

# Chapter 34

## Theses and Dissertations from Print to ETD: The Nuances of Preserving and Accessing those in Music

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Important products in an academic library's collection are Masters Theses and Doctoral Dissertations since they represent a wealth of scholarly and artistic content created by Master's and Doctoral students in the degree-seeking process. Each has experienced an evolution to a new format, electronic. Many of these are PDF files, using the Adobe Acrobat software. Until very recently, though, those files with accompanying materials were separated. This chapter further discusses several issues inherent in this process. These include access, use, re-use, preservation, storage, integration with other systems, copyrights, and permissions. The successful management of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) requires effort across the entire lifecycle to ensure that ETDs are managed, preserved, and made accessible in a manner that today's users expect. Given the pressure of reading more in less time, today's users demand access to various formats regardless of temporal and spatial restrictions and the types of devices used.*

### **ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Because dissertations must constitute original research, each is unique to the bibliographic world. As such, a cataloger provides original descriptive cataloging for each dissertation. Often the subject has not made literary warrant, and so several other

subjects must be supplied to sufficiently create access to the dissertations. In music, however, the author achieves originality by analyzing a specific composer or composition(s), or applying a unique approach to a composition's study. The subject may also be an aspect studied in several previous works, but this is the first time it is studied in

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relation to a specific work. Extended Techniques in Stanley Friedman's *Solus for Unaccompanied Trumpet*, by Scott Meredith, is one example. While not the first to study extended techniques of the performance of the trumpet, he is the first to apply this to *Solus*.

In previous years, the thesis or dissertation was produced in multiple copies by use of carbon paper. However, musical dissertations retained the original examples, written in black ink on music manuscript paper that the author glued into the document. This was before the advent of the photocopy, and prior to the later introduction of software needed to produce notated music. Many universities also classify theses and dissertations together in one sequence, sometimes assigning arbitrary numbers. Other libraries, though, have chosen to classify each dissertation within the subject of its writings.

At the University of North Texas, the Libraries processed and cataloged one copy of each dissertation for the archives, classed together, in a Dewey Decimal classification symbolizing these works: 379 N81d. Catalogers then assigned a number to each, mostly in a chronological order. Simultaneously, the cataloger described the microfiche issued by UMI. By 1999, students were mandated to submit their theses and dissertations electronically. Musical dissertations and theses were issued with accompanying physical items (sound tape reels, audio cassettes, compact discs, videocassettes, both 1/2 and 3/4 inch widths, and videodiscs, which are 12 inches in diameter). Since, these were not conventional manuscript materials, they posed a challenge to those processing materials prior to their housing in the libraries. This process has evolved, and for several years, the College of Music submitted the recordings directly to the library. Today, though, the College of Music records the recitals, and sends the audio file to a librarian for audio and digital services. In a cataloging approach that foresaw the evolution to Resource Description and Access (RDA), all manifestations of each thesis or dissertation title

(print, electronic, microfiche) are unified in a single bibliographic record, although each item may retain a different call number.

## SETTING THE STAGE

Multiple formats from print to electronic have emerged with the advances in technology. Today's theses and dissertations, whether born digital, or retrospectively digitized from the analog (paper or microforms), are PDF files, using the Adobe Acrobat software. Until very recently, however, those files were separated from any physical accompanying materials. Creation of the notated music within the theses and dissertations has evolved from the use of manufactured manuscript paper to the utilization of notational software (*Finale*, etc.).

Accompanying materials are not limited to those that constitute performances (audio cassettes, audio compact discs, videocassettes, DVDs). Visual forms (geologic diagrams or maps, slides, images of art objects) accompany dissertations in fields as diverse as stratigraphic geology, biology, and art. These can be described using the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, second edition (AACR2) (Joint Steering Committee, 2002) and more recently, *Rules for Description and Access* (RDA) (Canadian Library Association, 2010). The rules facilitate this description as accompanying materials.

This has implications in fields beyond music; in the visual arts, the writer is able to attach files and photographs depicting two or three dimensional art objects. Geology dissertations often contain multi-colored diagrams that in the past have been inserted into pockets after the main textual material, much like inserting an instrumental part in a folder after a music score (see Figure 1). Description of these is quite similar to the description of accompanying material in the audiovisual formats, using OCLC MARC format. Students in

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