Forget to Publish Your Thesis Electronically?

It is never too late to publish your thesis. As an author, it is to your advantage to have your work published on the internet since it makes it easily accessible, meaning increased citations, allowing your work to have much more impact.

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New Journal Publication Service

LiU E-Press, with the help of funding from Kungliga Biblioteket has launched a new Journal Publication Service (JPS). There has been significant, increased interest in starting international journals at LiU because of the visibility and recognition it brings to a research group, coupled with the potential resulting from electronic publishing: niche journals, poster journals, multimedia etc. For more information see the related information sheet.

Record High Publication Rate for LiU Doctoral Theses in 2006

As of the end of February, 2007, 73% of the Ph.D. theses produced at LiU during 2006 were published electronically. For monograph-style theses we publish the entire document. For “collection of papers”-style theses, the thesis summary is published and direct links are given to the articles. For the 27% which were not published at LiU E-Press, the bibliographic data is published (author’s name, thesis title, abstract, etc.) so that there is a complete record of LiU theses, available and searchable internationally through search engines such as Google. Compared with last year, these publishing figures represent a doubling of the publishing rate. The increase has mainly been the result of a large manual effort by LiU E-Press to follow up with graduates who failed to publish electronically in the first instance. This effort was not sustainable and so routines at the faculty level have been implemented beginning in January, 2007, that ensure that virtually 100% of theses are electronically published automatically meeting the University’s policy on thesis publication.

Of course the question is, how much interest is there in these theses? In 2006 E-Press’s web site had 560 000 visitors, who downloaded 380 000 theses (including undergraduate reports). 56% of these were accessed via Google and 65% from an international server.

The number of times that an individual thesis has been read can be seen by visiting most read theses and then selecting “Show all”. Plans are to make this information available when one looks at a thesis’ web page. The following figure summarizes the number of times LiU theses are downloaded (on average 162 times).

Highlighting our Publishing Editor: Peter Berkesand

Peter Berkesand began working at LiU E-Press in the Autumn of 2002 as publishing editor, with the main duties to check and publish documents (e.g. conference articles, journal articles, series articles, Ph.D. and Licentiate theses etc.) submitted to E-Press. Peter also works closely with authors to provide assistance with graphical layout, sound and video files and databases to complement, e.g., a Ph.D. thesis. Over the years, Peter has built up a significant knowledge of copyright rules as applicable to electronic publication. Peter’s activities include participation in national projects, such as the DIVA project, in which LiU’s electronic theses and student reports are published. Peter led the transition to the DIVA system in 2005. Additionally, Peter regularly gives lectures both at Linköping and nationally on electronic publishing and its possibilities.

Peter has a Bachelor of Art in History and has worked at LiU since 1993, first at the Department of Health and Society and later at the Center for Local History.

The Potential of Electronic Publishing

The power of electronic publishing goes beyond just the advantages of greatly increased circulation. The real potential of electronic publishing relative to printed copy, is the ability to incorporate more advanced publication forms. As an example, in a thesis summary, an author might refer to a figure in one of her/his published articles. When reading the printed version of the thesis, the reader must flip back and forth between the two sections in the document. In the electronic version, we can add a link from reference to the figure in the document text, which opens a new window with the figure in it; easy and convenient. A more advanced example is the incorporation of video clips and interactive figures (e.g. ones where the view of a piece equipment can be rotated). The thesis by Marcus Rösth (see Figs 5.6 and 5.25) is a good example.

Beyond video and sound, interactive simulations, links to research data, programme source code and other support material are all possible.

If you have ideas of your own but are unsure how to accomplish them, feel free to contact us: ep@ep.liu.se

New Issues of IJAL and Hygiea

The international journals Hygiea Internationalis (www.ep.liu.se/ej/hygiea) and IJAL (www.ep.liu.se/ej/ijal) will publish new issues this Spring: 2 for Hygiea and 1 for IJAL.

What can we do for you? At Electronic Press, we publish theses, conference proceedings, peer-review journals, historical databases and research series. As an author, the biggest advantages for electronic publishing are the unrivalled availability of your work and the potential for you to make use of multi-media to present your work. As well, if you are looking for information, try searching the publications we have; there is a good chance you will find something of interest.

For more information about LiU E-Press and how we can help you, please visit www.ep.liu.se. If you would like us to come and talk about electronic publishing, contact us also at ep@ep.liu.se

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