

Repositories and ETDs – a success story from Finland

Open Repositories, Indianapolis, June 10, 2015

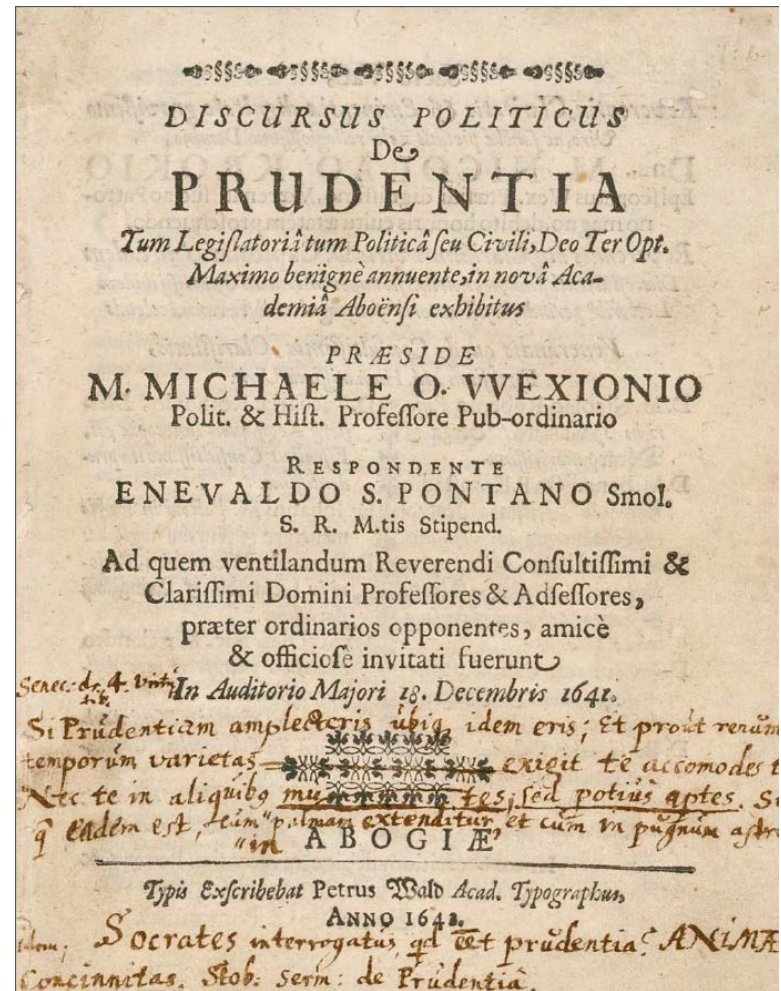
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Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs)

- ETDs have been around since the 1990s – often closely associated with the repositories, but still kind of a parallel movement
- The work on ETDs has benefitted greatly from the use of repository technology, while ETDs have provided repositories with valuable content and genuine success stories
- This is sometimes taken for granted or referred to as "going after the low-hanging fruit", instead of concentrating all efforts on the "real" business of open repositories (mainly, Green OA)

A tradition of publicly available scholarship

- Finland has a long tradition of publicly available theses and dissertations, going back to the 1640s
- The theses were distributed with the help of the most efficient technology available at the time: the printing press

