

Embargoes & Restrictions

Consideration	Recommended Action			
	Choose Traditional Publishing	Place an embargo of 6 months, 1 year, or 2 years	Restrict from Google/search engines and harvesters	See your institution's technology transfer or research officer. Consult with your advisor and graduate dean.
Likely submission to a peer-reviewed journal	✓	✓		
Interested/potential interest by an academic or commercial press	✓	✓		
Ethical need to prevent disclosure	✓	✓	✓	
Patentable rights in the work/other commercial potential	✓	✓	✓	✓

University Policies

Many universities enforce explicit policies regarding delayed release (embargo) and restricted dissemination of full text dissertations/theses. These policies may preclude delaying or restricting availability of your work in the university's institutional repository. Such policies are intended to serve scholarship by making research accessible to the academic community at large.

Here are some common reasons an author may request an embargo:

- Patentable rights in the work or other issues in which disclosure may be detrimental to the rights or interests of the author.
- The ethical need to prevent disclosure of sensitive or classified information about persons, institutions, technologies, etc.
- The interest of an academic or commercial press in acquiring the rights to publish your dissertation or thesis as a book.
- Content that is likely to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal which does not allow the work to be made available prior to journal publication.

Embargoes requested during ETD submission start from the date we receive your manuscript at ProQuest. Please note that there may be a delay between when your work is submitted and when your institution delivers it to ProQuest for publishing.

Search Engines

ProQuest makes dissertations and theses available to search engines, including Google Scholar.

Search engines such as Google Scholar are a key tool for academia, and we believe graduate works should be easy for researchers to find. However, if you need to limit dissemination of your work, you may wish to exclude it from internet search engines. We provide you the ability to limit search engine exposure through ProQuest. **Please note**, however, that Google Scholar and other internet search engines are likely to find your dissertation or thesis **through other access points, particularly through the library or institutional repository (IR)** at your graduate institution. If you need to prevent search engines from accessing your work in an IR, you will need to ask your graduate institution to apply an IR access restriction.

Publishing with ProQuest Dissertation Publishing: Effects on publishing your content elsewhere

The first thing to remember is that **you** own your copyright. Unlike most scholarly publishers of journals and monographs, ProQuest does **not** acquire copyright when we publish your dissertation or thesis. You are free to re-publish your work in whole or in part, with whomever you choose, without asking for our permission. Some authors are concerned that journals and other publishers will not accept content that has been published in or as a dissertation or thesis. This concern is less applicable in the case of peer-reviewed journals, and potentially more applicable in the case of commercial book publishers. While every case is unique, here are some general rules of thumb:

In most cases, you will not be submitting your dissertation or thesis *as is* to a peer-reviewed journal (unless it is a journal that publishes a monograph series). Most often, the content submitted for journal publication is an excerpt, chapter, or section of your dissertation or thesis. At the very least, it would be a significantly shorter distillation of your graduate work. The content is likely to be rearranged and reformatted to fit the style of the journal to which you submit. Finally, the content is likely to be revised and updated through the peer-review and editorial processes. All these processes mean that the material, as finally published by a journal, is substantively and substantially refined and therefore different from the content that is published as your dissertation or thesis. For this reason, journals are not historically concerned about your content having appeared and been distributed as a published graduate work. This is particularly true in the STEM disciplines.

Academic presses, monograph publishers, and commercial presses are more likely to view your dissertation or thesis as a book. This is more often the case with the humanities, social sciences, and arts. Still, even if not peer-reviewed, the editorial process that turns your graduate work into a book is likely to change it substantially. The key in this consideration is whether the content changes substantively (i.e., whether there is a real difference in the content that makes the press comfortable with investing its resources in producing a book from your dissertation/thesis). Historically, presses have not been terribly concerned that distribution of your graduate work would harm potential sales as a book. However, as dissertations and theses have become widely available over the internet through libraries, consortia, and institutional repositories, as well as from our subscription database, more presses may look more carefully at the question of marketability.

In developing your dissemination strategy, you should seek the advice of well-established mentors in your field if you feel that your future ability to publish dissertation/thesis content might be jeopardized by wide dissemination. If you decide that it might, you may want to take one or more of the precautions shown in the table above.

Your Decisions

Prior to graduation, embargoes are subject to university policies. However, when authors are presented with post-graduation publishing opportunities, some publishers request or require the author to adjust the full-text availability of their graduate work. As a non-exclusive publisher, ProQuest recognizes authors' rights as copyright holders and, as such, authors discretion regarding the dissemination of their work.

ProQuest will forward notification of author-requested embargoes to the degree-granting university where ProQuest has contact information available. (For schools using the ProQuest ETD Administrator, an email message will be sent to the primary administrator; this excludes works submitted through ProQuest's Direct Publishing site [here](#), if/when the university does not participate in our ETD submission program. To ensure that your university's contact information is up to date, please email disspub@proquest.com.) We also recommend that authors contact their university graduate school directly to notify them when adding or extending restrictions to their work, as policies and approaches of institutions differ. You do not need to contact your university if removing an embargo restriction.

Please keep in mind that post-graduation availability requests only affect the work as it appears in ProQuest. The rules and policies around dissemination related to a university's institutional repository are created and managed separately by the university. In addition, please note that until a student has graduated, all changes in availability regarding the full text must come from the university.

Outside of the United States, these guidelines are subject to legal jurisdictions of the country of origin.