Leicester eTheses
Copyright, Open Access & Practical Issues for Supervisors

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Regulations at Leicester

• For students’ final, corrected thesis:
  - Two print copies required to be submitted
    • To the Graduate School offices
    • Must include signed paperwork
  - One digital replica required to be submitted
    • To the institutional repository (LRA)
    - Most if not all UK HEIs now require this too

• Graduate School & Library web pages
  - Provide more information, documentation & guidance
  - Library student training via SDSS programme
Leicester eTheses Today

- eThesis is an electronic facsimile of the print
  - Close as allowed under copyright & other restrictions
  - Hosted on the institutional repository
  - Print is the “definitive version”

- Theses show up in monthly top 10 LRA items
  - The Leicester Research Archive (institutional research repository)
  - Leicester’s research output globally desirable resource
  - Readership 10 - 100 times greater than print
  - Evidence points to no impact on publishing
Benefits of Open Access eTheses

- **Enhances accessibility & discoverability**
  - Enhanced global readership prospects
  - Protects against plagiarism

- **Increases visibility**
  - Enhances professional visibility & early career reputation
  - Professional recognition for your scholastic contribution

- **Increases citation & referencing**
  - More visible work is more likely to be cited
  - Citations crucial for professional advancement
  - Permanent, stable URL link for life
What Happens to the eThesis?

- It will go into
  - Leicester Research Archive & EThOS

- Scholars will find it via:
  - Specialist search tools (e.g. OpenDOAR search)
  - Index to Theses Online
  - Google (and other search engines)
  - Visitors to the LRA/EThOS or direct links

- Older theses also being added to both EThOS & the LRA
Copyright Issues

- UK legislation differs depending on thesis format
  - Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 (amended)
- Print thesis
  - “for purposes of examination” exemption
    - No permission needed to use less than a substantial portion of third party material
    - Required to acknowledge source
- Digital ethesis
  - Considered to be “communicated to the public”
    - Permission required to include third party material
    - Appreciation of copyright required
- Formal written/emailed audit trail required
  - Verbal assurance not sufficient
Start requesting permissions

The less time they leave…

Permissions all agreed & recorded

The greater the….
Other Issues

• Does their thesis contain sensitive information?
  - Commercial, ethical or otherwise confidential
  - Funder restrictions or conditions on sharing

• Planning to publish thesis elements
  - Concerns over restrictions
  - Permission to include an item in a thesis is NOT permission to include in another publication

• Might mean can’t make the theses available electronically as is...
Delaying Online Availability

- **Temporary Moratorium**
  - Up to **three year** delay after date of PhD award
  - Delay allows for publication from thesis
  - Not added to LRA/EThOS until expiry date

- **Embargo**
  - Three year rolling reviewed restriction
  - Only granted for ethical, commercial or security reasons
  - Apply to Senate via the Graduate School **3 months** BEFORE submission
  - Requires supervisor co-signature & support

- **Alternative** -> edited version on LRA
Practicalities

• Discuss eThesis issues with supervisor
  - LRA team & Copyright Administrator can advise

• At final submission students
  - Can request a moratorium
  - Can note an embargo if one has been approved
    • Has to be granted by Senate before submission

• Must provide the LRA team with an electronic (PDF) thesis copy in all cases
Support & Advice

- **Graduate School for thesis submission, forms etc.**
  - www.le.ac.uk/departments/gradschool/resources/thesis

- **Library provides advice on archiving, copyright etc.**
  - www.le.ac.uk/li/lra & www.le.ac.uk/copyright
  - Contact ethesis@le.ac.uk or copyright@le.ac.uk

- **IT Services provides advice on creating PDFs**
  - Contact ithelp@le.ac.uk

- **Direct students to supervisors**
  - To advise on suggested moratorium periods, embargos & publication
Questions

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