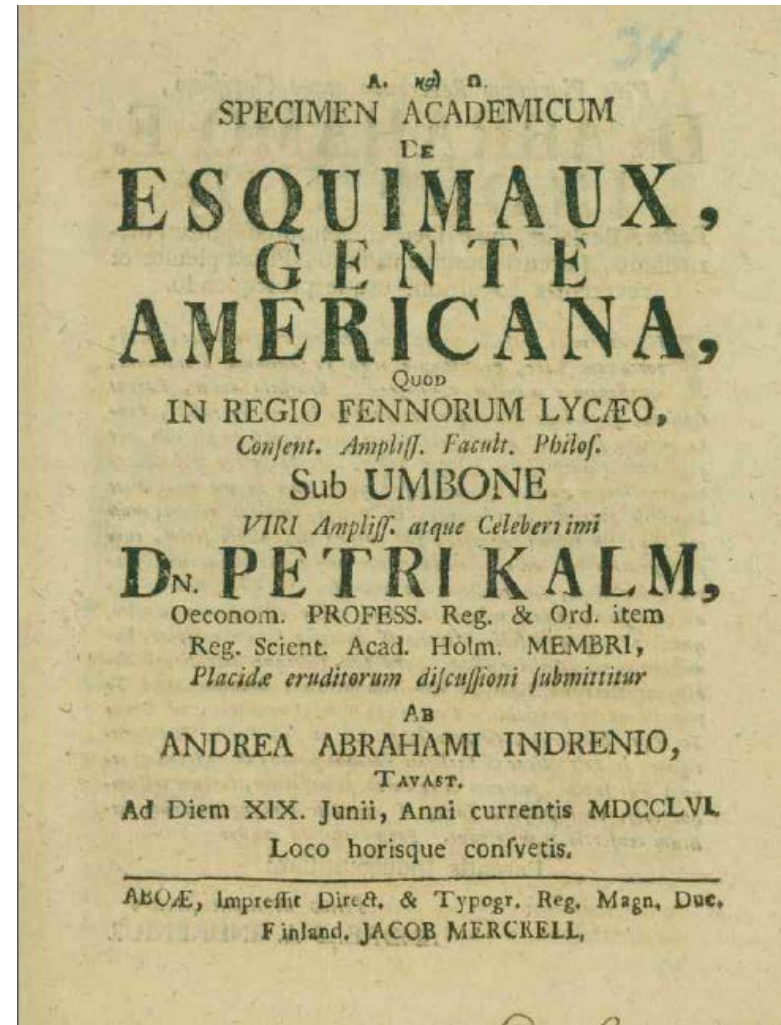


Available at <http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fd2014-00004084>

Dissertations published in a printed form

- Even today, doctoral dissertations must be made available to the scholarly public before the official public defense
- For more than 350 years, doctoral dissertations had to be published as a printed book
- In recent decades, the so-called "article-based" dissertations have become the dominant dissertation type in medicine, natural and technical sciences

Available at <http://urn.fi/urn:nbn:fi:fv-12728>



The "dissertation crisis" of the 1990s

- Then, the number of dissertations produced at each university was made to one of the main criteria for the state funding
- The number of dissertations nearly tripled in about 15 years
- The traditional distribution channels couldn't handle all of the dissertations
 - The university libraries were warehousing hundreds of thousands of printed copies, which were no longer wanted in sufficient numbers by the international exchange partners

Doctoral dissertations in repositories (1)

- Starting from the late 1990s and early 2000s, most of the Finnish dissertations have moved to a digital format and immediate open access, with only a small number of printed copies

Doctoral dissertations in repositories (2)

- In fields like medicine, natural and technical sciences almost 100 % of dissertations are now issued in repositories
- In the humanities and social sciences the share of OA dissertations is somewhat smaller, but still more than 50 %



The screenshot shows a web page for a doctoral dissertation from the University of Turku. The header includes the university's name in Finnish and English, and language options. The breadcrumb trail indicates the document is in the 'Annales Universitatis Turkuensis' series. A search bar and 'Go' button are present. Below the search bar, there are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, and Twitter. The main title of the dissertation is 'Bumblebees in a Changing Climate: Evaluating the Effects of Temperature on Queen Performance' by Vesterlund, Salla-Riikka, dated 2015-05-09. A permanent URL is provided. A PDF icon is shown next to the document details: Name, Size (2.533Mb), Format (PDF), and Downloads (73). A 'View/Open' button is available. A link to 'Show full item record' is also present. The record is identified as a 'Doctoral thesis (article-based)' from the 'Department of Biology, Ecology'. The specific record is 'Annales Universitatis Turkuensis A II 301' dated '2015-05-09'. An abstract is provided, discussing the decline of bumblebee populations and the impact of climate change. The abstract text is: 'Bumblebees are a very essential group of pollinating insects, but their populations have declined drastically during the past decades. We need to understand why their numbers are decreasing and what can be done to reverse this trend. Climate change-related phenomena, such as changes in the overwintering temperatures and spring conditions, are among the most prominent threats to bumblebees. Queens have a special role in the lifecycle of bumblebees because they overwinter and start new colonies the next year. Their successful performance: survival, overwintering ability, longevity, immune competence, and nest establishing capability in spring, is highly important for bumblebee populations. However, the effects of climate change on bumblebee queen performance remain unknown. The main objective of this thesis was to assess how temperature affects the performance of bumblebee queens during and after overwintering.'

