

Free US ETDs (FUSE)

Promoting Open Access to American graduate research

Graduate Students Re-FUSE !

This is something of a Wall of Honor for those generous thesis and dissertation authors who choose to share their works freely over the Web, and a show of support for those who are not allowed to by institutional policy. Their tweets are embedded here directly from Twitter. No re-copying or re-distribution involved — thus copyright friendly 😊

How cool, my 1998 PhD thesis now on @figshare with its own doi! Just in time, I had almost deleted it! <http://t.co/mopd6QAqoa>

— Peter Wilf (@RadioGondwana) March 18, 2014

University of Minnesota doctoral student set his work free in the university repository AND FigShare!

*Design of a Hydraulic Dexterous Manipulator for Minimally Invasive Surgery
<http://t.co/bY8RodorWH> my dissertation on @figshare*

— Devin Berg (@devinberg) March 17, 2014

*It will take ProQuest longer to print and mail my thesis than it took for me to write it.
#delayed #upset*

— Kacie Henderson (@KacieHenderson) October 2, 2013

Grad students, regardless of what you've been told, Proquest does NOT "publish" your thesis or dissertation. Maybe "post" or "endorse."

— *Micah Vandegrift (@micahvandegrift) September 17, 2013*

*Good and bad about Proquest Good: Doesn't exclusively license (so *I* can make my own work freely available) Good: Easy copyright reg*

— *Edward Amsden (@fmapE) August 20, 2013*

Good and bad about Proquest: Bad: Attempt to extort money to make non-exclusively-licensed work open-access (\$95)

— *Edward Amsden (@fmapE) August 20, 2013*

Tweets exchanged between two AHA historians opposing required PQ upload for graduate works:

@Jason_M_Kelly Just as fundamental: ProQuest upload req 4 conferral of degree. PQ OA costs author \$\$ so OA=barrier to degree. @AHAhistorians

— *Kalani Craig (@kalanicraig) August 12, 2013*

@kalanicraig @AHAhistorians This is sig. problem w/ model of outsourcing — esp. when university libraries can host repositories

— *Jason M Kelly (@Jason_M_Kelly) August 12, 2013*

@adelinekoh ah okay I see it is in proquest dissertation & thesis under paywall. The phd thesis in NUS are almost all open access.

— *Aaron Tay (@aarontay) July 25, 2013*

Digital Humanities scholar set her dissertation free on her own website:

*#asdias folks! Now online, my diss: "Inventing Malayanness" on colonial malaya!
@tseenkhoo @socialacademic @calvinhyj <http://t.co/CYrdrJHQiK>*

— *Adeline Koh (@adelinekoh) July 24, 2013*

File this one under 'I can make copies of my own work myself, thankyouverymuch!':

Is anyone else troubled by messages like this from @proquest "You can order copies of your dissertation at a discount." Uh...thanks?

— *Marjee Chmiel (@mchmiel) August 6, 2013*

The AHA needs to get its facts straight. The ProQuest Dissertations & Theses database is about as free as a yacht in Navy Pier.

— *Jarrett M. Drake (@JarrettMDrake) July 23, 2013*

Open Access advocate, blogger and tweeter Mike Taylor (@MikeTaylor) does a Twitter 'Intervention' with a graduate student, suggesting the thesis be published OA to arXiv.

I explored the hybrid scientific, cultural, artistic and historic identities of mounted dinosaur skeletons in museums #TweetMyThesis

— *Ben Miller (@Bhmlr) July 8, 2013*

.@Bhmlr Sounds awesome! Where is your thesis? If not yet #OA, please upload to #arXiv ASAP! <http://t.co/3kX6ZpNzgX>

— *Mike Taylor (@MikeTaylor) July 9, 2013*

@scott_bot Ack! Hate open-access models that require author funding. ProQuest dissertation open access required \$\$ I don't have, so no-go.

— *Kalani Craig (@kalanicraig) June 27, 2013*

Student's response on being notified he was being added to *Graduate Students Re-FUSE !*:

@Repositorian You're welcome. Knowledge—even my diss ;-)-should be free.

— *Starts with a C (@christopherink) May 16, 2013*

Kudos to this University of Florida graduate student for posting his OA dissertation online at

the Internet Archive (<http://archive.org>). Great solution for graduate students who want to set their ETD's free!:

My dissertation is now posted online: archive.org/details/sexpro... Don't ask me what it means, because I don't remember.

— *Starts with a C (@christopherink) May 9, 2013*

This can be a big IF, underscoring why it is so important to set ETD's free via Open Access!:

@edwardjblum interracial friendships is a rich topic; eg. here's a dissertation if you have ProQuest access udini.proquest.com/view/interraci...

