It Doesn't Take a Rocket Scientist: Navigating the Universe of Theses and Dissertations at the University of Central Florida

Kerri Bottorff
*University of Central Florida, kerri.bottorff@ucf.edu*

Lee Dotson
*University of Central Florida, lee.dotson@ucf.edu*

Find similar works at: [https://stars.library.ucf.edu/ucfscholar](https://stars.library.ucf.edu/ucfscholar)

University of Central Florida Libraries [http://library.ucf.edu](http://library.ucf.edu)

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Scholarship and Creative Works by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

**STARS Citation**
Bottorff, Kerri and Dotson, Lee, "It Doesn't Take a Rocket Scientist: Navigating the Universe of Theses and Dissertations at the University of Central Florida" (2014). *Faculty Scholarship and Creative Works*. 49.
[https://stars.library.ucf.edu/ucfscholar/49](https://stars.library.ucf.edu/ucfscholar/49)
It Doesn’t Take a Rocket Scientist: Navigating the Universe of Theses and Dissertations at the University of Central Florida

Kerri Bottorff, Digital Collections Projects Coordinator
Lee Dotson, Digital Initiatives Librarian
University of Central Florida

The Problems
• 10,000 Graduate Theses and Dissertations (T & Ds)
• 2 different formats (print and electronic)
• Multiple physical and virtual locations to find them
• No consistent metadata
• Difficult to search
• Print-only not easily usable

Searching for T & Ds...
...Can be a challenge.

3 different cataloging conventions:
• Fully cataloged with specific Library of Congress call number and subject headings
• Partially cataloged with general call number and subject headings
• Fully cataloged with specific subject headings but general call numbers

We eventually hope to...
• Create ONE place to find ALL graduate T & Ds
• Create consistent records for ALL T & Ds, including Graduate and Undergraduate Honors
• Raise awareness of the collection and its research value
• Digitize ALL print-only T & Ds (long-term)

Honors in the Major Theses
• Program began in 1989
• Over 1,600 published
• ~1,000 in print
• Records in library catalog
• Metadata in Digital Collections

UCF Student Scholarship
• Print-only, print and ETD, and ETDs
  • all in the library catalog
  • 3 different cataloging conventions
  • Digital Collections
  • RTDs
  • ETDs
  • Print-only
  • Honors

Honors in the Major (print)

Retrospective Theses & Dissertations
• Project begun in 2009 to digitize print-only theses
• Over 800 currently done
• Available in Digital Collections
• Only a few in library catalog

UCF Student Scholarship

Honors in the Major (electronic)

Electronic Theses & Dissertations
• Started in 2004, exclusively digital in 2008
• Over 4,000 have been published
• All held in library catalog
• Metadata in Digital Collections with link to electronic version

Honors in the Major Theses

Electronic Theses & Dissertations
• Published between 1972 and 2004
• Over 5,000 volumes
• Only basic catalog information, some without descriptive subject headings

Print-only Theses & Dissertations
• Print-only, print and ETD, and ETDs
  ○ all in the library catalog
  ○ 3 different cataloging conventions
  ○ Digital Collections
  ○ RTDs
  ○ ETDs
  ○ Print-only
  ○ Honors

Print-only

Honors in the Major Theses

Print-only Theses & Dissertations

Kerri Bottorff and Lee Dotson
407-823-1129/407-823-1236
kerri.bottorff@ucf.edu/lee.dotson@ucf.edu
John C. Hitt Library/University of Central Florida
PO Box 162666
Orlando FL 32816-2666