An Intriguing Initiative to Improve Visibility and Access to Theses and Dissertations from the University of Florida

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USETDA Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina  
September 27, 2019
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

MISSION: The University of Florida is a large, comprehensive research university. We are a diverse community dedicated to excellence in education and research and shaping a better future for Florida, the nation and the world. Our mission is to enable our students to lead and influence the next generation and beyond for economic, cultural and societal benefit.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

With an enrollment of over 53,000 students, UF is home to 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes.

Over 30% of UF students are in graduate and professional degree programs.

UF awarded 772 Ph.D., 1,211 Professional, and 4,353 Master’s degrees in 2017-2018.
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

UF has required ETDs since the incoming class of 2001.

The Smathers Libraries preserve and provide access to 31,880 UF ETDs in the Institutional Repository (IR@UF).
  • 18,578 ETDs submitted electronically
  • 13,302 ETDs digitized by the Smathers Libraries

UF theses and dissertations represent a unique and an important body of intellectual property that the authors and the university wish to make broadly available. The Smathers Libraries play a major role in the process.
RETROSPECTIVE DIGITIZATION TO CREATE ETDs

In 2006, the Smathers Libraries began its Retrospective Digitization Project.

• Initially an Opt-In Program, it became an Opt-Out Program in 2012.
• Dissertations have been the main focus of the Project.
  • 12,322 of 14,115 (87.3%) dissertations have been digitized.
  • 163 of ~32,000 (0.5%) theses have been digitized.

In 2017, the Smathers Libraries contracted with Access Innovations to create enhanced metadata for all of its ETDs using the JSTOR thesaurus.
ENHANCED METADATA FOR UF ETDs

This sample record from the pilot project clearly demonstrates the enhanced metadata:

EFFECTS OF HABITAT TYPE AND STRUCTURE ON DETECTION PROBABILITIES OF AMERICAN ALLIGATORS (*Alligator mississippiensis*) DURING NIGHT-LIGHT COUNTS By CAMERON BLAIR CARTER (2010)

Original Record
Limited Author-Assigned Keywords

Enhanced Record
Additional Computer-Assigned Controlled Vocabulary Topical & Geographic Terms
THE INTRIGUING INITIATIVE WITH bibliolabs

In Fall 2017, the Smathers Libraries were approached by BiblioLabs to test the concept of creating print-on-demand files for ETDs, which could be made available for sale by online retailers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

This concept was shared with the UF Graduate School and Graduate Student Council. Focus groups were held to present the concept to graduate students and obtain their feedback. The concept was well received.

In September 2018, the Libraries signed an agreement with BiblioLabs.
HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Smathers Libraries provide the digital files and the metadata to BiblioLabs, initiate contact with authors, and promote the service.

BiblioLabs formats the files for POD and places them with online retailers, with an option for hardback or paperback.

The sales price is fixed, regardless of the number of pages or the presence of tables, graphics or color illustrations.
HOW DOES IT WORK?

There is no cost to the author to participate, and participation is entirely at the discretion of the author.

Authors receive a 20% royalty on revenue after expenses.
  • UF waived its right to an institutional fee to increase the royalty rate from 10% to 20%.

BiblioLabs provides monthly sales reports.
AUTHOR AGREEMENT

The author agreement is between the author and BiblioLabs.

In the agreement, the author grants BiblioLabs the non-exclusive right to sell and distribute their work commercially. There is no transfer of copyright.

The agreement has an initial period of 10 years from the date of execution and automatically renews for successive 10-year periods unless canceled by the author. Author may remove their work from the program at any time by notifying BiblioLabs.

If they agree to the terms, authors opt in to the program.
**SCREENSHOT OF THE CURRENT OPT-IN PROCESS**

I would like to make my thesis or dissertation available for sale in print.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Middle name</th>
<th>Last name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thesis/Dissertation Title
Toward a scientific criticism of literature

Subtitle (optional)

Graduation year
1981

ORCID (optional)

Description

Keywords:
criticise, criticism, interpretation, etc, literature and science, biological evolution, consciousness, genetics, humans, literary criticism, literature, paradigms, puzzles, social evolution

Category

Dissertation URL
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00026504/00001

I have read, understand and agree to the terms and conditions

FAQ

- I am very committed to Open Access for my research; does this program compromise that?
- How much does this program cost?
- Are there rejections?
- What role does the university play in this process?
- Can I take down my thesis or dissertation?
- Does the program respect copyright?
- What will my print research look like in its printed form? How are the covers handled?
- How are the theses and dissertations set up on Amazon?
- How will the research be proofed?

If you have any questions about the program don't hesitate to contact us: support@bibliolabs.com

CONTINUE  NO THANKS
INITIATING THE PROJECT

To begin, the Smathers Libraries sent outreach emails to alumni authors of works from 1934-2006 from the Retrospective Digitization Project.

- These works were selected because they have some of the most complete metadata and contact information of titles in our ETD Collection.

