

# Dissertations and Theses on Amazon.com

## Frequently Asked Questions

*I was very excited to see my dissertation on Amazon.  
I felt like a real author when I saw it!*  
Rebecca Carron, PhD

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### What is this?

The newest graduate works from around the world (except for Canada) are now available for purchase through Amazon.com. That is, the current and most recent year's dissertations and theses EXCEPT embargoed works and those with any restrictions on them.

### Is this good for our students?

Yes.

Most scholars will benefit from increased exposure to their published work. Amazon.com is the web's most widely accessed source for published material. And of course, copy sales through Amazon generate author royalties.

### Is this good for my institution?

Yes.

You can include a statement about convenient and reliable public availability of graduate work in grant proposals, reports, and outreach and development materials. This is a good way to help satisfy the outreach and impact expectations of federal funding agencies and philanthropic foundations.

### Are you going to inform students?

Yes.

We are updating our Publishing Agreement to reflect the steps we are taking to expand the distribution of dissertations and theses. Third-party distribution, as with Amazon, will be listed among our responsibilities to broadly disseminate the published work for sale and royalties.

### How does this work?

Amazon.com visitors will discover the content through keyword searches – just as they would other products purchased online.

It will be interesting to see whether usage is markedly different among general readers than among scholarly audiences. We will report on usage statistics after significant data accrue.

### What shows up in a search?

Search results display the title of the work and allow a click-through to the bibliographic information and abstract that describes the dissertation or thesis.

### What about Open Access ETDs?

Dissertations and theses published under our Expanded Publishing with Open Access model will not be listed on Amazon.com.

### How does purchasing work?

Online customers purchase dissertations and theses through the Amazon.com shopping cart and e-commerce system. The retail price is higher through Amazon.com than it is through direct purchase from ProQuest, reflecting more closely the price paid for commercially-published books. Researchers will want to continue to buy directly from ProQuest for the best price.

### What about legitimate free access to institutional users?

Our partnership with Amazon.com is not intended to substitute for the kinds of liberal and/or free access that researchers normally have to dissertations and theses. Users who have free access to graduate works through their institution's subscriptions, and to those dissertations and theses generated at the institution, will not find Amazon.com a useful resource.

### What if a student/author doesn't want their work sold on Amazon.com?

Students/authors who prefer not to see their work distributed for sale to the public can direct ProQuest to place a restriction on their dissertation/thesis. We can restrict sales through 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, such as Amazon.com, but allow sales to the academic community through our traditional, direct channels.

If the student/author has reasons to more fully restrict the distribution of their work, she/he should work with the graduate school and ProQuest/UMI at the time of submission to arrange embargo or restriction.

Finally, if a student/author prefers his/her work be made available to the public for free, they should submit their dissertation/thesis under our new Expanded Publishing for Open Access option.