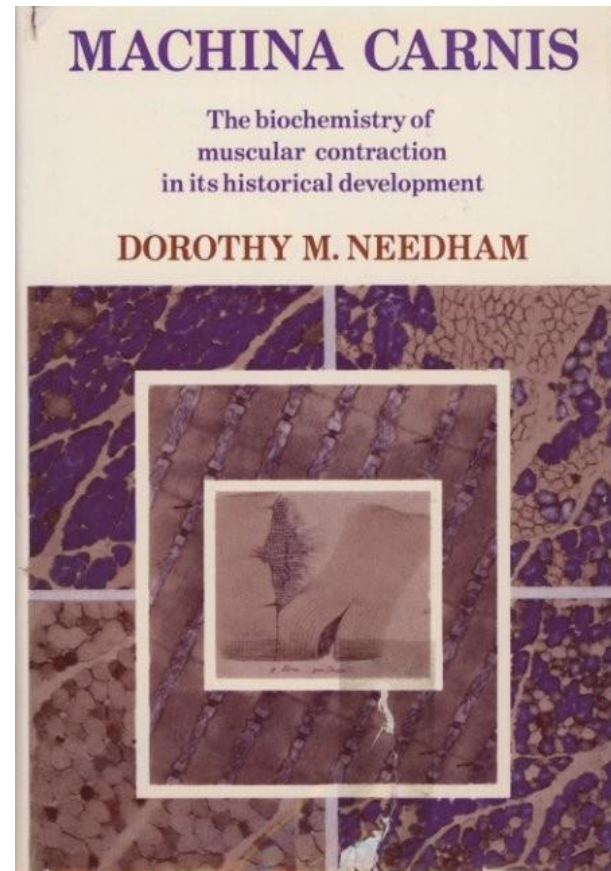
The thesis . . .

Hand



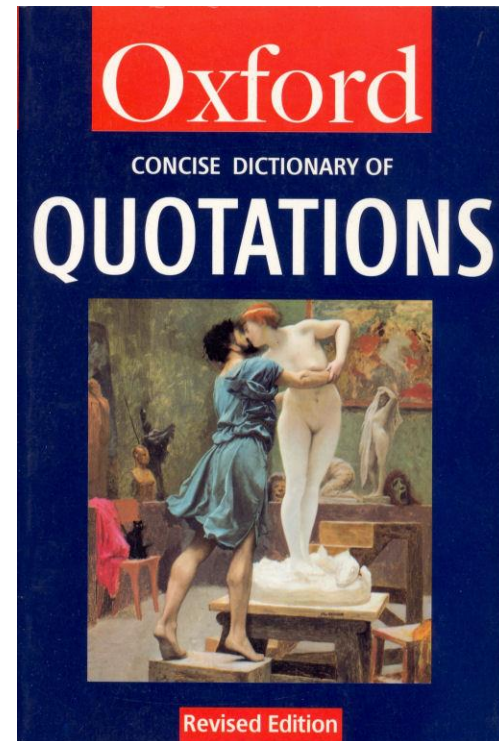
The thesis . . .

Needham



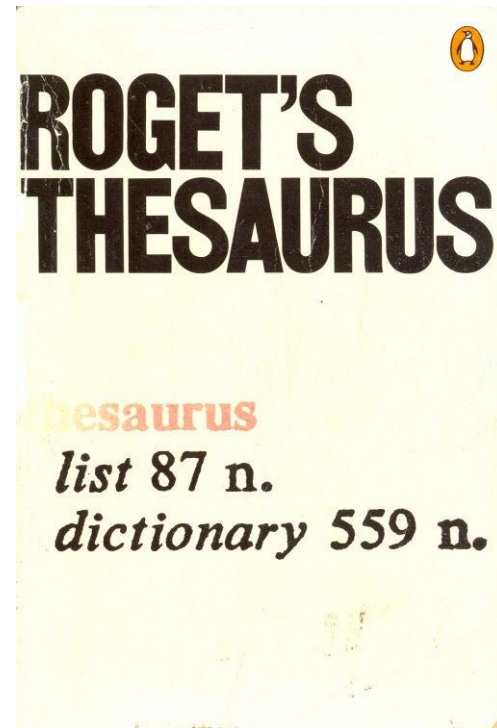
The thesis . . .

Quotations



The thesis . . .

Thesaurus



The panel

This will probably comprise:

- ◆ A chair
- ◆ External examiner
- ◆ Internal examiner
- ◆ Supervisor
- ◆ Examinee . . .

The process

- ◆ Nomination of examiners
- ◆ Six – eight weeks
- ◆ Invitation to join the panel
- ◆ Introductions
- ◆ The exam
- ◆ Duration
- ◆ Deliberation
- ◆ Verdict

Appearance

- ◆ You get only one chance to make a first impression
- ◆ Smart and business-like
- ◆ Errata
- ◆ Evidence of involvement

To be avoided . . .

To be avoided . . .

- ◆ This work is both good and original . . .

To be avoided . . .

- ◆ This work is both good and original . . .
- ◆ . . . unfortunately, the good parts aren't original and the original parts aren't good

Questions

- ◆ Preliminaries:
- ◆ Why do you want a PhD?
- ◆ What developed your interest?
- ◆ What is research?

Questions

- ◆ What's a PhD/DProf?
- ◆ A licence to practise as an independent researcher
- ◆ A rite of passage to academia
- ◆ A higher-order measure of professional competence

Questions

- ◆ What is research?
- ◆ A process of systematic enquiry

Questions

- ◆ Preliminaries (why do you want a PhD? what developed your interest?)
- ◆ Define your discipline
- ◆ **What is your research question?**
- ◆ What have you found?
- ◆ Do the aims and conclusions align?
- ◆ Epistemology: science and other techniques
- ◆ Why did you do what you did the way you did?
- ◆ With the benefit of hindsight, what would you do differently?

Science

A way of working characterised by:

- ◆ Observation
 - ◆ Research question
 - ◆ Hypotheses
 - ◆ Experiment
 - ◆ Analysis null-hypothesis significance testing and magnitude-based inferences
 - ◆ Outcome
 - ◆ Broadcast
- Scholarship

Science

Science appears to us with a very different aspect after we have found that it is not in lecture rooms only, but that we may find illustrations of the highest doctrines of science in games and gymnastics, in travelling by land and water, in storms of the air and of the sea, and wherever there is matter in (*or not in*) motion.

James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879)

Introductory lecture on elementary physics, Cambridge, 1871

Outcome

- ◆ Pass, no corrections
- ◆ Pass, minor revisions
- ◆ Pass, major revisions
- ◆ Re-examination with or without viva
- ◆ MPhil
- ◆ Fail
- ◆ Appeal

The graduation

- ◆ This is a very important event
- ◆ Enjoy it and treasure the memories
- ◆ Bring your family/carers/loved ones
- ◆ Without their support . . .
- ◆ Copies of the thesis . . .
- ◆ Go forth and add to the process!
- ◆ Who knows? Fellowships, DSc, FRS, Nobel prize . . .