



Strategies to Recover Potentially lost IP Assets; from Theses, Dissertations and Student Projects

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November, 2019

Situation in RTOs



**IPR AND
COMMERCIALIZATI
ON**

Potential for IPR and Commercialization



Why should we mine technologies from Theses, Dissertations and projects?

1

- Untapped resources lying in the shelves

2

- Identifying projects with potential for IP Applications

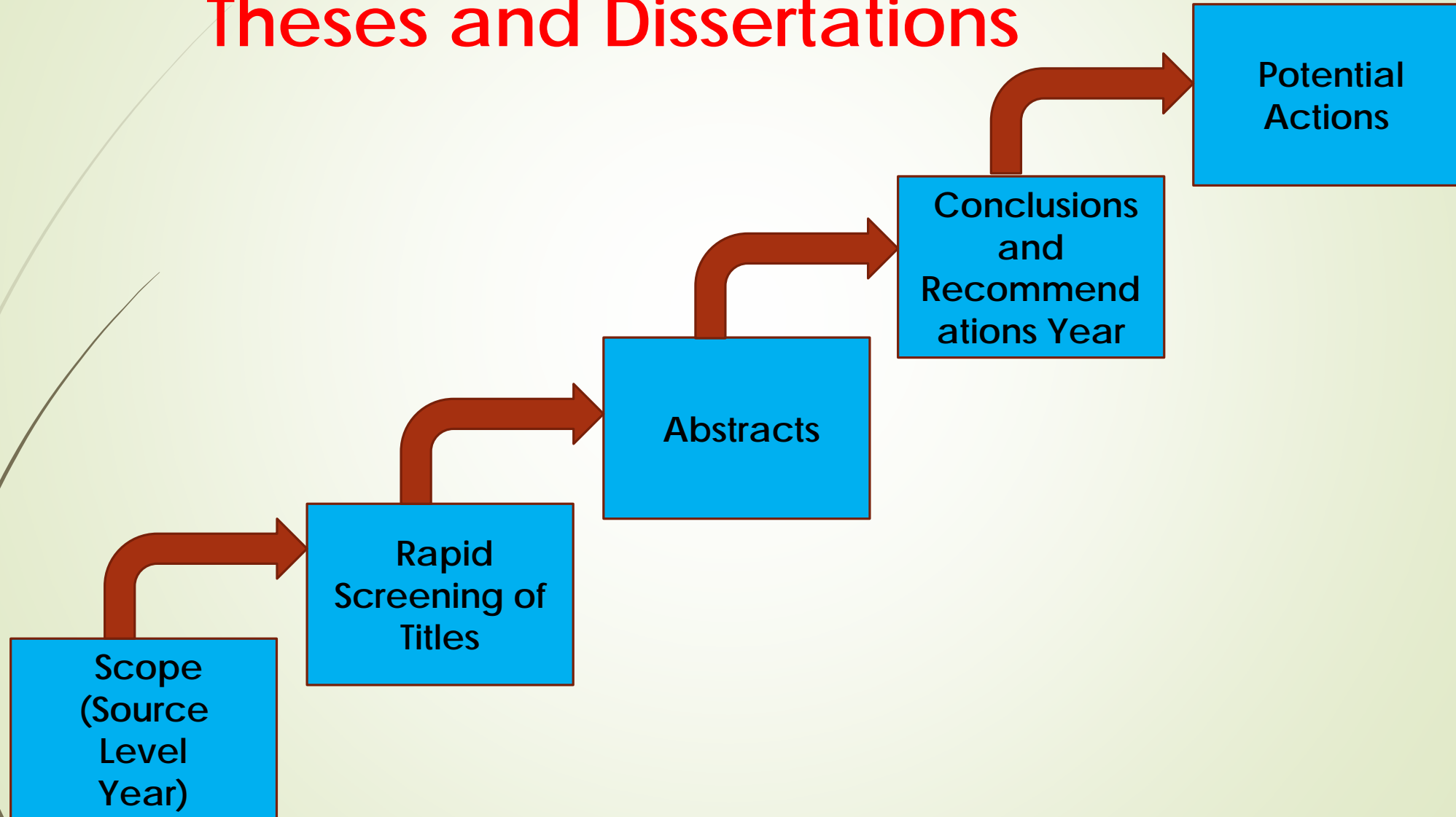
3

- Identifying projects with potential for Commercialization

4

- Researchers quick to publish, may reduce chances for IP protection

Steps for technology mining from Theses and Dissertations





Determining the scope



scope

School or
College

Year of
coverage

Level of
coverage

Rapid Assessment and Screening of project Titles

To eliminate titles with no potential early

Aim of the project: does it solve a problem:

If YES: What kind of solution is it providing? Proceed to *Abstract* stage

If NO. abandon it at this juncture

If NOT SURE proceed to the *Abstract* Stage

Rapid Assessment and Screening of project Titles

- **Example 1: Suppose the title reads as follows :**
- *Determining Multiple Risk Factors Influencing Occurrence Of Gumboro Disease Outbreaks In Vaccinated Broilers In Kwale District Kenya*
- **Key words:** Multiple Risk Factors
- **Intended results:** **factors** influencing occurrence of Gumboro Disease
- **Conclusion:** from **key words** and **intended results**, reveals that the project is more of a **need to know basis**, i.
- **Action:** **Drop it**, hence does not move to the next stage

Rapid Assessment and Screening of project Titles

➤ **Example 2: Suppose the title reads as follows :**

- *Evaluation of Rhizobacteria Isolates for Control Of Soil Borne Diseases And Growth Enhancement of Potato (Solanum Tuberosum)*
- **Key words:** Rhizobacteria Isolates,
- **Intended results:** Control of soil borne diseases, growth enhancement of potatoes
- **Conclusion:** From key words and intended results, the project may lead to something interesting
- **Action:** This project will proceed to the abstract screening stage



Step II: Screening of Abstracts

- ▶ Those project titles with potential move to the step II: screening the abstracts.
- ▶ Abstracts give the summary of the project ie the aim, methodology and the findings.
- ▶ Analyze the abstract to determine whether there is possibility for innovation to have been developed.
- ▶ If **Yes** then move to the next stage of detailed analysis of the conclusions and Recommendations
- ▶ If your answer to the analysis is **No**. then drop the project at this level

Screening of Abstracts



- *Note: then take it to the next stage*
- *This is to ensure you do not leave a project that may have potential just because the title was not clear to you*



Screening of Conclusions and Recommendations

- Spend more time reading the conclusions and recommendations to determine the actual findings of the research
- Determine whether
- a new product was developed
- Product improved
- New design
- New plant varieties
- New software application

Identification of potential further actions

- Make recommendations for the next actions; this may take the following format:
- Product need to be improved further
- Further studies to be carried out
- Product need to be protected as intellectual property (name the type of IP)
- Product to be commercialized without protection
- Product to be abandoned give reasons may be obsolete,

Success of the Methodology

- Successfully used in technology screening the University of Nairobi.
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology JKUAT
- The methodology can be used in analyzing projects at whatever level
- OR in any institution, as long as the objective is to determine the potential for IPR protection or Commercialization



Lessons learnt and Way forward

- Slightly more than a fifth of the titles reach the final stage
- Therefore be careful with the titles
- Institutions to incorporate screening before publications
- Screening can be done as early as at project proposals.
- Provides insights into the rate at which institutions are losing potential IP Assets
- Identify potential for IPR protection and commercialization