— *Gerardo Martí (@praxishabitus) May 8, 2013*

FYI: If you still have any sort of academic affiliation, you can get .pdf copies of dissertations through ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.

— *Steven White (@notstevenwhite) May 8, 2013*

Admonition from another ETD author who wishes she'd refused....

Proquest is esp gnarly; blocked my digital diss RT @mwidner: Vendors are aggregators w/contracts with publishers @timothybristow #hastac2013

— *virginia kuhn (@vkuhn) April 27, 2013*

From a recent graduate student who might be wishing he'd set his dissertation free:

Wow, a month after submitting the dissertation and it's still not available in ProQuest. Hurry up! #newspaper #media #paywall #mrx #newmr

— *Mike Donatello (@researchologist) April 20, 2013*

In the 'What did they put in the water this morning' category, a new tweet stream among graduate students and young scholars takes on the issue of student copyright, PQ submission, Grad School requirements, and more.

Now I clean my desk. Final submission of #PhD2013 is done for today.

— Jessica Morrison (@ihearttheroad) April 17, 2013

It costs \$95 to make my dissertation open access. Free to go the traditional/royalties route. Ugh.

— Jessica Morrison (@ihearttheroad) April 17, 2013

@ihearttheroad free to just upload to your IR or institutions ETD service though, yeah?

— Jason Priem (@jasonpriem) April 17, 2013

@jasonpriem I'm pretty sure I have to pay a \$30 publishing fee just for that. My total is \$180. \$95 for OA, \$55 for copyright, \$30 publish.

— Jessica Morrison (@ihearttheroad) April 17, 2013

@ihearttheroad If you don't retain the copyright to your dissertation, you need to raise a big fuss. @jasonpriem

— Tom Johnson (@no_reply) April 17, 2013

@no_reply @ihearttheroad I'm confused...who must you to pay money to? You've got got the copyright, you've got free publication venues, ya?

— Jason Priem (@jasonpriem) April 17, 2013

*@jasonpriem Usually Proquest. e.g. gradschool.oregonstate.edu/success/thesis...
@ihearttheroad*

— Tom Johnson (@no_reply) April 17, 2013

@no_reply @jasonpriem It's ProQuest...and I already paid.

— Jessica Morrison (@ihearttheroad) April 17, 2013

@ihearttheroad @no_reply Gotcha. Well, your call of course. Seems perverse to me that they'd charge extra for something you can do free.

— Jason Priem (@jasonpriem) April 17, 2013

@jasonpriem @no_reply I'm not sure that I could have published it anywhere even with

the copyright had I not selected open access. #toomuch

— Jessica Morrison (@ihearttheroad) April 17, 2013

@ihearttheroad @jasonpriem There's a lot of confusion about this, but you certainly could have. Proquest's fees: proquest.com/en-US/products...

— Tom Johnson (@no_reply) April 17, 2013

Publishing your Masters thesis has never been easier with tools like #arxiv and @figshare bit.ly/XSPWe4 #egublogs

— Jon Tennant (@Protohedgehog) April 18, 2013

Students take notice that PQDT Open is not as open as one might hope, due to lack of support for CC licensing.

[For more on this topic, check out presentation from ETD2012 conference: Open Access Publishing of ETD's: Requirements and Implications of complying with Budapest, Bethesda and Berlin]

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Looked up creative commons-licensed UC dissertations via Proquest, but somehow Proquest reserves all rights anyway. WTH. @zephoria

— Al Javieera (@AlJavieera) April 15, 2013

@aljavieera Berkeley required Proquest submission. My CCed dissertation is available for free here: bit.ly/1FU1lv

— danah boyd (@zephoria) April 17, 2013

According to @researchgate my dissertation was downloaded 47 times last week! @socphd (there r ppl who read dissertations?!)

— Janelle Christensen (@JanelleJeanne) April 17, 2013

bless this child for putting his dissertation up on a public website instead of locking it behind the proquest paywall YOU GET A GOLD STAR

— *Dominique (@dimensionwitch) April 10, 2013*

To Masters students at #EGU2013, if you're not going to publish your thesis, consider using @figshare! e.g. bit.ly/X5fUJk

— *Jon Tennant (@Protohedgehog) April 9, 2013*

@adsabs: is it pos to add a link for a thesis + UMI/Proquest one? my diss (bit.ly/11IoSsx) is OA here bit.ly/aamn_uflib

— *August Muench (@augustmuench) March 26, 2013*

If only more students would Re-FUSE!

