



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

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# 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

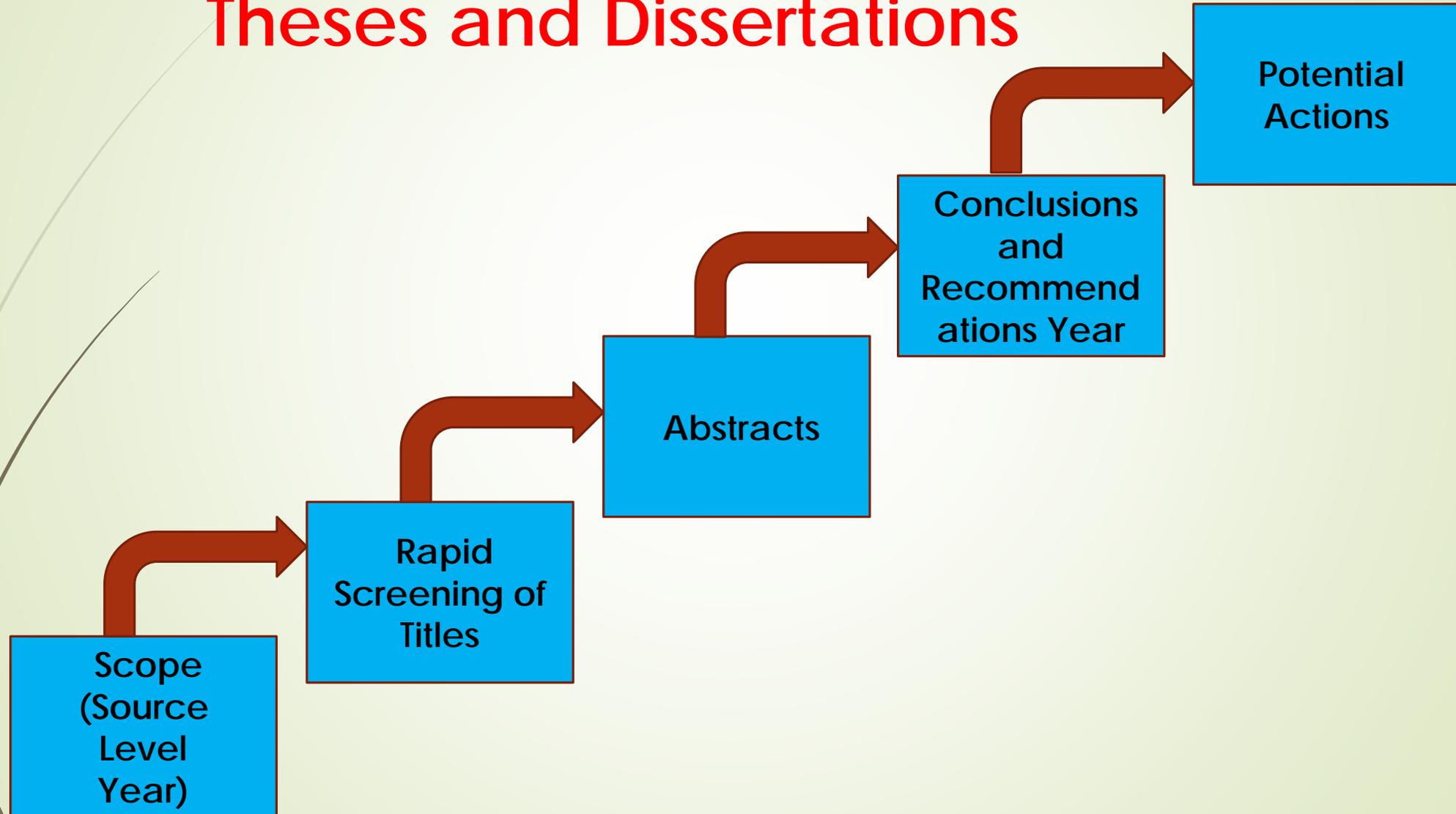
3

- 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