



MAY 20 2011

UCC Certified

MEMORANDUM

To: Elaine Charlson, PhD
Executive Associate Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs

RECEIVED APR 08 2011

From: Margaret Watson, PhD
Director, Graduate and Professional Studies

Date: April 7, 2011

Re: GPSC 6851 11S

This memo is to notify you that the Graduate and Professional Studies Council has voted to approve a policy requiring that all dissertations and theses be submitted electronically within the next five years. Students may still print copies if they desire, but the official University copy will be electronic.

01-07-11 P03:59 IN

Request that Council review the Electronic Dissertation/Thesis ProcessRECEIVED APR 08 2011


In the spring of 2006, GPSC approved a request from the MD Anderson Library to begin moving all dissertations and theses to electronic formats (ETDs) rather than hard copy. This request was made based on the fact that there was limited storage space in the library, as well as the fact that not all dissertations/theses were being sent to the library. Thus, the dissertation repository was incomplete. The policy approved by Council specifically approved a pilot project with a follow up report to Council on the status of the project. Since that time the pilot has expanded, and is ready for a formal review.

The initial pilot begun in 2006 only included the PhD programs in Pharmacology/Pharmaceutics and Physiological Optics and Vision Sciences. These initial efforts were uploaded into a home-grown system developed by the UH library staff.

In the spring of 2009, however, the Texas Digital Libraries developed a new software product for housing ETDs, and U of H made the switch to the new system. Since that time, more than 50 dissertations and theses have been uploaded into the UH library from the following programs:

- All education doctoral degrees (fall of 2010)
 - All theses will be added to the system as well, beginning in the spring of 2011
- All dissertations in Vision Sciences and Physiological Optics (since 2006)
- All dissertations in Pharmacology and Pharmaceutics (since 2006)
- All dissertations in Management Information Systems (since spring 2009)
- All theses in the School of Communication (since fall 2009)

Bauer College of Business require all dissertations to be submitted electronically in the spring of 2011, and Social Work is considering the same proposal.

The staff of GPS and of the MD Anderson library are requesting that Council approve that all dissertations/theses be electronic within the next five years.

Additional information on the benefits of using ETDs as well as a list of Universities in the US who only accept electronic documents is attached for your review.

ETD FAQ

What it means for students/faculty, and their departments:

- Improves access to scholarly research because it makes your work accessible to anyone with an internet connection
 - Easy worldwide access for your colleagues and collaborators
 - Easy worldwide access to theses/dissertations for job and grant applications
- Free publicity for your research - the authors of electronic theses become more widely known and their reputations are enhanced. In fact, this process can increase the likelihood of being cited. Data suggest that Open Access increased citation 50 to 500%*
 - This leads to increased rewards from universities, in the form of promotion and increased salary, and from granting agencies.
- Repository is more convenient than making and maintaining your own webpage*
- Supports your claim to the research you do. You can validate your claim by the upload date.*
- A raised profile for your research institution
- Reduced costs for the student at the point of graduation since there is no need to have multiple copies printed.
- Some institutions implementing ETD programs have reported massive levels of use (thousands, or even tens of thousands of downloads) from around the globe.***

*http://eprints.utas.edu.au/view/authors/Sale,_AHJ.html

**<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/thesescanada/027007-3100-e.html#benefit>

*** <http://www.arl.org/resources/pubs/rli/archive/rli270.shtml>

Colleges	Departments	First Semester Involved
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Bauer

Management Information Systems	Fall 2009
All PhD Programs	Fall 2010

Education

Kinesiology School	Fall 2009
Psychology	Fall 2009
All PhD/EdD programs	Fall 2010

CLASS

Communication Sciences and Disorders	Fall 2010
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Physiological Optics and Vision Sciences	Fall 2007
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Pharmacy

Pharmaceutics	Fall 2007
Pharmacology	Fall 2007

Universities who only accept Electronic Dissertations
2010

- Baylor University
- California Institute of Technology
- California Polytechnic State University
- Colorado State University
- Duquesne University
- East Carolina University
- Georgia Tech
- Kansas State University
- Louisiana State University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- McGill University
- Miami University in Ohio
- Mississippi State University
- Montana State University
- North Carolina State University
- Ohio University
- Oregon State University
- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Christian University
- Texas State University
- The Ohio State University
- The University of British Columbia
- The University of Texas
- University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Connecticut Health Center
- University of Creighton – Ohio
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Illinois- Urbana/Champaign
- University of Manitoba
- University of Maryland
- University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- University of Memphis
- University of North Texas
- University of Oregon
- University of Ottawa
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of South Florida
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville

- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- University of Victoria
- University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Wake Forest University
- West Virginia University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Yale School of Medicine