These outreach emails explained the new service and invited authors to include their work by reviewing the author agreement and opting in.
Dear [Name],

The George A. Smathers Libraries are pleased to announce a new service available to University of Florida alumni with graduate degrees who have completed a thesis or dissertation. It is our goal to make these works, whether submitted digitally or digitized from print, searchable and easily located using Internet search engines. Placing these digital versions in our institutional repository (IR@UF) allows the full scope of scholarship produced at the UF to be available across the world. Though the digital copies are free to access, some people still wish to obtain printed copies for personal use. To meet this demand, we have partnered with Bibliolabs to make it easy to fulfill these requests with high-quality, full color print books in both hard and soft covers.

To include your work, [Redacted] in this project:

- You must opt-in to participate.
- You must agree to a non-exclusive license authorizing Bibliolabs to manage the sale of your book.
- You must have the rights to publish your complete work for commercial purposes.
- You must provide some personal information, which Bibliolabs will use to pay you royalties when your book sells.
- Once you have opted in, Bibliolabs will use the existing PDF of your work, provided by the IR@UF, to create a print-on-demand bookfile with a cover, ISBN, and a short description of the content.
- Information about your book will be shared with online book retailers around the globe, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.
- Hardcover books will be priced at $69 and softcover books will be priced at $49. The price will not be impacted by number of pages, nor presence of color illustrations.
- When an order is placed, a copy is printed and shipped to the designated recipient and you earn a 20% royalty; royalty payments are made once a month.

To opt-in to this innovative new program, complete your personalized Open Access Publishing Agreement at [Redacted]. There you will also find answers to frequently asked questions and more detailed information about the program.

If you have any further questions, please contact our Scholarly Repository Librarian, Chelsea Johnston, at cjohnston@ufl.edu.

Thank you,

[Signature]

Judith C. Russell
Dean of University Libraries
George A. Smathers Libraries
University of Florida
PARTICIPATION

Since late 2018, the Libraries have emailed 6,217 authors.

As of September 2019, 640 authors have opted in to the program.
  • 94% opt-in rate for people who open the invite emails
  • 11% total response rate

We have received many positive responses from alumni.
  • “Go Gators!”
“I think this is a terrific idea. Not for the bucks, [but for] giving the broader scientific and engineering community access to some very fine bodies of work.”

Dr. James H. Adair, Professor of Materials Science & Engineering, Pennsylvania State University

“Believe it or not, I never got a hard copy of my own dissertation! I wish to order one through the program.”

Dr. John Deal, Historian, Library of Virginia
SALES

424 unique titles are available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, with new titles to be added.

- The first batch of titles went live in January 2019.

1,808 total units have been sold.

- Top-selling subjects include Technology and Engineering (29% of sales), Science (23%), and Education (11%).
- Architecture has the highest sell-through rate (8.25%, with 4 titles available and 33 units sold).

Authors have earned over $11,000 in royalties.

- Royalties are paid monthly via Paypal
- Average author has earned $27 in royalties to date
Motion Control of a Citrus-Picking Robot

by Thomas Pool (Author)

Abstract

A robotic mechanism was developed to locate and remove citrus fruit (specifically oranges) from the tree individually. The system uses color vision for finding the fruit and “picking” the actuator toward the fruit. It continues with an ultrasonic sensor to measure the distance from the end-effector to the object. The real-time motion control algorithms which control the three servo-axes of the robot to point the picking actuator toward the fruit and to extend the actuator toward the fruit. When the fruit is determined to be within the picking range of the robot, the picking mechanism is actuated to grip the fruit and the fruit is removed from the tree.

Dissertation Discovery Company and University of Florida are dedicated to making scholarly works more discoverable and accessible throughout the world. This dissertation, "Motion Control of a Citrus-Picking Robot" by Thomas Alan Pool, was obtained from University of Florida and is being sold with permission from the author. A digital copy of this work may also be found in the university's institutional repository, IR@UF. The content of this dissertation has not been altered in any way. We have altered the formatting in order to facilitate the ease of printing and reading of the dissertation.

Read less
SAMPLE BOOKS
IR@UF usage statistics were calculated for a sample set of 32 opt-in titles and 2 opt-out titles.

- Average unique visits are 244.3 visits for opt-ins vs. 163 for opt-outs.

This early analysis indicates that titles in the BiblioLabs project have higher use than titles that are not included.

A larger data set generated over a longer period of time is needed for a comprehensive view. We continue to monitor and analyze potential patterns.
NEXT STEPS

Our focus will shift to current students to allow opt in at submission of their ETDs.

Those graduates will benefit uniquely, as the program provides an opportunity to establish early-career visibility with more current research.
NEXT STEPS

For the next phase, we will be using a new opt-in form developed by BiblioLabs.
Moving forward, the BiblioLabs program will be managed by a new department in the Smathers Libraries: Digital Partnerships and Strategies (DP&S).

DP&S is comprised of a Chair and UF’s Scholarly Communications Librarian, Scholarly Repository Librarian, and LibraryPress@UF Designer and Coordinator.
THANK YOU!

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UF Students, Faculty, and Alumni are known as the Florida Gators!