



Posters

Creating a content-rich resource of e-theses

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■ Introduction

Following a significant number of global requests for digital copies of SPRI theses, the author aimed to create a content-rich resource to benefit polar researchers. Using a digital licence agreement permission was sought from copyright holders to make their theses available retrospectively as open access through the University's institutional repository (Apollo). A web page helps showcase completed theses. This work coincided with a University policy change – all PhD theses need to be available digitally from October 2017.



■ Downloads (source: IRUS-UK)

Top 3 downloads: titles	No.
The Southern Whale Fishery Company, Auckland Islands	535
Cone penetration testing in polar snow	269
The corral and the slaughterhouse: knowledge, tradition and the modernization of indigenous reindeer slaughtering practice in the Norwegian Arctic	192
Total downloads	2384
Average no. of downloads per thesis	30

■ Results and Discussion

SPRI theses added to repository

	Full text	Embargoed items	Total	Proportion of total print theses
Masters	39	3	42	21%
Doctoral	39	1	40	31%
Total	78	4	82	25%

- 82 theses have been added to the repository, a further 9 await digitisation.
- 220 (of 333) graduates were contacted.
- 40% success rate based on graduates contacted achieved to date.



■ Conclusion

■ SPRI theses have attracted a high number of downloads confirming expected benefits highlighted by Copeland (2008): more theses are read and some are read by many more people than when only held in paper form. Showcasing SPRI research is an additional reputational benefit.

■ Communicating with graduates has been fun but time consuming – the policy change is more efficient.

■ Reference:

Copeland, S. (2008) Electronic Theses and Dissertations: promoting 'hidden' research. *Policy Futures in Education*, Vol. 6 (1) 87-95.

Acknowledgements: Peter Sutton-Long, Repository Service Manager, Cambridge University Library