



Dear Colleague:

This is just a brief heads up to let you know that ProQuest/UMI has arranged with Google/Google Scholar to allow searching on the current and most recent prior year's dissertations and theses. Soon, Google searches will begin to access abstracts and bibliographic information (title, author, date of publication), while the full text will continue to be restricted.

Searchers will have two choices to obtain the full text of the title. The first option will give instructions for finding the title in digital format through the library's subscription to the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Database. Secondly, consumers will have the option to purchase soft-cover print copies of the same (current and most recent prior year) dissertations and theses via Amazon.com, where they are already available.

Excluded from these distribution channels are dissertations and theses that are embargoed, restricted, or from Canadian universities.

Students who publish their titles with ProQuest/UMI can opt out of participation in these distribution channels by contacting our Author Relations team at dispub@il.proquest.com. We encourage you to discuss the advantages of the broad public availability of scholarly research with students who express concerns. Additionally, you may wish to remind students that as long as they maintain current contact information with ProQuest/UMI, they earn 10% royalties on sales when royalties accrue to at least \$10.00 in any year.

Please feel free to use the FAQs below to communicate with your graduate students. We hope this will help you inform students about the benefits of exposure to their research via Google and Amazon.com.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly by phone at (800) 521-0600 ext. 2591 or by email at cathleen.may@il.proquest.com

Sincerely,

Cathleen L. May, PhD
Director, Dissertations Publishing
ProQuest Information and Learning

Fast Facts about ProQuest, Google, and Amazon

Expanding access to Dissertations and Theses

What's new?

Now, your graduate works have better exposure than ever. ProQuest/UMI has arranged with Google to allow searching on the current and most recent prior year's dissertations and theses. Searches will access abstracts and bibliographic information (title, author, date of publication).

Amazon.com continues to be a retail source for purchasing digital and now print copies of dissertations and theses.

Searches will not include Canadian dissertations/theses, nor any that are embargoed or restricted.

Is this good for graduate students?

Most scholars benefit from increased exposure to their published work, so the ubiquity of Google and Amazon should benefit most graduate students. Additionally, these new dissemination avenues broaden author exposure beyond the traditional research community.

Authors earn royalties on sales through Amazon.com and Google Scholar. Please remind students that as long as they keep their contact information up-to-date with ProQuest/UMI, they earn 10% royalties payable in any year that royalties reach a minimum of \$10.00.

Is this good for my institution?

Increasing the public availability of scholarly research is a goal shared by many sectors of society, including federal funding agencies and philanthropic foundations. Your institution's governance and alumni, your community, your state legislators are constituencies who will be pleased to find graduate works available through familiar resources like Amazon and Google.

A statement about convenient and reliable public availability of graduate work in grant proposals and reports is a good way to help satisfy the outreach and impact expectations of federal funding agencies.

What about Open Access and free institutional access?

Our efforts through Google and Amazon are about expanding the availability of dissertations and theses *beyond* the scholarly community. Obviously, these commercial sources are not intended to substitute for the kinds of liberal and/or free access that researchers normally have to dissertations and theses.

And of course, dissertations and theses published under our new Expanded Publishing with Open Access model will not be listed on Amazon.com, since the authors are paying to make them free to everyone.

What if a student/author doesn't want their work to be made available through Google Scholar or on Amazon.com?

ProQuest allows several ways to restrict access, in whole or in part. Students/authors who prefer not to see their work distributed for sale to the public can direct ProQuest to place a restriction on their dissertation/thesis. We can restrict sales through 3rd parties, such as Amazon.com, but allow sales to the academic community through our traditional, direct channels.

Students/authors who have reasons to more fully restrict the distribution of their work should work

with the graduate school and ProQuest/UMI at the time of submission to arrange embargo or restriction.

Finally, students/authors who prefer to offer free access should submit their dissertation/thesis under our new Expanded Publishing for Open Access option.

Are you going to inform students?