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Thinking Ahead: Dissertations & Theses

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Hacking the Stacks - Inside Scoop on Library Resources for Graduate Level Research from WMU’s Research Experts

Maira Bundza, ScholarWorks Librarian
Where are you?

- Master’s or Doctoral?
- Thesis or dissertation
  - Haven’t started
  - Have done literature review
  - In the middle
  - Finishing up
Finding other dissertations and theses

- Dissertations guide - http://libguides.wmich.edu/dissertations
- Dissertations and Theses Global (ProQuest)
- WorldCat Dissertations and Theses
- Center for Research Libraries - will order foreign dissertations
- Dissertations and Theses @ Western Michigan University
Getting copies of other dissertations and theses

- WMU Dissertations and Theses in print
- Dissertations and Theses @ Western Michigan University
- ScholarWorks - since 2012
- Dissertations and Theses Global(ProQuest) - more full text available each year
- Interlibrary Loan
Showcasing Work

- WMU wants to
  - showcase the work of its students and faculty
  - disseminate it globally
- Library has always kept all WMU dissertations and theses
  - Available through Interlibrary Loan
- ScholarWorks provides a platform
  - scholarly and creative work
ScholarWorks at WMU

Scholarly institutional repository

A digital showcase of the research, scholarly and creative output of members of the Western Michigan University community. The ScholarWorks repository is administered by WMU Libraries and serves as a permanent digital archive for these materials. For more information on ScholarWorks and SelectedWorks, see our ScholarWorks Guide. To find out how your work can be included, contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.
Advantages for grad students

- Higher visibility - Google optimized
- Show future employers or next grad school
- Permanent URL
- Make available to people around the world who don’t have access to the ProQuest database
- Get reports on how many people are looking at your work
- Become part of Digital Commons Network, a network of open access work in numerous academic fields
Electronic submissions

- All WMU dissertations and theses available on ScholarWorks from campus computers from 2012
- Electronic submission now mandatory
- Easier for everybody - don’t need to scan work
- Sign off on ScholarWorks Access Agreement
- May eventually be able to submit right into ProQuest and ScholarWorks
Embargoes

- Not make full text available to world until later
- If plan to publish or patent work, may want to embargo
- Most publishers do not consider a dissertation in a database a publication
- Some publishers do
- Embargo up to 10 years
- Designate embargo on ScholarWorks Access Agreement
Questions?

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