

# Digital Commons at Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School

## Electronic Theses and Dissertations by Graduate Students

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Why should I deposit my thesis or dissertation in Digital Commons?**

Depositing a copy of your thesis or dissertation with the Library will ensure permanent archiving and dissemination of the electronic version of your thesis or dissertation in an open access environment, i.e. it will be freely available to the LMU community and to the general public.

Other reasons include but are not limited to:

- Give back to the academic community through open access scholarship
- It will increase visibility of student scholarship and the institution
- Increase global impact by making content available freely available
- Serve to attract other students to LMU

#### **What is Digital Commons?**

*Digital Commons at Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School* is an initiative of the William H. Hannon Library and the William M. Rains Library. The repository serves faculty, students, staff, administrators and other institutional interests by collecting, organizing, preserving, and disseminating their scholarship and creative works in a digital, open-access environment. This initiative is consistent with the library's archival role and responsibility in preserving publications and other artifacts documenting the University's history and the activities of the LMU community.

#### **Who owns the copyright to theses and dissertations?**

Students retain copyright to their theses and dissertations in Digital Commons. Digital Commons requires a non-exclusive license to archive and distribute student thesis or dissertations. Students retain the right to use their work in future publications or dissemination.

#### **Is there a fee associated with submitting theses and dissertations to Digital Commons?**

There is no fee associated with submitting theses and dissertations to Digital Commons since the works are disseminated via an open access platform.

#### **Can the level of access be changed after submission of thesis or dissertation?**

Yes, please contact [digitalcommons@lmu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@lmu.edu) to edit permissions.

**What did the Library previously do with theses and dissertations?**

The library has been collecting bound paper copies of student theses and dissertations to add to its collection. The print copies were made freely available to the public and also freely available to those outside LMU who requested a copy through Inter Library Loan. The library will continue to catalog electronic theses and dissertations in the Library's Catalog, but will use Digital Commons to disseminate theses and dissertations to users.