

Mina Rees Library

library.gc.cuny.edu


DIGITAL DISSERTATIONS FORMERLY DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

WHAT IS DIGITAL DISSERTATIONS?: Also known as ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, the database indexes over 2.5 million dissertations and theses from more than one-thousand institutions. Approximately 70,000 dissertations and theses are added each year. Citations are available from 1861 and abstracts from 1980. Most American universities and many international institutions participate in this resource.

Additional foreign dissertations can be searched in the Center for Research Libraries' dissertation catalog: www-apps.crl.edu/catalog/dissertationSearch.asp. Also see the British Library's Electronic Thesis Online Service (EThOS): ethos.bl.uk/Home.do.

ACCESSING DIGITAL DISSERTATIONS: Go the Mina Rees Library Web site (library.gc.cuny.edu) and click **Databases**. Home access is explained at library.gc.cuny.edu/using-the-library/remote-access.

SEARCHING FOR CUNY DISSERTATIONS: To limit a Digital Dissertations search to CUNY, type **0046** in a search box and change the dropdown menu to **School name/code**, or use the separate Digital Dissertations (CUNY Only) database. Digital Dissertations indexed 11,410 CUNY dissertations as of August 2012. Full text was available for 5,932 of these.

FULL TEXT OF DISSERTATIONS: The full text of most CUNY dissertations and most from other universities submitted beginning January 1997 is available for free, as are many before this date. When the records for such dissertations appear, click the  [Full Text - PDF](#) button. Note that some dissertation authors have chosen not to allow full-text access and that there is a gap of months between the time new dissertations are listed and the text becomes available. The availability of the text of pre-1997 dissertations is constantly expanding. There is no full text of master's theses.

SEARCHING: You may enter up to three search terms in the advanced search. You may perform a citation and abstract search or limit any of the terms to such fields as author, title, school, subject, etc. **Index terms (keywords)** searches are generally more effective than subject searches. Use the **Look up Subject names**, **Look up Index terms**, and **Look up School names** functions to aid in your searches. Use the **Browse** function for lists of subjects and countries of origin.

To find master's theses, select **Master's theses** beside **Manuscript type**. When searching for CUNY master's theses, it is best to include the name of the specific

campus: Baruch, Hunter, etc. Theses written at the Graduate Center do not appear in the database.

BOUND VOLUMES: Abstracts of 1964-1980 dissertations may be found in the bound volumes of **Dissertation Abstracts International** on the second floor of the library. Ask for directions at the reference desk.

FINDING CUNY DISSERTATIONS: CUNY Graduate Center dissertations from 1989 to the present are available for consultation in the **Dissertation Reading Room** on the first floor of the library. They are filed by year and then by author. If you do not have this information, you will need to search Digital Dissertations or the CUNY Catalog. Dissertations for 1966-2001 are shelved near the 34th Street side of the reference shelves on the second floor. Most CUNY dissertations are cataloged in the CUNY Catalog.

ORDERING DISSERTATIONS: Dissertations from other institutions may be requested through interlibrary loan. Some institutions, however, do not lend dissertations, and most that do lend microfilm versions only. To purchase a dissertation, find it in Digital Dissertations, and click the **Order a Copy**. Format and pricing options will appear on the subsequent screen.

DISSERTATION ASSISTANT: For information about depositing your CUNY dissertation, see Judy Waldman in room 2304 on the second floor of the library. She may be contacted at 212-817-7069 or at jwaldman@gc.cuny.edu. See library.gc.cuny.edu/thesis-and-dissertation-guide for more information.

ADDITIONAL HELP: Ask dissertation-related questions at the reference desk on the second floor, call 212-817-7077, or use the library's electronic **Ask-a-Librarian** service on its Web site.

A CUNY Graduate Center Mina Rees Library Guide
Revised November August 14, 2012