@alexibaker Do you have a PDF of Alistair Kwan's PhD thesis? My uni doesn't have the necessary ProQuest access ;-(

— *Thony Christie (@rmathematicus) March 31, 2013*

Student's tag says it all:

I am required to submit my #dissertation to ProQuest. So I pay them \$25 to have my content. WTF?

— *Michael J. Altman (@MichaelJAltman) March 20, 2013*

Trending PQ Optional! Another graduate student (this one at University of Illinois) protests mandatory submission to a commercial dissertation reseller! Check out the Graduate Manifesto for model language to use in such a request — worked like a charm at Texas A&M!

If I want to write a letter to my university about how I think they shouldn't be requiring proquest deposit, who should I send it to?

— *Karen Wickett (@karenwickett) February 22, 2013*

Another testimonial about the impact of posting ETD's via Open Access:

@dajbelshaw I still love the story abt valuable theoretical correction you rec'd on your dissertation by having it posted openly. #etmooc

— Alison Seaman (@AlisonSeaman) February 18, 2013

MT @tjbliss: My openly licensed dissertation: "A Model of Digital Textbook Quality..." #opened #oer @creativecommons tjbliss.org/dissertation/

— OER_MKD (@OER_MKD) February 19, 2013

Another vote for posting OA ETD's on FigShare

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. @jeannegarb: "Consider putting your thesis on @figshare. Someone will actually read it." #rusmfs

— Allie Wilkinson (@loveofscience) February 11, 2013

Tweet from a graduate student who perhaps is wishing he *had* refused....

:

I've had to call @proquest twice about my dissertation order. I love how 4 weeks has turned into 12 wks and I'm still getting gouged on it.

— Drew Morton (@thecinemadoctor) February 6, 2013

Finalized my thesis w. ProQuest ~1 month ago, but still unavailable. However, posted it on OpenThesis.org: instantly available to all.

— Kyle Enger (@engerks) December 24, 2012

In the wake of the FUSE interview with Carl Boettig discussing why he posted his OA dissertation to FigShare, a slew of other recent scientists are doing the same:

I just posted my dissertation to @figshare following @cboettig's lead.

dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.fig... #openscience #OA

— Ethan White (@ethanwhite) January 16, 2013

Mine bit.ly/WooQyeMT @ethanwhite: posted my dissertation to @figshare on @cboettig's lead. dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.fig... #openscience #OA

— Scott Chamberlain (@recology_) January 16, 2013

ditto dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.fig... RT @recology_: Mine bit.ly/WooQyeMT @ethanwhite: posted dissertation to @figshare dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.fig...

— Stephen Turner (@genetics_blog) January 16, 2013

The #PDFTribute movement encouraging academic writers to post their work online, OA recognizes that dissertations are an important component of that academic corpus to be set free:

#pdftribute 1 of biggest “walls” in academia is Proquest Diss DB. Dissertation shld be free too. Mine is here: bit.ly/Y4EbAO

Amen to that!

had been meaning to do this for sometime, posted my DPhil thesis @figshare figshare.com/articles/The_L... also submitted to Oxford ORA.

— Graham Coop (@Graham_Coop) January 13, 2013

This tweet underscores the fact that, counter to myths (and marketing spin), ProQuest's ETD database is by no means comprehensive.:

Wow, just did a ProQuest search for 2 people's dissertation in a NATIONAL database, and I can't find them...

— E Marie Sanders (@EMarieWrites) January 7, 2013

Comics creator Nick Sousanis, a doctoral candidate at Teachers College, Columbia

University, is posting his dissertation online chapter-by-chapter (or comic – by comic). Check out his [blog site](#):

Ch2 of my comics dissertation online in its entirety – on ways of seeing and being from multiple perspectives spinweaveandcut.blogspot.com/2013/01/chapte...

– Nick Sousanis (@Nsousanis) January 3, 2013

From a Post Doc Fellow at the Dept. of Plant Biology, Carnegie Institution for Science, Stanford, CA.:

Just uploaded my thesis to @figshare: Long distance iron transport and metabolism changes in iron deficient plants shar.es/43IQ2

– Ruben Rellan (@rubenrellan) January 4, 2013

And also my thesis defense presentation shar.es/43DaI via @figshare

– Ruben Rellan (@rubenrellan) January 4, 2013

Tweet from digital library architect John Mark Ockerbloom, who has just placed his dissertation in the Public Domain. Note that it never went to ProQuest, underscoring the point that the commercial database is not as comprehensive as libraries think (or wish):

I put my dissertation into the public domain yesterday. In my Public Domain Day 2013 post, I explain why: everybodyslibraries.com/2013/01/01/pub...

