Outline for the research plan

Title that describes your unique thesis topic and research problem

Research proposal
[Student name]
[Date]

1. Introduction
   How is the topic positioned within Industrial Engineering and Management / Information and Knowledge Management, what is the research field
   Background and rationale for the research: business challenge and relevance, theoretical challenge and relevance, gap in prior research, why me
   About 1 page

2. Topic of your thesis
   Brief literature review on the literature on the topic: what is already known, what is not known, and why is this thesis topic relevant. Use references to earlier research and literature to justify your arguments and make the research gap more visible. Divide the text to logical sub-chapters by using second level headings that illustrate the unique content of your thesis topic. Also illustrate the text with pictures, if needed.
   About 3 pages
   [heading 2]
   [heading 2]
   [heading 2]

   Research objectives and questions
   What is the objective?
   Divide the research task into 2-4 research questions, to clarify its feasibility and relevance.
   Also nature of research, i.e. how do you aim to contribute in the research field

3. Research design
   Research approach / strategy
   Research material – access to data
   Research methods – in line with the research objective and approach
   Data collection, level and unit of analysis
   About 1 page

4. Schedule
   Rough timetable for the research, so that each half-year or quarter activities are shown.
   Take into account your student status (incl. studies): full-time or part-time
   Schedule at least: preparations, literature search and analysis, data collection, data analysis, thesis manuscript preparation, thesis reviews and rewriting, thesis finalization, dissertation process (6-12 months).
   Use Gantt chart or other visualization to illustrate your schedule.
   Also schedule sufficient leaves of absence from your daily work, if you are a part-time doctoral student, at least for data analysis and thesis manuscript preparation or rewriting or finalization.
   Be realistic and take into account the real resources that you have for the thesis research.
   About ½ page
5. Financing  
Rough estimate how you plan to survive, while working for the PhD. Who will fund your work? How will your employer support your personal research and study ambitions, if you do your thesis work on a part-time basis? At least a 3 year contract is recommended for full-time doctoral candidates. Part-time students need to reserve sufficiently personal time WEEKLY and CONTINUOUSLY for their studies and thesis research, and this time reservation should be planned for. Additionally, at least two leaves of absence, possibly funded through scholarships or the student him/herself, are recommended.  
*About ½ page*

List of references  
Central literature used in the review part which describes the field of research.