

New methods for acquisition and provision of doctoral dissertations

Since the amendment of the Ministerial Ordinance on Degrees (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture) came into effect on April 1, 2013, methods for publication of doctoral dissertations in Japan have shifted from traditional print media to the Internet. Accordingly, the NDL has established new policies for acquiring doctoral dissertations through a variety of methods, including Web crawlers, submittal systems, and postal mail.

1 Acquisition methods

A doctoral dissertation for which a degree was conferred on or after April 1, 2013, is to be accepted through any of the following three methods. In addition, a copy of the conferral report should be sent by e-mail.

1.1 Dissertations released through institutional repositories from which the National Institute of Informatics automatically collects metadata:

NDL Web crawlers acquire these automatically. This option is highly recommended, since it obviates the need for the degree-conferring university or institution to send electronic copies to the NDL.

1.2 Dissertations released on other institutional repositories or other websites:

The NDL is preparing a submittal system through which the degree-conferring universities or other institutions can send metadata and full text data files.

1.3 Dissertations whose full texts are not published on the Internet for unavoidable reasons:

The NDL will accept electronic copies through the submittal system or printed copies by postal mail.

2 Use of doctoral dissertations acquired by the NDL

Doctoral dissertations acquired by the NDL are available for the following uses.

2.1 Browsing

As with conventionally printed dissertations, electronic copies of dissertations acquired by the NDL Web crawler or the submittal system are available for use at the NDL.

2.2 Photoduplication

Dissertations in either digital or printed format are available for photoduplication, within the limits of the Copyright Law. However, those in digital format will not be available for photoduplication service until a system for duplication and operation rules are in place.

2.3 Via the Internet

Dissertations acquired by the submittal system will be made available on the Internet when the degree conferring universities or institutions grant permission.