How do future publication plans affect theses availability in UiT’s open access research archive?
Background and research questions

• Background
  • Munin is UiTs institutional archive
  • Master and PhD theses are delivered directly through Munin and can be made openly available on-line.
  • Despite of this some candidates chose to not make their theses openly available.

• Research questions
  • What are the reasons for not making theses openly available through Munin?
  • What factors could influence this decision?
Collection of theses publication data

• Study I and II: Analyzing metadata from previously delivered master and PhD theses where the candidate wished to withhold their theses from being made openly available in Munin.

• Study III: Electronic survey among current students at UiT to examine their attitude towards open availability in Munin.
Study I. Delivered master theses

- Metadata from 868 delivered master theses.
  - Delivered between 2009 and 2015
- 620 of 868 candidates provided a reason for making this decision
  - The reasons stated by the candidates for this choice became the foundation for study I
Results study I

• Health Sciences
• Law
• Fine arts
• Biosciences, Fisheries and Economics: BFE
• Humanities, Social Sciences and Education: HSE
• Science and Technology: ST
• Sports, Tourism, and Social work: FSTS
Distribution within different faculties

- Health sciences: 416
- HSE: 166
- Law: 178
- BFE: 78
- FSTS: 1
- ST: 29
Results study I

• The reasons were sorted into different categories:
  • Publication plans: PP
  • Personal information/privacy/exempt from public/confidentiality agreement
  • Copyrights/trade secrets: PI
  • After grading: AG
  • Not available: NA
  • Don’t want to: D
  • Other: O
Distribution within the different categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number (of the 620 delivered theses with provided reason)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication plans (PP)</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal/sensitive information/ Exempt from public (PI)</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyrighted material (C)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After grading (AG)</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not available (NA)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dont want to (D)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (O)</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure of quality</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distribution within different faculties: category Publication plans

- Health sciences: 201
- Law: 8
- BFE: 25
Study 2. Delivered PhD theses

• 435 delivered PhD theses

• Candidates choose if they want their theses made available in Munin “now” or “never”,
  • Can provide a reason for their choice

• The categories compiled for the master theses used to categorize the reasons provided by PhD candidates
Results study II
Distribution different faculties

Healt sciences: 184
HSE: 91
Law: 4
BFE: 78
ST: 78
Results study II:
Distribution between faculties of theses with restrictions

- Health sciences: 118
- HSE: 29
- Law: 4
- BFE: 41
- ST: 35
## Results study II: Distribution within different categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication plans (PP)</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyrighted material (C)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication plans and copyrighted material (PP/C)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not disclose (ND)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (O)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distribution between faculties: the category publication plans/copyright restrictions:

- Health Sciences: 101
- Law: 4
- PFE: 30
- HSE: 21
- ST: 24
Study 3. Current students

• Online questionnaire
  • 133 respondents

• Majority of the respondents attended the faculty of Health sciences.

• The majority of the respondents from this study want to make their theses openly available in Munin.
  • Only 37 stated that they did not want to make their theses available through Munin
Why do you want to make your thesis available through Munin?

• Respondents who answered that they wanted to make their thesis available could provide a reason for this.
  • 59 out of 71 answered provided a reason

• «To help other students writing their thesis»

• «Research done at publicly founded institutions, including universities, should be publicly available»

• «I feel that it is expected of me. I don’t want to make a fuss even though I feel it is wrong that everything should be made public»
### Study I master theses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>40 %</td>
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</table>

### Study II PhD theses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>56,50 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP/CR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Study III current students

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31,50 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

• The category «publication plans» indicates that the candidate have concerns regarding getting their work published if it is already openly available in an institutional archive.

• My results indicate that candidates from the faculty of Humanities, Social sciences and Education show a positive attitude towards making their work openly available, and that Health sciences candidates are more negative.

• Why do Health sciences have high numbers of theses with reservations against open access in Munin, and with “Publication plan” as stated reason for this?
Myths or facts?

• OA through Munin will hinder future publication plans
  • Different publicist have different restrictions
  • Varying knowledge on copyright-status

• OA through Munin is hindered by publishers copyright restrictions
  • Embargo period for availability in an institutional OA archive could prevent potential conflicts with publishers.
How to encourage OA among students and PhD candidates at UiT?

• 1/3 of master theses are being left out of Munin
  • The proportion available theses only show a slight increase the last 5 years (in 2015)

• Between 2013 and 2015, 227 out of 435 delivered PhD theses could not be made immediately available through Munin
• PhD candidates and students may be more inclined to make their work available if they are shown what advantages this could bring them.

• Master students could see the value of building on earlier research.

• Availability could increase their number of readers.
  • Demonstrate the use of the material in OA archives by displaying number of viewings and downloads

• Not everyone is aware that search engines, as Google Scholar, crawls institutional archives.

• Supervisors also influence where and how candidates publish their work.
• Candidates should be made aware of the benefits of OA availability to their work and informed of instances that could demand embargo.

• One needs to focus on the issue of future publication if one wishes to increase the number of student work in Munin.
Thank you for your attention!