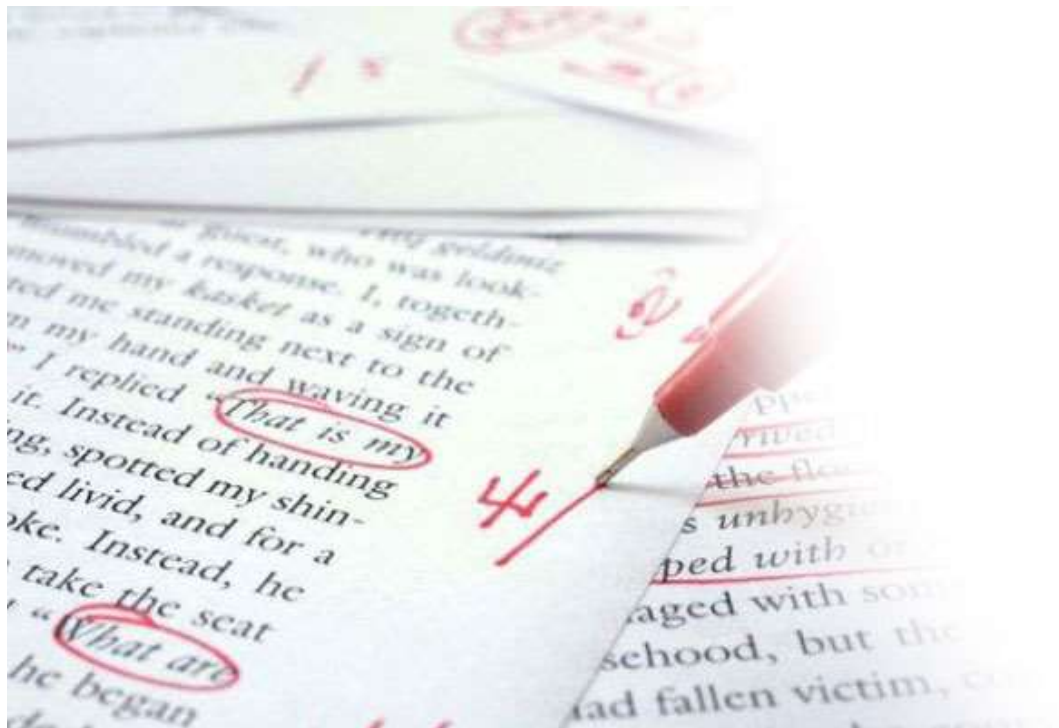




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The Writing Clinic at the Faculty of Science of the USB: a case study

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Our Writing Clinic at the USB

A brief history of the FS USB Writing Clinic

Finding answers to challenges

The future



Why a writing centre?

“A **writing centre** provides students with free assistance on their papers, projects, reports, multimodal documents, web pages, etc. from consultants... A key goal of any writing centre is helping writers to learn how to write... Writing centres attempt to provide non-prescriptive and non-corrective responses in order to create autonomous, confident writers.”

Writing is a neglected skill in secondary and tertiary institutions, yet without it a student or an academic can't function successfully.

