

Procedure for Handling Failed Theses

With the new procedures in place in the Faculties for the workflow for the electronic publication of Ph.D. and Licentiate theses, a thesis is officially published prior to being defended and as such there is a risk that it will be failed after publication or the thesis will be withdrawn prior to the defence. LiU E-Press policy is that once a document has been published, it cannot be retracted unless there is a legal or ethical motivation for doing so (*e.g.* copyright or secrecy issues).

In the Libris system, failed theses are most often dealt with by adding the comment “Ej godkänd diss.” to a comment field, in the catalogue entry for the thesis. The policy of the National Library (not necessarily followed by other libraries) is that the document will no longer be classified as a thesis, it will be noted as “återtagen” and will not be lent.

It is proposed that LiU E-Press adopt a similar policy: in the case in which a thesis is failed after it has been electronically published, a note will be added on the webpage for the thesis “Underkänd avhandling” (“Failed thesis” in English) in bold type. This will be displayed just after the row where readers can choose to download the full text and before rows with the author’s name, thesis title, abstract etc. In this way the status of the document will be clearly apparent. For the cases where a thesis is withdrawn prior to being examined, the text to be used will be “ej framhandlade avhandling” or “withdrawn prior to defence of dissertation”.

Furthermore, the thesis will be removed from the “theses” classification in DiVA and reclassified as a “Report”.

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