

The Electronic Publication of the Doctoral Thesis –

Are You interested ?



Worldwide online
immediately
available



Worldwide scientific
intercommunication



Worldwide scientific
reception

Online theses and dissertations offer many advantages for authors and for the science !

- It is **very inexpensive** as against the publication in print or by commercial publishers
- The publication process as well as the successive acquiring of the academic title goes **very quickly** (the mandatory publication will be accomplished by publication via the internet)
- There are **manifold presentation possibilities** (aside from texts or graphics, it is possible to publish audio- and video-materials, animations, simulations, programs etc.)
- After publication, the document will be **available immediately** for the scientific use
- **Selective enquiries** for author, title, publication year, subjects, abstract or within the theses' full-texts
- **Worldwide availability** of the document; that allows the worldwide cross-linking of new perceptions on the subject
- **Immediate retracing** of references and citations stated in the online documents

Is an additional publication of my thesis by commercial publishers possible if the document has been published electronically before ?

Yes, that is possible. The libraries have **no objection** at all against additional commercial publishing. It will depend, though, on the matter if You can find a publisher that would carry out such an additional publication (whether in print or by other media).

When considering a contract with a publisher, You have to pay attention to ensure that the original electronic publication on the library's server will not be affected (e.g., by transferring **all** utilisation rights to the publisher).

If You are looking for supporting material to check up the contracts You've been considering, You can find a prototypical contract together with explanations and information on co-operative publishers via

<http://www.dissonline.de/Volltexte/Verlagsvertrag.pdf> (document in German).

You can compare the publishing contracts with the prototypical wording and make sure if an additional commercial publication is possible without any affection of the original online version. You should try to position those prototypical wording in the negotiations with the publisher – the freedom of contract also applies to publishing contracts !

How are enquiries for online theses and dissertations to be made ?

You will find the online theses and dissertations on the servers of the different universities or university libraries; sometimes in special publication archives for electronic academic publications, sometimes via the online catalogues of the libraries.

Comprehensive theses collections are available via the online catalogue of **Die Deutsche Bibliothek** (German National Library), via dissertation search engines such as **THEO** or via publication unions such as **OPUS** (the links to the cited search and enquiry options have been collected by the information site <http://www.dissonline.de>). Many online theses and dissertations can also be found by most of the commonly used Internet search engines (e.g., „Google“).

How can online theses and dissertations be used ?

After their publication, the online theses and dissertations can be used for scientific and private purposes in full-text and without any fees, within the scope of the copyright laws (the appropriate German copyright law is the "Urheberrechtsgesetz"). They can be used worldwide for science and research.

The libraries within their bounds of possibility guarantee the permanent access to the online publications (e.g., by awarding of persistent identifiers) and provide for the long-term availability of the documents.

Where do I enquire if the online publication is possible for my subject area and where could I get technical support ?

Ask Your university library !

In general, the university libraries are responsible to publish the online theses on servers and to support the authors and the publication process. The libraries provide information on the necessary file formats and how to create them. They provide tutorials and tools to create documents in the appropriate formats and to transfer the electronic documents to the library.

For questions concerning the electronic theses and dissertations:

Co-ordination Agency DissOnline at Die Deutsche Bibliothek

Contact Persons: Dr. Nikola Korb, phone 069-1525-1703

Dr. Thomas Wollschläger, phone 069-1525-1757

dissonline@dbf.ddb.de

Homepage: <http://www.dissonline.de>

For questions concerning the graduating process:

The proper graduation office ("Prüfungsamt") of the special faculty or department and the deanery of the faculty.

Are there further information resources on the online publication ?

Visit the internet information site <http://www.dissonline.de> !

There are provided comprehensive information all around the electronic thesis and dissertation, e.g., on the publishing, enquirement for theses, juridical subjects, and formats. Furthermore, <http://www.dissonline.de> presents the links to all projects and libraries at German universities that provide electronic publications.