Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) at SFA

The SFA Graduate School and the Center for Digital Scholarship have developed a pilot electronic thesis submission program for graduate degree students utilizing ScholarWorks, the University's institutional repository platform. The program is set to begin in Spring 2016.

Benefits of ETDs

Transitioning to an electronic thesis and dissertation program provides benefits for graduate students and the University. ETDs expand the creative possibilities open to students and empower them to convey a richer message by permitting video, sound, and color images to be integrated into their work. Submitting and archiving ETDs help students to understand electronic publishing issues and provide greater access to their research. The program also reduces students' costs associated with binding and commercial database submission.

Researchers can link directly and freely to the ETD collection that showcases graduate research at SFA. This worldwide accessibility enhances the visibility of the University, the colleges and departments, and the quality and variety of research completed by graduate students.

Improved Visibility and Accessibility in the Catalog

Previously, catalog records were created by librarians for paper copies of theses and dissertations. Now, as students upload their ETD documents into ScholarWorks they select and create appropriate descriptive metadata that can be repurposed to provide additional access to their work in local and national catalogs. This is an advantage for librarians who can harvest and edit the information rather than create catalog records as done in the past.

Participants in the Pilot Program

The Graduate School ensures that theses have been prepared in conformity with prescribed requirements, and posts the approved final versions in ScholarWorks.

Colleges and departments along with faculty advisors approve the subject matter, methodology, organization, content, and format of theses. They also review and evaluate theses to certify that degree requirements are met.

Students are responsible for all aspects of the preparation of the thesis or dissertation and possible publications based on the thesis or dissertation research. They are responsible that forms, fees, and deadline requirements are met.

The Center for Digital Scholarship provides training for graduate students and others prior to the ScholarWorks upload process including file naming, PDF creation, metadata requirements, etc. It provides guidance or training as needed regarding permissions and copyright information.

ScholarWorks

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