

Mina Rees Library


library.gc.cuny.edu

DIGITAL DISSERTATIONS FORMERLY DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

WHAT IS DIGITAL DISSERTATIONS?: The database indexes over 2.4 million dissertations and theses from more than one-thousand institutions. Approximately 47,000 dissertations and 12,000 theses are added each year. Citations are available from 1861 and abstracts from 1980. Most American universities and some international institutions participate in Dissertation Abstracts. Foreign dissertations can be searched in the Center for Research Libraries' Foreign Doctoral Dissertations Database:
www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=5&l2=23&l3=44&l4=25.

ACCESSING DIGITAL DISSERTATIONS: Go the Mina Rees Library Web site (library.gc.cuny.edu) and click *Databases*. Home access is explained at library.gc.cuny.edu/databases/remote.html.

SEARCHING FOR CUNY DISSERTATIONS: To limit a Digital Dissertations search to CUNY, include 0046 as the school code in your search. Digital Dissertations indexed 10,083 CUNY dissertations as of August 2009.

FULL TEXT OF DISSERTATIONS: The full text of CUNY dissertations and most from other universities submitted since January 1997 is available for free, as are many before this date. When the records for such dissertations appear, click the  [Full Text - PDF](#) button. Note that some dissertation authors have chosen not to allow full-text access and that there is a gap of weeks or months between the time new dissertations are listed and the text becomes available.

Digital Dissertations includes the records of 6,361 CUNY dissertations from 1966 through 1996. Of these, text is available for 878. The numbers for other institutions are similar. There is no logical explanation for why the text of some pre-1997 dissertations is available and why some is not.

SEARCHING: You may enter up to three search terms. You may perform a citation and abstract search or limit any of the terms to such fields as author, title, school, subject, etc. Citation and abstract searches are generally more effective than subject searches.

Searches can be limited to dissertations only or master's theses only by choosing Degree in the dropdown menu and including *disdb (dai)* or *disdb (mai)* in the search statement.

BOUND VOLUMES: Abstracts of 1964-1980 dissertations may be found in the bound volumes of *Dissertation Abstracts International* on the second floor of the library. Ask for directions at the reference desk.

FINDING CUNY DISSERTATIONS: CUNY Graduate Center dissertations from 1989 to the present are available for consultation in the Dissertation Reading Room on the first floor of the library. They are filed by year and then by author. If you do not have this information, you will need to search Digital Dissertations. Dissertations for 1966-1988 are shelved near the 34th Street side of the reference shelves on the second floor. Most CUNY dissertations are cataloged in CUNY+.

ORDERING DISSERTATIONS: Dissertations from other institutions may be requested through interlibrary loan. Many institutions, however, do not lend dissertations, and most that do lend microfilm versions only. To purchase a dissertation, click the Order a Copy link in Digital Dissertations. Format and pricing options will appear on the subsequent screen.

DISSERTATION ASSISTANT: For information about depositing your CUNY dissertation, see Judy Waldman in 2304 on the second floor of the library. She may be contacted at 212-817-7069 or at jwaldman@gc.cuny.edu. See library.gc.cuny.edu/dissertation/deposit_home.html for dissertation-preparation instructions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: This guide, "Finding Ph.D. Dissertations and Master's Theses," "EndNote Basics," "RefWorks," "Creating Effective Search Statements," and more can be found at library.gc.cuny.edu/guides/index.html.

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