PQDT Global, a Uniquely Valuable Resource: What Researchers Get from the World’s Largest Curated Collection of Dissertations and Theses

Trust. Access. Reach.

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What is PQDT (ProQuest Dissertations & Theses) Global?

- Largest single collection of PhD dissertations and master’s theses in the world
- A unique collection that no other vendor can rival or match

http://www.proquest.com/libraries/academic/dissertations-theses/
Support, Commitment and Appreciation

• 2008  700+ (NA, A&I records from UK)
  214 New Institutions
  (NA, SA, Middle East, Europe, Asia)

• 2013  No ProQuest, ProQuest Optional  (28)

• 2016  U of Michigan, VA Tech, UC Ill-UC, Queen’s

• 2017  214 new institutional partners since 2008
National government deals for PQDT

- Russia
- Pakistan
- Turkey
- South Korea
- Egypt
- Israel
- Sweden
- Italy
- Thailand
- China
- Malaysia
- Iran
- Canada
Select consortia, corporate, and NGO deals
Why do thousands of institutions from all over the world subscribe to PQDT Global?

- Trust
- Access
- Reach
Trust
History of PQDT Global

- **1939:** Eugene Power starts collecting, archiving, and distributing dissertations through the University Microfilms International (UMI) company, which years later would become ProQuest
- **1951:** ProQuest’s dissertations collection is designated a *database of record for graduate research* by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- **1998:** PQDT is named the *official off-site dissertations repository* by the U.S. Library of Congress

[Images of Microfiche sheet and Library of Congress]
Dissertations in PQDT Global provide trusted models

PQDT Global models how dissertations are

structured

and which

elements

they must include.
Dubious ethics and unreliability of fee-based dissertation writing services

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Behavioral, natural, and physical sciences

- Results and data from lab experiments, field work, and surveys
- Datasets associated with journal articles, including rarely published negative results

Sample data from dissertations in PQDT Global
PQDT Global offers trusted models to students writing theses or dissertations in the *humanities*

**Arts, business, Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences**

- Audio, video, text and data mining, musical scores, and other digital objects
- Primary research not published in journals

*Sample content from Humanities dissertations in PQDT Global*
PQDT Global offers trusted models to students writing theses or dissertations about thousands of different subjects.
Little known dissertations by well known individuals

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**
*A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman* (1955), Boston University

**Stephen Hawking**
*Properties of Expanding Universes* (1966), Cambridge University

**Eichi Negishi**
*Basic Cleavage of Arylsulfonamides [&] The Syntheses of Some Bicyclic Compounds Derived from Piperazine Which Contain Bridgehead Nitrogen Atoms* (1963), University of Pennsylvania

**William Moerner**
*Vibrational Relaxation Dynamics of an IR-Laser-Excited Molecular Impurity Mode in Alkali Halide Lattices* (1982), Cornell University

**Temple Grandin**
*Effect of Rearing Environment and Environmental Enrichment on Behavior and Neural Development in Young Pigs* (1989), Yale

**Sadako Ogata**
*Japanese Foreign Policy Making in the Manchurian Affair* (1963), UC-Berkeley

**David Petraeus**

**Madeleine Albright**
*The Role of the Press in Political Change: Czechoslovakia 1968* (1976), Columbia

**Noam Chomsky**
*Transformational Analysis* (1955), University of Pennsylvania
Dissertations on hot-button issues

*Disarmed: the Real American Gun Control Paradox*  
(2003) by Kristin Anne Goss, Harvard University

*Muslim Women and the Hijab in Britain: Context and Choices*  
(2013) by Katherine Mackay, University of Derby

*The Effects of Social Media on College Students’ Descriptive Norms of and Intentions to Engage in Risky Sexual Behaviors*  
(2018) by Gabrielle Groth Hoover, SUNY-Albany

*Priming and Negative Priming in Violent Video Games*  
(2016) by David Zendle, University of York

*Nationalism and Islands Dispute in the East China Sea*  
(2017) by Makoto Kurokawa, University of Oregon

*The Derelicts and Delinquents of Nuclear Nonproliferation*  
(2017) by Justin Garvin, University of Miami

*Climate Change and Psyche: Mapping Myths, Dreams, and Conversations in the Era of Global Warming*  
(2014) by Sally Gillespie, University of Western Sydney

*Satirical Fake News and the Politics of the Fifth Estate*  
(2011) by Ian Reilly, University of Guelph

*Beyond the Doors of White Supremacy*  
(2014) by Catlyn Kenna Keenan, University of Denver

* Full text available through PQDT Global
What is the core value of PQDT Global?

PQDT Global provides

*access*

to unique sources that are central
to scholarly research
Key elements of PQDT Global’s core value: breadth and depth

**Breadth**
Access to 4.5 million dissertations (2.2 million full text) in dozens of different academic disciplines

**Depth**
Access to thousands of dissertations within a single discipline
Family History...there is a Dissertation for that!

