Electronic Theses & Dissertations and Open Access

Presentation for Open Access Week 2012 at Washington University

Brian Vetruba
bvetruba@wustl.edu
Oct. 23, 2012
ETDs and Future Publications

*To be open or not to be open, that’s the question!*

DATA

CONSIDERATIONS

RESOURCES
Data

Over 98.2% of alumni reported no publisher rejections due to ETD!

Most concerns in: Creative Writing, Chemistry, English, Science Programs, Engineering, and Fine Arts

McCutcheon (2010)
100 % of eds. from Classics, Philosophy, Theater; 66.6% from eds. of History of Soc. Sciences, Biomed. Soc. Sciences

Ramirez et al. (forthcoming)
University Press Respondents

"Manuscripts which are revisions derived from openly accessible ETDs are..."

- Not considered, 7.3%
- Limited to campus, 7.3%
- Substantially different, 25.8%
- Always welcome, 9.8%
- Case-by-case basis, 43.9%
- Other, 4.9%

- Always welcome
- Considered on a case-by-case basis
- Only if the contents and conclusions are substantially different from ETD
- Only if ETD access is limited to the campus where completed
- Not considered

Ramirez et al. (forthcoming)
Comments from Publishers

Thesis ≠ Article or Monograph

• Rework to fit the publication
• Revise for broader audience and appeal
• Go through peer review and/or editorial board
• Overall, quality more significant than open access
“Any dissertation that’s on the Internet and has taken on a life of its own, that would be a selling point to me”—University of Iowa Press director

“If authors have an opt-out option [for open access of a dissertation], I would recommend that they do opt out, at least until their first book is published”—Ashgate Publishing Group editor

Howard (2011)
Considerations

- Discipline/Subject
  - Consult faculty advisors, junior faculty, peers, librarians
  - Check with publishers

- OA items cited more often
- OA can help make your name known in field

- Future patents
- Questionable copyrighted material in thesis
- Sensitive information in thesis
Resources

- WU Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
  - [http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/dissertation](http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/dissertation)

- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations
  ETDs and Future Publication Potential for Graduate Students
  - [http://www.ndltd.org/resources/statement-about-web-publication](http://www.ndltd.org/resources/statement-about-web-publication)

- Sherpa/RoMEO [Information about publishers’ policies]
  - [http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/search.php](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/search.php)

- Publisher Policies: Thesis content and article publishing [Mainly science-related publishers]
Bibliography

http://chronicle.com/article/The-Road-From-Dissertation-to/126977/


Thank you!

bvetruba@wustl.edu
@bvetruba