Turun yliopisto
University of Turku

Suomeksi • På svenska • In English

Doria home > University of Turku > Annales Universitatis Turkuensis serial > A II: Biologica - Geographica - Geologica > View Item

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Bumblebees in a Changing Climate: Evaluating the Effects of Temperature on Queen Performance
Vesterlund, Salla-Riikka (2015-05-09)

The permanent address of the publication is <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-29-6092-7>

 Name: AnnalesAII301Vest ...
Size: 2.533Mb
Format: PDF
Downloads: 73
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Doctoral thesis (article-based)
Department of Biology, Ecology

Annales Universitatis Turkuensis A II 301
2015-05-09

Abstract:
Bumblebees are a very essential group of pollinating insects, but their populations have declined drastically during the past decades. We need to understand why their numbers are decreasing and what can be done to reverse this trend. Climate change-related phenomena, such as changes in the overwintering temperatures and spring conditions, are among the most prominent threats to bumblebees.
Queens have a special role in the lifecycle of bumblebees because they overwinter and start new colonies the next year. Their successful performance: survival, overwintering ability, longevity, immune competence, and nest establishing capability in spring, is highly important for bumblebee populations. However, the effects of climate change on bumblebee queen performance remain unknown. The main objective of this thesis was to assess how temperature affects the performance of bumblebee queens during and after overwintering.

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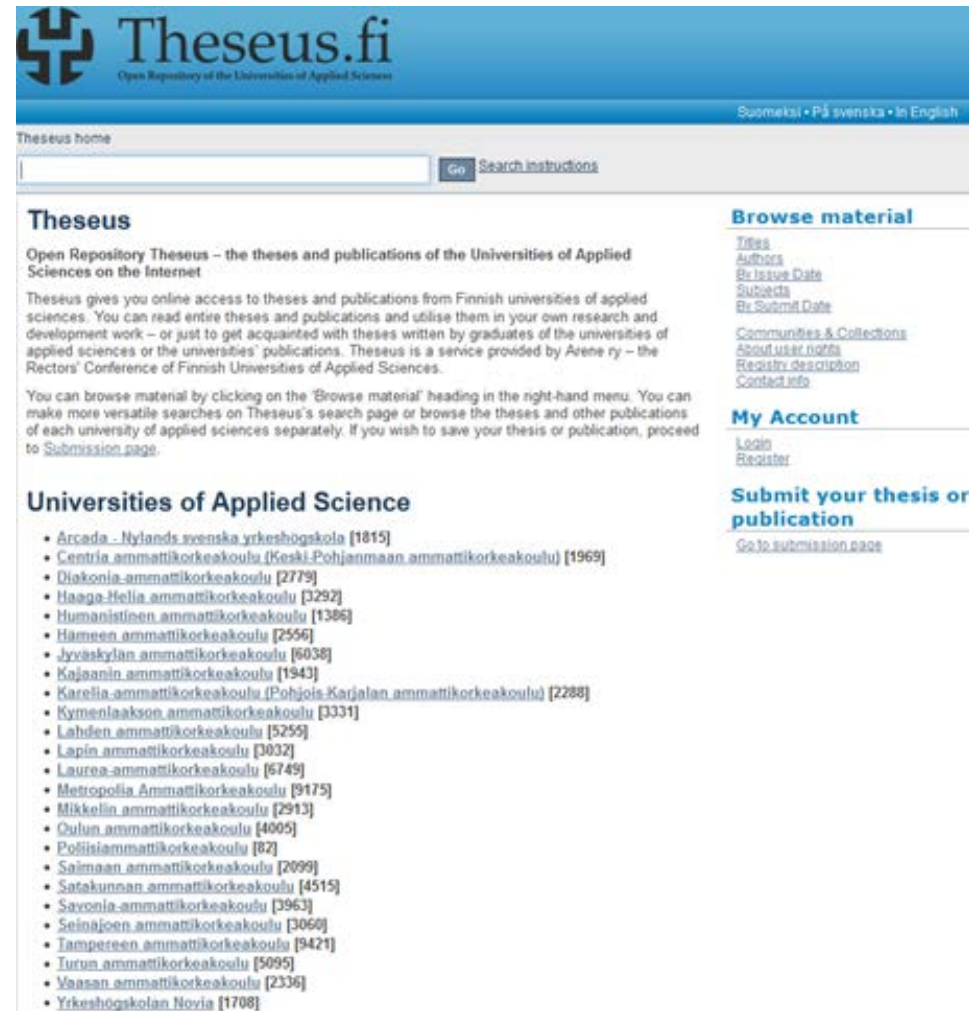
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How about other types of theses?

