

IMPORTANT!

If the student has not submitted their dissertation to the database, it will not be included IN THE database.



Strategies for Locating Useful Dissertations and Practicums

Dissertations serve a variety of purposes and provide ideas for research and about how to structure projects. You can see how your peers wrote their dissertation. You may also find dissertations that your advisor or committee members wrote or approved.

What are Theses, Dissertations, MARPs and Practicums?

Faculty and librarians may assume you know what materials are in the library and in the databases, but there is no shame in asking what something is and how to find it. Don't struggle! Ask questions! Please contact the reference desk for more help: <http://www.nova.edu/library/help/askalib.html>

Thesis: Written by a candidate for an academic degree, often at the Masters level.

Dissertation: Often refers to a work submitted for completion of the Ph.D/doctorate; an extended written treatment of a subject embodying results of original research and theory.

MARP (Major Applied Research Projects) & Practicum: Work-based, problem-solving research required as academic work in NSU's graduate education programs. Includes case studies.

To find citations to dissertations/theses (some in full text) from NSU or any other academic institution search the Dissertations and Theses database. You can also search the ERIC database. A list of MARPS and Practicums written by NSU students can be searched through NSU's index named MARPs, Practicums, and Applied Dissertations (<http://www.nova.edu/library/dils/lessons/nsumarps/>). Be sure to check the databases, ERIC, and Dissertations and Theses to see if any of the ones you find listed are online.

In order to access databases, your Internet browser must accept cookies.

1. Start at Nova Southeastern University's Alvin Sherman Library web page:
<http://www.nova.edu/library/main/>
2. Click on **Electronic Resources**, then click on the word, **Databases**.
OR, go through your **Patron Portal** to the **Doing Research** section, then click on the word **Databases**.
If forwarded to another page that asks who you are, click on the link for what type of patron you are
3. The next page requires you to **login**. Type in lower case letters your last name and then in the next box, your university/student ID number using no dashes. Click the Submit button.
4. The **Database List** page will load, with three options for retrieving a list of databases. Use the first option, **Browse by Subject** : and click on the menu box to see the list of Subjects. Click on ***Dissertations, MARPs & Practicums*** and then click the **Get List** button.
5. A list of databases will load. ***Look for the database name and click on it: Dissertations and Theses.***

Information on locating and obtaining dissertations from all academic institutions including NSU:
<http://www.nova.edu/library/help/misc/dissertations.html>

Information on searching Dissertations and Theses database:
<http://www.nova.edu/library/dils/lessons/digitaldissertations/>

Information on searching the ERIC database:
<http://www.nova.edu/library/dils/lessons/ericdissertations/>

See below for information about the common ways to look for and obtain dissertations and practicums.

Please note that not all NSU dissertations and practicums are submitted to these databases and won't appear.

Dissertations and Theses (ProQuest Direct)
 Previously named Digital Dissertations.

ERIC database (CSA | FirstSearch)
 Practicums & other theses and dissertations

TIP: To locate dissertations published and submitted by NSU students, limit your search to "Nova Southeastern University" in the School name/code field. Once you are in the database click on Search Tips for more help on how to search.

This database contains over 2 million entries from over 1,000 graduate schools and universities, with information about doctoral dissertations and master's theses. Includes citations beginning in 1861, abstracts for those dissertations published from 1980– and master's theses from 1988–, and full-text for over 100,000 dissertations from 1997 forward available in digital (PDF) format. (You must have the most current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer!)

No full text available for a non-NSU dissertation from another university? Here are your options:

Purchase from UMI – prices begin at \$34 USD

Try your public library's **interlibrary loan service**

NSU Doctoral students only: NSU will purchase only two print dissertations from UMI for qualified doctoral candidates at no cost to the student. These two free dissertations **MUST** be requested through NSU Document Delivery. (You pay for additional ones.)

Email dils@nova.edu to see if you qualify.

Non-doctoral users and those not qualified must pay for the dissertations and can order them directly from UMI, or through the Dissertations and Theses database.

Current practicums submitted by Nova Southeastern University students, as well as theses and dissertations submitted by students from other institutions, can be found in the ERIC database in the form of EDs— Education Documents.

Many of those published in or after 1993 are full text linked from the ERIC database — *they are PDFs, to open them you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer.*

The older ones and those that did not get copyright permission will show abstracts with no full text. You may use the Document Delivery/Interlibrary Loan Service (ILLiad) to request any Education Documents that are not full text in the databases. If available, these will be sent to you in paper format or as microfiche! In case of the latter, check to see if your local public library or academic library has a microfiche reader you can use.

Found a MARP you want from MARPs, Practicums, and Applied Dissertations index?

Check the ERIC database to see if it is available as an ED. Then check the Dissertations and Theses database.

If it is not available in full text from either of those two databases, then use ILLiad.

