



DSI-Approach: How to Define a Good Research Questions for Projects with Unstructured Data

1. Workshop "Frameworks & Terminology"

Homework

As preparation for the first workshop, we would like you to reflect on a few questions pertaining to how you generate research questions in your area of research. Please send your answers in written form to Jana (jana.sedlakova@ibme.uzh.ch) by March 7th. They will help us evaluate the diversity of approaches in the generation of research questions in different fields, as well as the suitability of our proposed framework to guide research question development. We will discuss the findings of these questions and our proposed framework in the upcoming first workshop.

Please also be aware that we may publish your answers anonymously as part of the project documentation.

General remark: Although we are aware that finding and generating research questions should follow a structured process, we are also aware that sometimes this process is not as structured and may be driven by intuition or a gut feeling. We are interested in an honest assessment, but would also very much appreciate your recommendations of frameworks and concepts that are used in your research field for research question development.

Question 1: How do you choose your research problems (i.e., broad topics of interest for your research)? For example, is it driven by general interest, experience in your field of research, intrinsic curiosity, or other reasons (or combinations thereof)?

Question 2: How do you generate specific research questions (i.e., a concrete question that summarizes the problem; the research question does not necessarily have to be specific with regards to methodology)? Do you have a specific strategy that you follow?

Question 3: Which frameworks/tools do you currently use or have used in the past for defining and refining specific research questions? If possible, please provide links.