- The progress with student theses has been somewhat slower at most of the research universities
 - The university administration has been reluctant to spend money on them
 - There have been faculty concerns about the quality of content and potential plagiarism
- Some of the research universities have been doing well, but the real success story can be found from the universities of applied sciences

Theseus (www.theseus.fi)

- The shared DSpace repository of 25 Finnish universities of applied sciences, hosted by the National Library
- Mainly concentrates on bachelor-level theses
- All of the students are required to upload their theses as part of the graduation process



The success of Theseus (1)

- After six years in operation, Theseus contains 90.000+ theses, with about 15.000 new theses added each year
- By now, more than 1,6 % of all Finns have uploaded a thesis to Theseus



The screenshot displays the homepage of the Theseus.fi Open Repository. The header features the Theseus.fi logo and navigation links in Finnish, Swedish, and English. Below the header, there is a search bar and a section titled "Browsing THESEUS by Submit Date". This section includes filters for jumping to a point in the index (by month and year), a search bar, and sorting options (submit date, descending, results: 20). The main content area shows a list of theses, each with a PDF icon, title, author, and date. The right sidebar contains links for browsing material, communities & collections, and a my account section.

Theseus.fi
Open Repository of the Universities of Applied Sciences

Suomeksi • På svenska • In English

[Theseus home](#) > Browsing by Submit Date

Go Search instructions

Browsing THESEUS by Submit Date

Jump to a point in the index: (Choose month) (Choose year)

Or type in a year: Go

Sort by: submit date Order: descending Results: 20 Update

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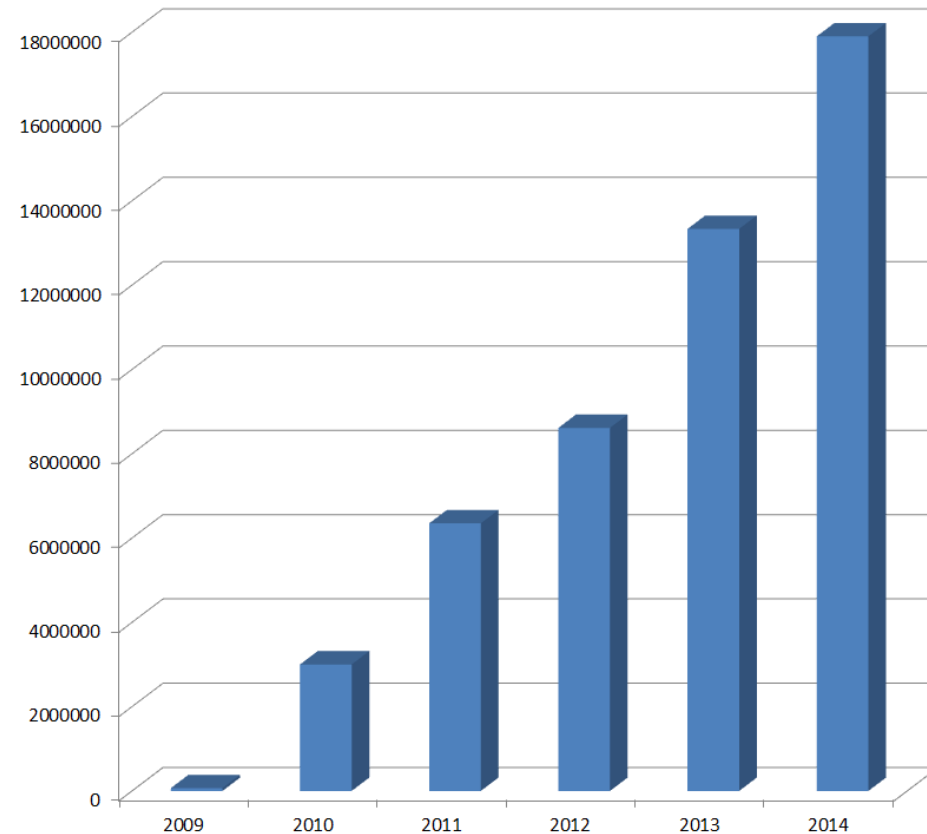
Theses List:

