



## OPEN ACCESS

# COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING

### What is Open Access?

The now common usage of the term “open access” means freely available for viewing or downloading by anyone with access to the Internet. Graduate students can now publish their dissertations and theses with ProQuest on an open access basis, significantly increasing the reach of their research.

The ultimate goal of Open Access is to ensure the widest possible distribution of a given publication, such that researchers around the world can easily access important research and new findings.

Once published, open access ensures that graduate works are made available to the widest possible audience of the author’s research. Relevant questions are addressed below.

- **How much does it cost to publish graduate works on an open access basis?**  
There is a \$95 fee to support Open Access publishing for Graduate works that are submitted under Open Access.
- **When should students publish their graduate works on an open access basis?**  
It depends on the nature of the research: If you want the widest possible distribution of your work, or if you have benefited from public funding, you would be well served by the Open Access publishing option. It is the best way to ensure world wide access to one’s graduate research. Conversely, if a dissertation will contain patentable or other sensitive material, then one should consider using Traditional publishing option instead or applying embargos on the release of the manuscript.
- **PQDT Open:** Open access titles can be retrieved via the ProQuest database PQDT Open (<http://pqdtopen.proquest.com/>). Anyone with access to the Internet will be able to read and download open access dissertations and theses for free.

### What is Traditional Publishing?

Traditional Publishing at UMI corresponds with the model that generated the publishing industry as soon as mass-reproduction of printed material was possible. That is, the owner of intellectual property and author of the work contracts with the publisher to reproduce, distribute, and sell copies of the work. The publisher pays the author a certain portion of the revenue thus generated.

## Why do we offer both options for publishing your work?

The scholarly community in particular has benefited as more and more of its reference materials and the latest literature in every discipline becomes available online—especially when it's free whether or not you or Southern University – John B. Cade Library subscribes to the publication. The primary literature is accelerating toward open access as scholarly publishers work to create new business models that will support this demand while sustaining the quality of their product.

At the same time, society is rapidly altering its notion of intellectual property, as access to information becomes a mouse click rather than a trip to the library or bookstore.

## How do you choose between Open Access and Traditional publishing?

- Check in with the graduate school first. Southern University may require that you publish for Open Access, particularly if your research was supported by federal funds.
- Check into any restrictions imposed by a funding source. If your work was funded by *industry* or a *corporate interest*, as part of their research and development efforts, there may be some restrictions on the dissemination of all or part of your published dissertation or thesis.
- If you have a patent pending, or there is patentable work in your dissertation or thesis, you should already be working with Southern University's Office of Research and Strategic Initiatives. If this is the case, see Embargo Policy for Theses and Dissertations and take appropriate steps to ensure that any patentable rights are protected.
- Next, check in with your *advisor*, *committee chair*, and *any committee members*. Your disciplinary committee may share strong sentiments either for or against open access publishing. In some disciplines, open access is seen as a threat to the peer-review system because of the financial stress it causes for non-profit scholarly societies who publish journals. Other fields share a common and strong ethic *for* open access particularly if its contributions are important to individual and societal decision-making.

## What about Copyright and Open Access publishing?

There certainly is good reason; if not more reason to retain and protect your copyright if you publish open access, though you must decide for yourself about registering your claim. By giving open access to your work, you are inviting people to read, reference, think about, build upon, refute, and perhaps even enjoy your work. You are NOT granting the right to take your work as one's own and/or to use it as one's own and/or to use it for commercial purposes without your permission. That is copyright infringement.

## Can graduate students choose the Open Access Publishing option and embargo access for a limited time?

Yes, graduate students can choose to embargo, or restrict access to, the full text of an open access graduate work. However, at Southern University the option of embargoing (i.e. delaying release) of a dissertation or thesis is for *6 months, 1 year, or 2 years*. However check with your *advisor, committee chair, and any committee members*. Your disciplinary committee may share strong sentiments either for or against. Southern University students requesting delayed release of their work must obtain approval and signatures from the head of their academic department and the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Graduate Council must approve requests for embargos that exceed two years. The embargo begins when the graduate work is submitted to ProQuest (as opposed to when it is published).

## What if a dissertation published as open access contains copyrighted material?

If material covered under another copyright is discovered as part of the publishing process, and the author has not supplied the necessary permission to use it in his/her work, ProQuest **will not** make the graduate work available until the issue is resolved. It is the author's responsibility to supply any necessary copyright clearance at the time of submission.

## Will authors get royalties for versions that are sold?

No, they will not. When authors choose to publish open access, they waive their rights to royalty payments.

The Embargo Policy for Theses and Dissertations is available online at:

<http://www.subr.edu/assets/GradSchool/EmbargoThesisDissertationPolicy2012.pdf>

## Open Access Publishing from ProQuest versus Traditional Publishing

	Open Access Publishing + Dissertation: \$95.00 Thesis: \$95.00	Traditional Publishing + Dissertation: \$0 Thesis: \$0 (fee depends on submission method used)
Open Access Publishing from ProQuest†	√	
Optional Exposure to search engines	√	√
ISBN assignment	√	√
Editorial review	√	√
Bibliographic indexing	√	√
MARC record on request	√	√
Published citation and abstract	√	√
Fulfills Mandatory Deposit Requirement with Library of Congress	√	√
Appendix check for copyright issues	√	√
Digital preservation and dissemination	√	√
Microfilm archiving and preservation	√	√
On-demand print copies	√	√
UMI ETD Administrator* available	√	√
Copyright filing available (\$55.00) service fee	√	√

\* Our online submission and administration tool.

† Publishing fees in effect as of 2010-2011 academic year. Publishing fees are subject to change.