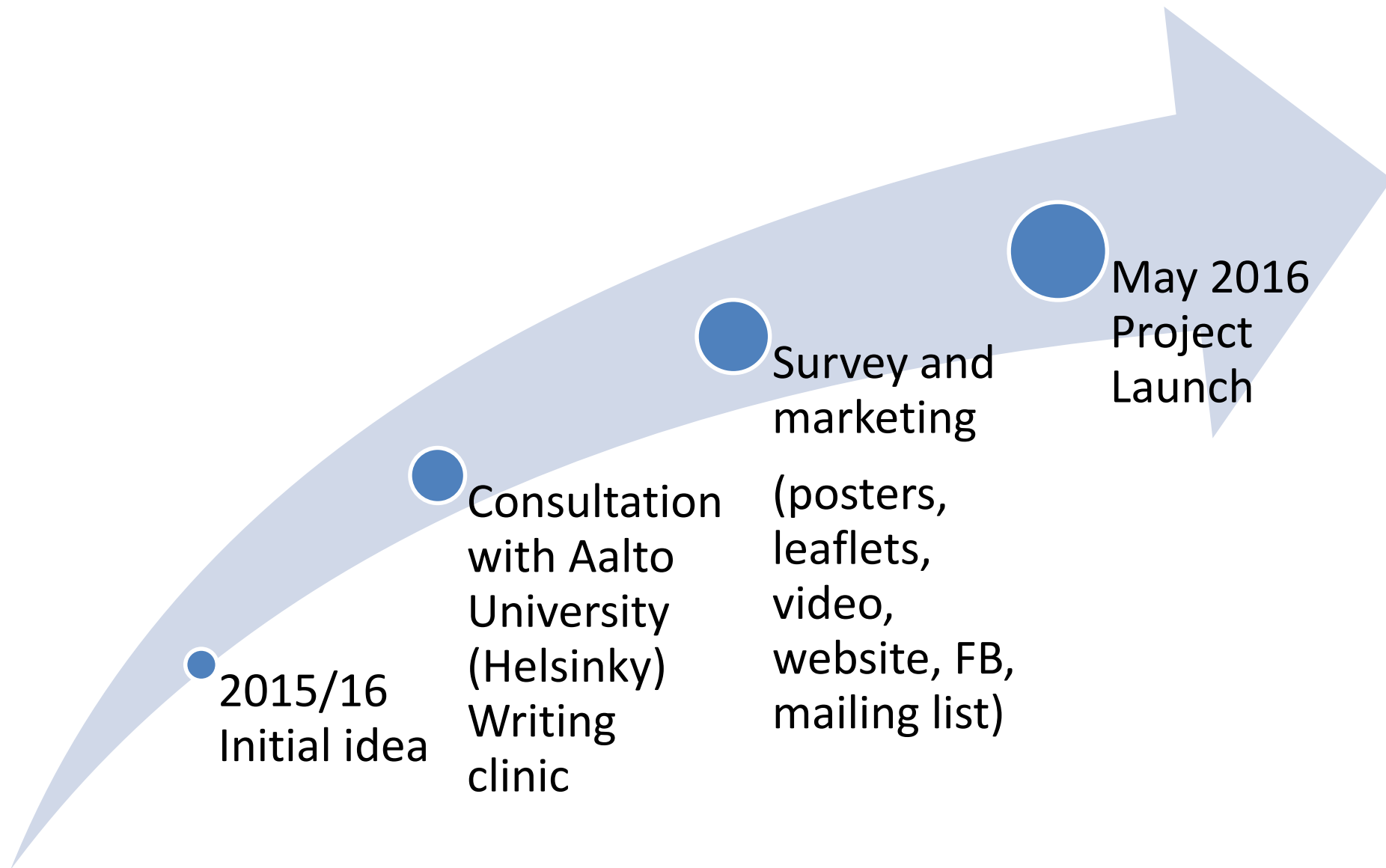
Taken from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writing_center



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Good groundwork ensured the Clinic's launch





Writing Clinic Questionnaire

1. I am a:

Master's student PhD student Member of staff Other

2. I would use the Writing Clinic.

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

3. I would recommend the Writing Clinic to a colleague who needs it.

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

4. I need to write in English for my degree course/professional activities.

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

5. I need to write (you can choose more than one)

abstracts, articles, thesis/dissertation, essays, presentations, posters, CVs, cover letters, formal email, other

6. I need help with the following skills in written English. (You can choose more than one)

Brainstorming and pre-writing, paraphrasing and summarizing, referencing/footnoting, academic vocabulary, using synonyms, grammar, consistency, register, plagiarism, coherence, other

7. Who currently helps you revise your written English?

Supervisor, colleagues, other

8. Comments and/or suggestions



- A total of 87 respondents took part in the survey: 51 PhD students, 33 MA students, and 3 members of staff.
- 78 (97.59%) respondents confirmed that they would make use of the Writing Clinic and 81 would be willing to recommend it to someone else.
- 79 (96.34%) respondents confirmed that they need to write in English for their degree course.



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- Want to write your thesis in English but afraid you don't have the language skills?
- Bored of using the same vocabulary all the time?
- Planning a scientific presentation and don't know how to make it sound "right"?
- Or do you simply want to express yourself more fluently and professionally in written English?