Search Tips

For doctoral students, Dissertations and Theses (ProQuest) database available from (<http://www.nova.edu/library/eleclib/eleclib.htm>) can be very useful. Dissertations can serve a variety of purposes from providing ideas for research to providing ideas about how to structure research projects and showing dissertations that your advisor wrote him or herself or approved in the past. Note that Dissertations and Theses has the online version of the index of abstracts provided by Dissertation Abstracts International. As a result, all dissertations located there should be cited as published dissertations using the APA style in the 5th edition. If the dissertation is located full-text online, the citation of the published dissertation should also include the retrieval statement with the name of the database, in this case Dissertations and Theses.

Subject Tree

Business Admin., Management (0454)	Education, Finance (0277)	Secondary (0533)
Education, Administration (0514)	Guidance and Counseling (0519)	Social Sciences (0534)
Adult and Continuing (0516)	Health (0680)	Special (0529)
Art (0273)	Higher (0745)	Teacher Training (0530)
Bilingual & Multicultural (0282)	Industrial (0521)	Technology (0710)
Business (0688)	Language and Literature (0279)	Tests and Measurements (0288)
Community College (0275)	Mathematics (0280)	Vocational (0747)
Curriculum and Instruction (0727)	Music (0522)	Health Sciences, Speech Pathology (0460)
Early Childhood (0518)	Physical (0523)	Library Science (0399)
Educational Psychology (0525)	Reading (0535)	Psychology, Experimental (0623)
Elementary (0524)	Religious (0527)	
	Education, Sciences (0714)	

Field searching in Digital Dissertation's Subject field

Narrowing a Subject search for technology and elementary education:
0710 AND 0524 (in the SUBJECT field)

Broadening a search using the Subject fields for either elementary or secondary education
0524 OR 0533 (in the SUBJECT field)

Truncation

Use ? to truncate words and look for various spellings:
supervis? = for supervise, supervising, supervisor, supervision
Stud? = study, studies, student, students, studebaker, studs, studios

Advisors

Locating dissertations where that individual served as the advisor:
Klein, Ann? (in the ADVISOR field)
Simonson, Michael (in the ADVISOR field)

Degree Awarded:
PHD (in the DEGREE field)

School/Academic Institution Codes

Search for dissertations granted by a specific school. If you're unsure of the exact name of the school, you can use the School Index tab in the advanced search interface. Also, since the country name code is added to every school outside the U.S., you can use this field to search for a list of all schools within a particular country. Finally, you may search using the four-digit code associated with each school.

Wayne State (in the SCHOOL field)
Sweden (in the SCHOOL field)

OR use the School Index to locate school codes:

University of Pennsylvania = 0175
Nova Southeastern University = 1191

Keywords for Locating Types of Research

Case study – comparative case study; multiple case study; multi-method case study; instrumental case study; qualitative case study; case study analysis; ethnographic case study; descriptive case study; instrumental qualitative case study; instrumental case study

Comparative – comparative case study; comparative analysis

Correlational – correlational analysis; correlational study

Delphi – Delphi technique; Delphi study; Delphi questionnaires

Descriptive – descriptive statistics new multiple range test

Empirical – empirical study; empirical research; empirical investigation

Ethnography; ethnographic research

Qualitative – qualitative case study; qualitative research; qualitative analysis; qualitative study; qualitative data; qualitative methods

Quantitative – quantitative study; quantitative method

Survey – researcher-developed survey ANOVA (one-way analysis of variance)

Bivariate correlation analysis

Content analysis

Cross-sectional data

Crosstabulation

Evaluative study

Experimental design

Focus group

Future research

Inferential statistics

Instrumental case study

Longitudinal data

MANOVA

Multiple case study

Multi-method case study

Naturalistic inquiry

Null hypothesis

Participant observation

Quasi-experimental

System study

Thematic interviews

Some Scales, Inventories, Questionnaires, and Models

? Andersen's Revised Rater's Perception of Immediacy Scale

? An attitude questionnaire – Distance Education

? Differential

? Attributional Style Questionnaire

? Causal Dimension Scale

? Computer Self Efficacy Scale (CSE)

? Concerns Based Adoption Model (CBAM)

? Conti's Principles of Adult Learning Scale or PALS

? Coopersmith's Self-Esteem Inventory

? Dillman's (1978) Total Design Method

? Distance Learning Questionnaire

? Fitzmorris Occupational Rating Scale (FORS)

? Instructional Improvement Questionnaire

? Kolb's Learning Style Inventory (LSI)

? Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI)

? Research Project Reference Rating (RPRR)

? Rotter Internal-External Locus of Control Scale

? Self-directed Learning Readiness (SDLR) Scale

? Student Self-Assessment of Attitude questionnaire

? Stages of Concern Questionnaire,

? Student Goal Exploration Survey

? Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (TTCT)

? Word Processing Self-Efficacy Scale

? Utilization-Focused Evaluation

? Visual Analog Scale (VAS)