Horses for Courses
Outline of presentation

- Mandate
- Background on digital theses at UWA
- Trends in access
- Issues
- Future
Digital theses mandate

- Australian digital theses program resulted in the following mandate:
  Any student who started their candidature during and after 2003 must deposit a copy of the thesis in the digital thesis repository

- Rules for Higher degrees research only:
  “Unless otherwise approved by the Board, after a thesis submitted for the Doctor of Philosophy has been classified as Passed, one copy is retained by the University Library, one copy is placed in the appropriate school, a digital copy is placed in the University's Digital Thesis Repository, and the remaining copy or copies are returned to the student through the school.”
Digital theses mandate

- All theses are made open access unless a restricted access application has been approved
UWA Digital theses repositories

- Directory of files linked to the catalogue
- Migrated into the UWA Research Repository (Digitool) in 2010
- Migrated into Pure in 2014
Process

- Thesis examined and passed
- Changes made by student
- Certification of final version (including repository authorisation)
- Bindery
- Library
- Research Repository + OneSearch + Special Collections
Number of UWA digital theses
**UWA Restricted Theses 2003 - 2013**

**Total number of restricted theses by faculty**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Total in Repository</th>
<th>Total restricted</th>
<th>% Restricted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arch, L/scape and Vis Arts</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng, Comp and Maths</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med and Dent</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1031</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>2551</strong></td>
<td><strong>232</strong></td>
<td><strong>9%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Issues

- Increased theses by publication or as series of publications
- Lack of understanding - Open Access and ability to negotiate
- Predatory publishers
- Confusing thesis authorisation paperwork
- Empty discs and flash drives
- Difficulty in contacting students once they’ve left
- Confidentiality
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“To be honest I am not 100% sure - part of chapter 2, including two tables, was published as an article in the journal *Early Medieval Europe* in 2011. The thesis as a whole has been revised for publication by Brepols at the end of this year. Would these publications infringe any 3rd party copyright regulations?”
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“Thanks so much for the information. Actually I am not aware of this issue until you highlighted it. I think I didn't have the publisher permission since I haven't asked for it. I opt for restrict the access, and how should I go about that?”
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During the examination procedure, it has been suggested that I should publish my thesis. Shortly, I will be working towards publication, taking into account the observations of the examiners.

How can I make sure that putting my thesis on the UWA repository will not infringe my chance of having my thesis published by an international publisher?
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Future Directions

- Change in graduation rule (if no digital copy)
- Better training for HDR students
- More information for supervisors
- Simplifying thesis licence
- Transitioning to electronic only
Questions?

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University Library  
University of Western Australia