Dissertations and Theses in the Digital Age: Communicating with Grad Students

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DISSERTATIONS AND THESES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: COMMUNICATING WITH GRAD STUDENTS

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JULY 28, 2017
DIGITAL COMMONS + GREAT LAKES USER GROUP
AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
INTRODUCTION

The following slides are an excerpt from a presentation given to various groups of graduate students at Western Michigan University. I did not repeat the information that is well known to librarians for this lightening talk, but did explain some things about our process in adding dissertations and theses to the IR. I talked about creative writers wanting more restrictions on their work, as I had talked to a former DC support person about this after she left bepress to get her MFA.
HISTORY

• First grad courses in 1939, WMU allowed to grant grad degrees in 1952*
• First master’s theses from 1940’s
• First dissertations at WMU from 1960’s
• To University Microfilms International (UMI) since 1967
  • microfilmed and preserved to this day at Iron Mountain
• Print copy to library XX 9999 .X1
• Indexed in Dissertation Abstracts International

DIGITAL AGE

- WorldCat
- Electronic databases (CD's)
- Online databases
- Personal websites
- Institutional repositories
- Web everywhere
- UMI became ProQuest in 1990's
- Digitized our microfilms
- Electronic dissertations & theses – ETDs
- Dissertations on to other subject databases
- WMU institutional repository ScholarWorks established 2011
DISSERTATIONS & THESES GLOBAL (PROQUEST)

• Over 5000 WMU dissertations and theses
• WMU stopped sending master’s theses in 1996
• Currently send only dissertations to ProQuest
• Get 10% royalty if sell print or microfilm + small % of downloads – if at least $25
• Grad College sends to ScholarWorks
SCHOLARWORKS

- All dissertations and theses since 2012
- Purchased digitized back theses
- Dissertations back to 1968
- Master’s theses back to 1989 so far
- Available by year
- Available by department
- Graduate student journal
  *The Hilltop Review also available*
THE IMPACT OF OPEN ACCESS

Demonstrating Achievements
Open access for Institutions
- Building Reputation
- Demonstrating Learning Outcomes
- Contributing Stories for Public Relations
- Garnering Funding
- Developing Alumni Connections
- Aiding Accreditation
- Boosting Operational Efficiency

Reputation Building
Open access for Authors
- Amplifying Scholarly Expertise
- Preserving Scholarly Legacy
- Developing Niche Field
- Forging Business & Government Partnerships
- Popularizing Research in Mainstream Outlets
- Finding Collaborators
- Modeling Innovative Teaching
- Launching Scholarly Career
- Improving Quality

Advancing Knowledge
Open access for Readers
- Affecting Public Policy
- Advancing Innovation
- Linking Global Experts
- Building Local Community
- Improving Access to Education
- Datamining Research
- Updating Practitioners
- Connecting Cultures
- Informing Prospective Applicants
PUBLISHER POLICIES FOR SELF-ARCHIVING

- Sherpa Romeo - http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/
- New Directions for Evaluation - yellow
- Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation - yellow
- Evaluation Program Planning - green
- Evaluation: The International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice - green
COPYRIGHT

• “Copyright is a form of protection ... granted by law for original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression. Copyright covers both published and unpublished works.”

• Applies to “literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software, and architecture. Copyright does not protect facts, ideas, systems, or methods of operation, although it may protect the way these things are expressed.”

• Owner controls reproduction, distribution, performance, display and production of derivative works such as translation

• **Copyright of dissertation or thesis belongs to student**

• Copyright protected from moment of creation when fixed in a tangible form

• Do not need to register, but have to register if want to bring a lawsuit

• Copyright Office [http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-general.html](http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-general.html)
COPYRIGHT FAQ

• Can I legally use the copyrighted material of others?
• Can I use previously published articles of my work?
• How do I get permission?
• Can I delay or limit the release of my thesis?
• Will publishers consider publishing my article or book if it is based on an open access thesis or dissertation?
PUBLISHERS & OPEN ACCESS ETD’S

• Most do not consider a thesis or dissertation as previously published or consider it “student work” that will require editing before being published

• MIT asked 20 publishers if they allow “submission of new article by author that first appeared as part of author’s thesis”*
  • 14 allow
  • 1 does not allow (American Society for Clinical Investigation)
  • 2 say policy varies by journal
  • 3 unclear (incl. Cambridge and Oxford University Presses)

• Taylor & Francis (includes Routledge) answered in an email:
  “It’s fine from our perspective for an author to submit a paper that has derived from their dissertation. I think it is a good idea to mention this to the editor in the submission process.”

* [https://libraries.mit.edu/]
AUTHOR RIGHTS

• Publishers will ask you to sign over copyright to them

• You have the right to negotiate the agreement

• SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition) Author Addendum
  • Secure your rights as the author of a journal article
  • Retain right to reproduce, distribute, prepare derivative works, etc.
  • Allows you to have in your professional pages & institutional repository

• Some publishers will charge a fee for making an article open access
  • Some universities pay this fee for faculty
SCHOLARWORKS ACCESS AGREEMENT

• All WMU theses & dissertations will be entered into ScholarWorks
• In the past - all were sent to the library in print – interlibrary loan
• All will be available from on campus computers
• May embargo for everyone else 1, 2, up to 10 years
• If embargo over 2 years, may need print copy for library

Exceptions:
• Research awaiting patent – may need to restrict completely until patent received, max 10 years
• Creative writing
CREATIVE WRITING

• Writers want control over their debut
• Many don’t consider their master’s thesis work polished enough for publication
• SW very Google optimized – may not want thesis to appear first for years
• May want to restrict to campus only
• May want to restrict to abstract only
  • Then – we need a print copy

From conversation with SW support person who went on to get a creative writing degree and now teaches writing.
### CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE

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Example from Austin McLean of ProQuest at the 2016 USETDA conference


"I'm the 38th author..."
"Wow, that sucks."
"I hadn't finished. I'm the 38th author called "Wang"."
"Oh."
ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26799652
SOLUTION: ORCID

• Persistent identifier that distinguishes you from other researchers that links you to your work

• Required by some publishers and funding agencies

http://orcid.org/
STILL WANT A PRINT COPY?

• [http://thesisondemand.com/](http://thesisondemand.com/)
What do you tell your grad students?