Supporting Innovation in Dissertations and Theses

Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D.
Vice President & Dean for Graduate Education
Professor, Sociology and Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise

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Historical and traditional aspects of research thesis and dissertation

- original research
- independent research
- public defense
- archiving (library)
- authorship
- withholding access
- committee membership
- format (chapters)
Recent changes

• electronic thesis & dissertation
• public abstract
• plagiarism detection software
• ePortfolio
• and more
Examples from Virginia Tech

- General guidelines
- Creative possibilities
  - Story of a girl
  - Rest areas
  - Building structures
- Orbital
Adaptations and modifications

• traditional chapter format
• manuscript format
• variable formats - poetry, music, photography, architecture, theatre, and more
• digitally creative formats
quality guidelines in 21st C university
• original research - new knowledge and understanding (what is research?)

• independent research - team science and collaboration, practice based research

• single authorship - co-authors and multiple authors
• public defense - public defense and multiple audiences, public abstract

• archiving (library) - multiple platforms challenge

• format (traditional format) - ETD, manuscript (article) format, creative formats, digital format
• withholding access - open access, open data, open science and beyond

• committee memberships - academic and experts outside academia
Mentimeter questions: Activity #1

• what changes have you made?
• what are the barriers you faced in making changes
What changes have you made to the thesis/dissertation?
What barriers do you face in making changes

- critical partnerships
- focus on academic jobs
- unwillingness to adapt to
- time-intensive faculty buy-in
- few discipline
- Tradition
- faculty resistance
- no strategic planning
- campus culture
- traditional mindset
- inertia
- public perception
- undisciplinary differences
- archiving
- publishers
- training
- behind-the-scenes
- graduate council
- standardization
- library