October is Family History Month and genealogy, as well as family histories, are topics that appear in the ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global database.

Read More »

Food Studies (Online)...there is a Dissertation for That!

Food is an invaluable lens for examining developments in gender roles, class structures, government, health, technology, and more.

Read More »

Play Ball! Baseball is Back...there's a Dissertation for that!

A search of the word "baseball" in ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global yields over 85,000 results, showing the popularity of America's National Sport.

Read More »

Inspiration and the Library...there is a Dissertation for That!

Inspirational dissertations on how librarians have impacted communities, including their work to break down gender and racial barriers in their profession.

Read More »
A study published in PLOS|One was based on analysis of 910 psychology dissertations selected at random from PQDT Global, which features almost a million dissertations in behavioral sciences.

This is one of several examples of ProQuest partnering with scholars to conduct original research.
Breadth and depth are also key elements of individual dissertations

**Breadth**

Dissertation topics are far more comprehensive than the relatively narrow topics addressed in journal articles.

**Depth**

Dissertations cover topics with far more specificity and rigor than is possible in review or summary articles.
Communicative constitution of the social organization: Issues of identity, conversation, and text in the social media context


While social media policies seem to be popular discussion topics in nonacademic literature and a few participants mentioned the more general idea of “social media governance,” very few actually admitted to having a social media policy and nobody was able to produce a copy.
Breadth and depth: case study #2

Moral dilemmas and moral luck

Devils and Dice
Industry relies on academia for basic research and evaluating clinical trials

Academia relies on industry for funding, equipment, and infrastructure

Successful collaborations
- Statins and reduction in deaths from cardiovascular disease in 1980s
- Anti-HIV medicine and reduction in deaths from AIDS in 1990s
Abstract

Japan’s existing pharmaceutical industry was devastated in the Second World War. But the industry recovered quickly, and in 1963, Japan had become the second largest producer of pharmaceuticals after the United States. Unlike its automobile or electronics industries, however, Japan’s pharmaceutical industry did not become a global leader. Japan remains a net importer of pharmaceuticals and few Japanese drugs are found outside of Japan. The global pharmaceutical industry is led by firms from the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, rather than those from Japan.

This thesis traces the development of the Japanese pharmaceutical industry after 1945, and offers several explanations for why it did not become a world-leading industry. It
Breadth and depth: case study #4

Creation of collaborative research centers at national universities and elimination of restrictions on private funding (1980s-90s)

1996 – 2016

Encouragement of universities to establish technology transfer offices, which involve academics consulting with and working for private companies (2000s)

In government policy studies, dissertations can’t be ignored.
Breadth and depth: case study #4

Partnering government laboratories with industry: A comparison of the United States and Japan from a government laboratory view


The effects of institutional attributes on policymaking in Japan: The case of MITI and the Ministry of Education in the area of academia -industry collaboration

PQDT Global provides access to overviews, citations, and supplemental files

Summaries and systematic or literary reviews provide authoritative topic overviews

Comprehensive sets of citations and references speed up the research process and minimize chances of missing important credible sources

Large datasets, video recordings, and other supplemental files are valuable research materials rarely available in print
PQDT Global provides access to an increasing number of dissertations that used to be available only in print

- Every year, through the Digital Archiving and Access Program (DAAP), PQDT Global adds dissertations previously accessible only in print (part of ~200,000 added annually)
- Institutions who participate in DAAP preserve long-term access to their dissertations and protect against loss or damage from aging, theft, or natural disasters
- Securing digital access to dissertations allows for space reclamation and modernization of the library experience

ProQuest recently signed a deal with the University of Manchester to digitize thousands of dissertations
PQDT Global provides multiple ways of accessing dissertations and other important research materials. Researchers can also access dissertations alongside journal articles and other valuable sources.
Reach
PQDT connects authors with the global research community

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3. millions more researchers who use specialist indexes
Dissertations submitted to PQDT Global may be designated as *open access*, which makes them available to researchers at institutions that don’t subscribe to PQDT Global.

Dissertations in PQDT Global are retrieved four times more often than journal articles in other high-use academic databases.
Through PQDT, institutions increase their reach by promoting their students’ research

- Participating institutions can access the Dissertations Dashboard, which tracks usage of dissertations written by their students

- The Dissertations Dashboard illustrates multiple dimensions of institutional reach
In this presentation, I have not . . .

• focused on specific features in PQDT

• described how ProQuest organizes and adds to dissertation metadata

• detailed the benefits to libraries of DAAP

• broken down dissertations in PQDT by discipline, country, language, etc.
Thank you for the continued support of PQDT GLOBAL and the researchers who rely on it. Much appreciated!

Marlene Coles

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