Make an appointment to have a free 30-minute face-to-face meeting with one of our **Writing Clinicians** to help you with any challenges you have when writing in English.



- The Writing Clinic will help you improve your writing skills
- The Writing Clinic offers assistance with writing abstracts and articles, theses and dissertations, presentations and posters, research proposals and grant applications, formal e-mails, CVs, and cover letters.

We are looking forward
to seeing you!





Sample of a commented text

ARTICLES

READABILITY

INCORRECT STYLE

GRAMMAR OR LEXIS PROBLEMS

PUNCTUATION

WORD ORDER

FLOW/COHESION

W-enriched satellite sequence in Indian meal moth, *Plodia interpunctella* (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae)

Introduction

Lepidoptera is a species-rich insect group with heterogametic females. Whereas the basal taxa have the sex chromosome determination ZZ/Z0, advanced Lepidoptera encompassing ca. 98% of all species possess the WZ/ZZ configuration. Similarly to the Y chromosome in taxa with heterogametic males, the W chromosome undergoes faster sequence turnover than the rest of the genome due to the lack of recombination between the W and the Z chromosomes. This leads to gradual loss of functional genes and spreading of repetitive sequences such as mobile elements and tandem repeats (Charlesworth 1996).

The typical W chromosome in Lepidoptera is rich in heterochromatin, often being the only large block of heterochromatin in the genome. It forms a sex chromatin, a conspicuous roundish object in polyploid cells of lepidopteran females. This trait has been used for easy determination of presence or absence of the W chromosome in particular species, and, importantly, as a source of W DNA for sequence analyses and painting probes for FISH in various species (Fuková et al. 2007)(Vítková et al. 2007).



$$5x\text{😊} = \text{WC}\text{😞}$$



Our lack of success is attributable to many factors:

Based at FS / Exclusion from other faculties

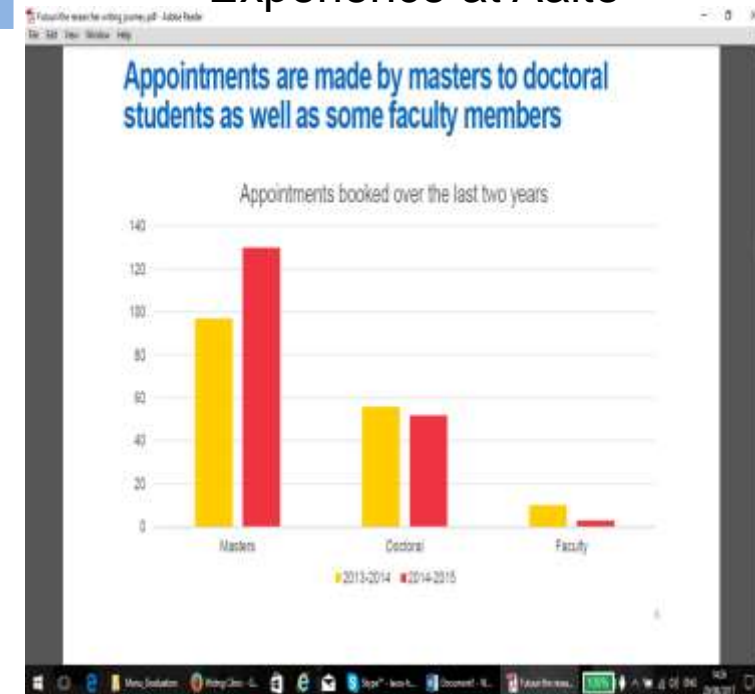
No personal and direct contact with key decision makers

Ingrained beliefs and behavior

f2f consultations only

No demand for MA dissertations in English

Experience at Aalto





What lies ahead?

1

- Revise vision and argument for the need of a WC
- Ensure visibility through extensive and direct marketing
- Cooperate with other faculties and the Biological Centre (including the library?)

2

- Organize short seminars on academic writing
- Offer online consultations in addition to f2f meetings
- Guarantee consultations outside the semesters

3

- Develop an electronic booking system
- Create a funding model

Thank you!