– John Mark Ockerbloom (@JMarkOckerbloom) January 2, 2013

@repositorian No, I never sent it to ProQuest, but I've had it online since I turned it on. There's a link in the blogpost.

– John Mark Ockerbloom (@JMarkOckerbloom) January 2, 2013

Tweet from a doctoral student in Astronomy & Physics at the University of New Mexico, who is blogging about his dissertation and providing open access to the manuscript in real time as it is edited in Google Docs:

My Dissertation: It's time to get this party started! So here is my dissertation edited in

real-time. Feel free ... bit.ly/UZao6n

— Anthony Salvagno (@Thescienceofant) December 17, 2012

Tweet from a user who could benefit from open access to ETDs:

Any of my tweeps have access to Digital Dissertations (ProQuest)?

— Laura C. Lorenzana (@ArchivalBiz) December 18, 2012

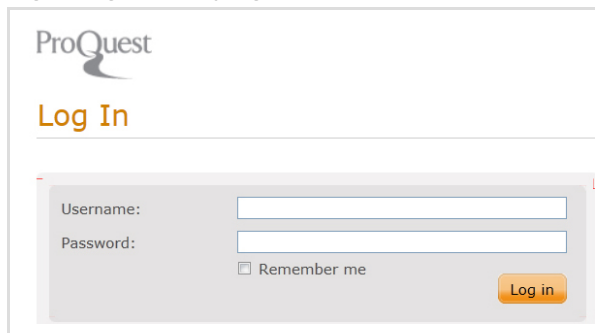
Tweet about dissertation that was, unfortunately, NOT set free:

Neuroethics, Gender and the Response to Difference

search.proquest.com/docview/117057...

— Silvana Tapia (@silvilunazul) December 18, 2012

(which is why the link provided takes us to a login page for paying customers...)



Tweet from doctoral student in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois:

Are any universities having conversations about why they (still) require students to submit dissertations to ProQuest?

— Karen Wickett (@karenwickett) December 17, 2012

Two responses to this tweet:

@pmhswe @karenwickett Yes. Check FUSE blog and even ETD-L. It's still outré enough that most convos hush-hush, tho.

— Ondatra libskoolicus (@LibSkrat) December 18, 2012

@pmhswe @karenwickett Stanford dies not require. Stopped a few years ago.

— Chris Bourg (@mchris4duke) December 18, 2012

Tweet from Grad Student in Mass Comm Research @ CU Boulder about PQDT Open Access publishing:

I want to open-access publish my thesis but it costs \$95. Traditional publishing is free. #wtf

— Anthony Collebrusco (@acolleb) December 6, 2012

Tweets from Ph.D. graduate student in biological oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Quick #OA question Twitter friends! Should I pay \$95 to make my dissertation open access thru ProQuest or just stick it on my own website?

— Miriam Goldstein (@MiriamGoldste) December 11, 2012

Thanks for #OA dissertation advice! \$95 is kinda a lot right now so gonna put it on @figshare & personal website. #lovemytweeps

— Miriam Goldstein (@MiriamGoldste) December 11, 2012

More tweets...

power of digitization: my #dissertation has been online for a week & already I have had several emails & one from a publisher #digital

— Carrie Griffin (@CarrieGrif) December 4, 2012

And this tweet from an FSU graduate student in Library/Information Science:

I love this. @tamu PhD student received waiver from submitting dissertation to @proquest via @repositorian. bit.ly/YL9D6t #OA

— Chealsye Bowley (@chealsye) December 4, 2012

Another tweet...

*@bkeegan Does ProQuest add *any* value at all? I assume you'll just put it on your*

website.

— Reid (@reidpr) November 30, 2012

Another comment....

Preparing to buy 1987 dissertation. Wish older dissertations would be post-processed into inst repos. Why must UMI/Proquest have monopoly?

— Kevin Ford (@3windmills) November 14, 2012

Series of tweets from doctoral student wanting to set his dissertation free, for free

Brian Keegan @bkeegan 30 Nov
This is why we can't have nice things, academics: ProQuest charging me \$95 fee to publish my dissertation under an open access license.

Brian Keegan @bkeegan 30 Nov
@reidpr They want to sell you this, that, and the other thing for promoting, printing, registering copyright.
[#DeadBusinessModelWalking](#)

<Upon learning of a free OA website where he could post his dissertation>

Brian Keegan @bkeegan 30 Nov
@Isinger Ah, interesting. My bureaucracy requires submission through ProQuest, but I may send another copy here. Thanks for heads up!

