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Open Access Theses Publishing: A Status Report Six Months On

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ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT)

- The database of record for graduate research
- The only database of its kind
 - Over 2.5 million dissertations and theses
 - Over 2.3 million available in print and microform
 - Over 900,000 available in PDF format
 - From 1997 forward
 - Over 187 million pages of text
 - Over 5 terabytes of data
 - 24 page digital previews, too
 - Author written abstracts from 1980 forward for dissertations; 1988 forward for theses
- More than a 1,000 new graduate works are added to the database each week
 - PQDT is a constantly growing resource
- Close to 3,000 libraries around the world subscribe to PQDT
 - 70% of The Times' Top 100 Universities subscribe to PQDT Strict Editorial Control of Content and Metadata



ProQuest's Participation in open access / new publishing models

- ☐ Technology provider for DART-Europe 2004 2007
- Used ProQuest infrastructure to develop a global thesis discovery service...



Benefits of Published Database

- Assignment of Subject Headings and Keywords by trained Editors
- Content-Type Focus (e.g. only PhD and Masters Theses) means no unwanted data in searches (articles, senior theses, etc.)
- Guaranteed Access (no dead links)



Open Access Publishing Option

- Growing institutional / author interest in OA option
 - Interest in "author pays" model for publishing dissertations / theses
 - Desire lowest-cost model possible
 - PQ pricing: \$150 OA publishing; \$55 Traditional publishing
- Desire for choice between Traditional (Royalty) Publishing and Open Access model
 - Some institutions wish to provide author choice of models
 - Others will mandate either OA or Traditional model
- Continued interest in Publishing in PQDT due to "discovery" issues
 - Authors desire maximum dissemination
 - Many but not all will allow deposit in IRs

Open Access Publishing Explained

For users of PQDT:

- Title processed as with Traditional publishing
 - Index terms and keywords assigned
 - Abstract reviewed
 - Microfilm created
 - Full publishing in all dissertation / theses products
 - Cursory review of appendices for material under another copyright
- Flagged as "free download" in perpetuity for A&I and Full Text

For non-PQDT users:

- Set up web site accessible to all users of Internet
- Includes index terms, keywords, etc.
- Indexed by Google and other search engines
- Free full text downloading

Results

- Year to date:
 - Published 28 works Open Access
 - Published 35,000 works Traditional Publishing
- Reason for low take up is likely marketing-related
 - Getting word out to Graduate Deans and Libraries takes time
 - High level of interest expressed in last 30 days
- In future, expect to see OA publishing increase significantly
 - Federal mandates will cause immediate increase
 - Gradual increase expected without mandate