PDF Icon	Title	Author	Date
	Kolmen aivoverenkiertohäiriö-potilaan kuntoutusprosessit Mustasaaren kunnassa	Kemppi, Carola	2015
	Neste Oil D-asemien ympäristövaikutuksien tarkastelu	Merontausta, Esko	2015
	Käypä hoito -suositusten mukainen lasten hoitopolku suunnitelma Vaasanseudun ADHD-yhdistykselle	Piilikangas-Muotio, Mirja	2015
	"Lajiralli" -intervention vaikutus yksilöön	Holmström, Soile	2015

The success of Theseus (2)

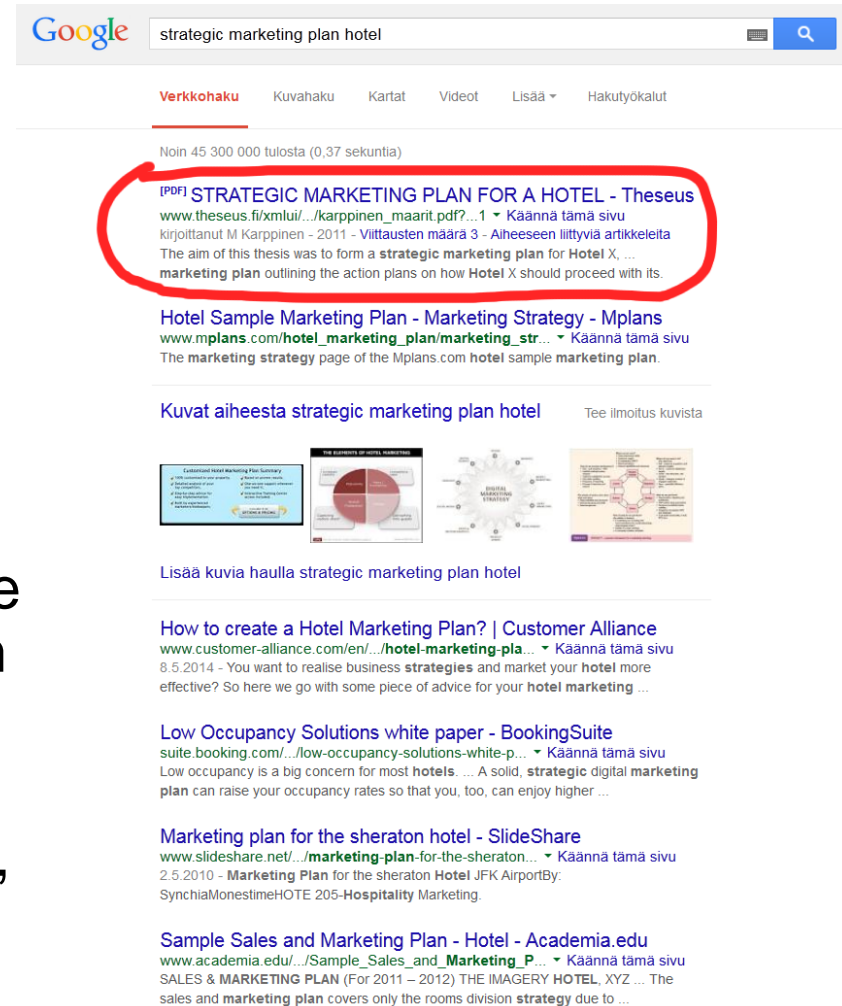
- There were almost 18 million full-text downloads from Theseus in 2014 – more than the total number of downloads from all of the other Finnish repositories

Full-text downloads from Theseus, 2009-2014



Why so popular?

- Not particularly sophisticated on a technological level - but it works
- Content highly visible in the Google search results, even for popular keywords
- Most of the theses contain little or no original research, but there is an audience for many of them
- Huge mass of texts containing useful information on many practical issues (health, food, IT, construction work, etc.), especially in Finnish



What has been achieved?

- The publication model of the doctoral dissertations has been transformed, moving from print to open access
- Theseus has proved that co-operation and large-scale efforts can produce great results, even with content types that at first sight may not seem that important

Thanks!

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