Esploro Essentials: Research Assets

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)

Student research is an important focus for many institutions. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are digital copies of student work, whether for undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral studies. Display ETDs on your Esploro research portal to spotlight your students’ achievements. The quality of the student research activity at your institution may attract potential students.

Users can discover ETDs on the research portal through a regular output search. They can also limit the search scope to only ETDs.

Researcher involvement in student research can appear in two ways. A researcher who served as an advisor will appear as a contributor on the ETD landing page. A researcher can also list under their activities that they advise students or serve on a committee.

While student ETDs are not associated with a researcher profile, a researcher in an early stage of their career may choose to display on their profile their own ETDs from when they were a student.

In Esploro, ETDs are handled in much the same way as other research assets, but there are some differences. In this video, we will cover ETD:

* Field Configuration
* Deposits

and

* Management

**Configuring ETD fields**

There are many kinds of metadata that can be associated with an ETD. The following fields are unique to ETDs. Inputs for them are selected from drop-down menus, which are configurable.

Degree in – this is the subject area of the ETD, also called the Degree Program.

Degree Awarded – this is the Degree Name that was earned, such as MBA or PhD.

Project Type – this is the format of the ETD itself, such as Essay or Dissertation.

It is worthwhile to consider how you want to set up these controlled lists before ETDs are added. You can rename, add, or delete items on each controlled list.

The controlled lists of the drop-down menus are configured in the Esploro Research Hub, in the Configuration area. Open the Repository menu. Under ETDs you can access code tables for Degree Names, Degree Program Codes, and Project Types. For information on how to work with code tables, see Esploro Online Help.

**Depositing ETDs into Esploro**

There are a few ways to deposit an ETD into Esploro.

Students can submit their ETDs themselves with an online Student Deposit Form. They input relevant information and may attach files. After submission, the ETDs will appear as a research deposit in the Hub. After a repository manager approves it, the ETD will be displayed in the Portal. You can have different forms for different types of ETDs. Learn more about setting this up in the training video How to Customize Student Deposit Forms.

A repository manager can also deposit ETDs on behalf of a student or a researcher. This is called a Mediated deposit. In the Hub, open the Repository menu, and, under Asset Deposits select Deposit ETD. The first step is to select whether this ETD was awarded by your institution or by another institution. In the latter case, it is called an External ETD, which can only be deposited for a researcher for work they did while studying at another institution. An Internal ETD can only be deposited for a student at your institution, or for a researcher who was previously a student at your institution. If the student already has a record in Esploro, select Existing Student. To add a student, select Create Student. Either way, input metadata and add files as you would for other research assets. To save the ETD without approving it, click Save Draft. Click Approve and it will be available in the Portal, according to its Access Rights.

ProQuest ETD Administrator enables students to manage their thesis or dissertation online where it can be reviewed and revised. When it has been completed and approved, the ETD becomes part of a global collection, discoverable by other researchers. If this integration has been set up, ETDs published in ProQuest will also be sent to the institution’s Esploro. See Esploro Online Help to learn about the SWORD Integration Profile.

By the way, unlike other research assets:

Smart Harvesting does not bring ETDs into Esploro,

and a researcher cannot add an ETD to their profile themselves.

**Managing ETDs**

ETDs are managed in Esploro like other research assets, for the most part. Here are a couple of differences:

When a researcher deposits an asset, the repository manager reviewing the deposit can easily send them a message that appears in their profile with the Contact Researcher button. However, when a student deposits an ETD, that function is not available, as students do not have researcher profiles. Communication with a student author is done by email.

Since ETDs are not published, they do not come with a DOI or another handle. You can add DOIs to a set of ETDs with the job Register DOIs for Research Assets.

Now that you know how to configure, deposit, and manage ETDs, you can showcase your students’ research outputs in Esploro.