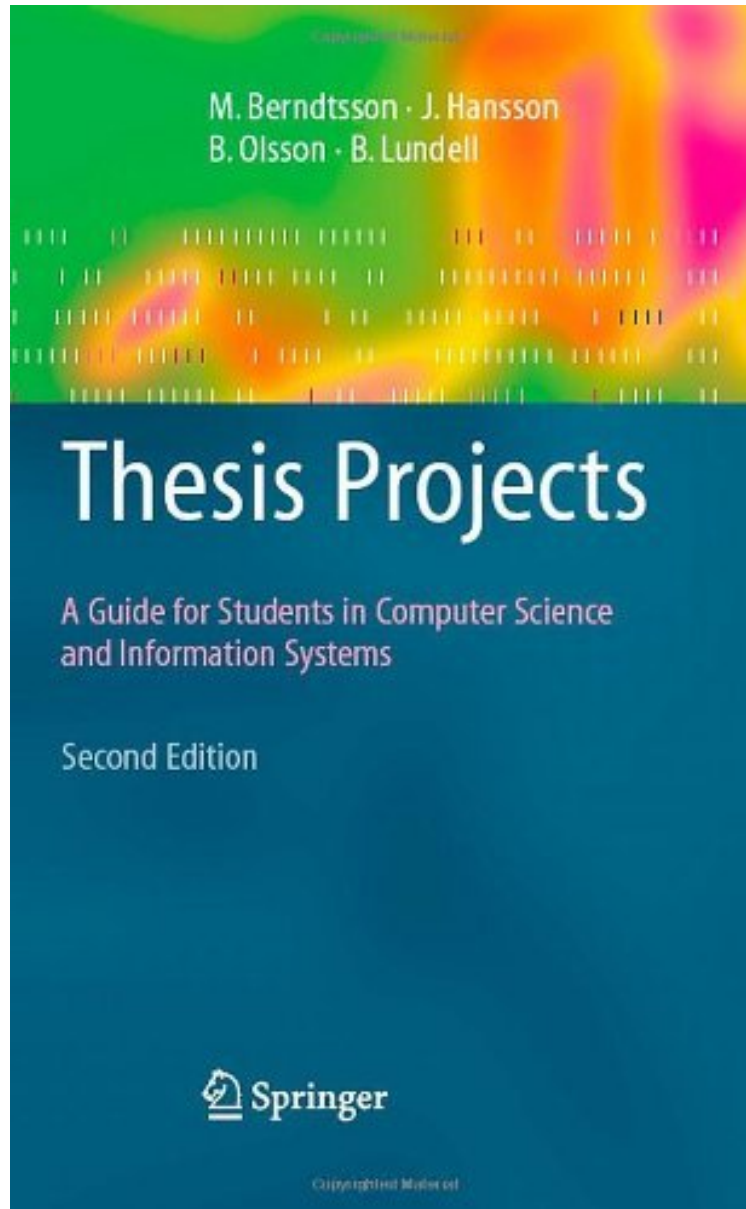


# Thesis Projects: A Guide for Students in Computer Science and Information Systems

*Von Mikael Berndtsson, Jrgen Hansson, B. Olsson, Bjrn Lundell*  
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will guide you through the process. The book provides you with all the tools necessary to successfully complete a final  
year research project. Based on an approach that has been tried and tested on over 500 projects, it offers a simple step-  
by-step guide to the key processes involved. Not only that, but the book also contains lots of useful information for  
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"The authors have written a short book for students doing final year projects in computer science and information  
systems. Because the authors are from Sweden, the details of the procedures and expectations will vary in other  
countries. However, in the hands of a discerning reader, this book could be useful at several levels, at many colleges  
and universities, and in many countries. The first section of the book introduces general concepts related to final year  
projects. Chapter 2 describes research and research methods in computer science and information systems. Chapter 3  
discusses the roles of the student, the supervisor, and the examiner. Chapter 4 provides a very brief overview of the  
process of conducting final year projects. The second and most extensive section of the book describes chronologically  
the major steps in the project. Chapter 5 describes the process of choosing a subject and developing a formal proposal.  
Chapter 6 explains how to handle references in the literature search. Chapter 7 describes the process of narrowing the  
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following, or not following, the project objectives. Chapter 10 takes a careful look at presenting and analyzing the  
data. Chapter 11 discusses drawing your conclusions, evaluating your work, and identifying future work. Finally,  
chapter 12 discusses the oral defense. The third section of the book consists of a set of supplementary chapters.  
Chapter 13 discusses the report itself, including both general writing style and specific citation styles. Chapter 14 turns  
the tables and examines the examiners role. The book also includes a bibliography, a list of things not to do, and a list  
of relevant bibliographies available on the Internet. According to the authors, "The amount of time spent reading a  
particular source is not relevant to whether it should be discussed in your analysis. The authors provide many such  
useful suggestions, which, although obvious, might be forgotten in the rush to write. They suggest studying a journal  
article in the subject area to examine the typical structure of a research report. They also suggest writing the abstract  
last. In addition, they suggest identifying both good and poor decisions made during the research process. They also  
point out this useful piece of advice: "You can usually get away with being boring, if what you say is well-organized  
and clear; but you cannot get away with talking nonsense just by being entertaining. About the conclusions of the  
project report, the authors say, "This is not the time or place to surprise the enthusiastic reader (this is a technical  
report, and not a novel where the least suspected person is found to be the murderer at the end). Similarly, this book  
has no surprises, just well organized, clear, and useful advice." by Ann Fleury from Aurora University, Illinois  
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