

The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)
New for Fall Semester 2011

Statewide Access to ProQuest's Dissertations and Theses—Full Text Now Available through VIVA Institutions

The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) now offers ProQuest Dissertations & Theses – Full Text, the world's most comprehensive collection of dissertations and theses.

Through a cost-sharing arrangement with all participating VIVA colleges and universities, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses—Full Text is now available for all of Virginia's 39 public institutions of higher education (including all 24 two-year colleges), and all of the 33 participating private nonprofit colleges and universities. Before this acquisition, only a dozen higher education centers offered this critical but costly resource.

Students and faculty at VIVA's 72 member colleges and universities now enjoy full online access to some 2.7 million citations to dissertation and theses from around the world from 1861 to the present. Additionally, more than 1.2 million dissertations are available for download in PDF format.

This is an important resource for advanced study. John Ulmschneider, University Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University, said that "for graduate students and researchers in particular, Dissertations and Theses is a critically important resource for their work, providing access to leading-edge research findings in many disciplines."

Serving as the official digital dissertations archive for the Library of Congress and the database of record for graduate research, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses is an indispensable resource for researchers in all disciplines. Additionally, more than 70,000 new full-text dissertations and theses are added to the database each year through dissertations publishing partnerships with 700 leading academic institutions worldwide and collaborative retrospective digitization of dissertations through UMI's Digital Archiving and Access Program.

VIVA acquired Dissertations and Theses through a cost sharing model designed to fund large-scale purchases otherwise beyond the reach of Virginia higher education. Previously, only eight public and four private institutions of higher education in Virginia had access to this product. VIVA's cost-sharing approach negotiates a modest reduction to the cost for such current subscribers in exchange for contributing their reduced subscription fees to a larger funding pool. This pool is then supplemented by VIVA to provide sufficient funding for statewide access. With the support of a larger community and a larger funding pool, VIVA can negotiate much more favorable subscription terms, providing access at significantly less cost

than would otherwise be possible. In addition, VIVA institutions will realize cost savings in interlibrary loan operations because students and faculty will have immediate access to dissertations and theses previously available only from other institutions.

VIVA continues to seek new cooperative funding models that leverage its funding and the funding of its members to maximum benefit for the entire Commonwealth. With these new approaches to collaborative acquisition of digital library materials, VIVA institutions are able to extend their existing investments in important high-cost, high-impact resources for undergraduate and research support to all VIVA members.

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VIVA is the consortium of the libraries of 73 non-profit research or higher education institutions in Virginia, including 39 state-assisted colleges and universities at 55 campuses within the Commonwealth of Virginia, 33 independent private, nonprofit institutions, and The Library of Virginia. VIVA's mission is to provide, in an equitable, cooperative, and cost-effective manner, enhanced access to library and information resources for Virginia's academic libraries serving the non-profit higher education community. VIVA is funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia through the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and by investments from participating institutions.

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