ETDs as prior publications: What the publishers say

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Why this matters...

• Deterrent to all electronic publishing?
• Deterrent to a new form of scholarly communication?
• Misinformation?
• Attempts to hold down costs?
• Information sharing?
• Make people think about it?
Dalton’s study

- Done in 1999, reported at ETD 2000
- Results are available at http://lumiere.lib.vt.edu/surveys/
- 200 scientific journals – small response
- 94% had policy on prior publication
- 68% did NOT have a policy that specifically referred to electronic pubs
Dalton – ...begin to build a picture of where opinion was leading with respect to widely disseminated ETDs and their status as ‘publications.’
Seamans’ study

• Science & Technology Studies (STS) graduate program at Virginia Tech
• Where they publish
  – 133 Journal titles
  – 18 academic presses
  – 9 commercial presses
Contacts

• What I ended up with
  – 121 Journal titles
  – 18 academic presses
  – 9 commercial presses

• Aggregation
  – 160 from STS
  – 148 identified
  – 141 were sent an e-mail
• Response rate
  – 46 surveys responses – 31%
  – 36 e-mail responses – 24%
  – Total response rate... – 55%

• “ENTERPRISE” – journal, a press, or a publishing company
Responses

• Majority
  – were editors
  – were not-for-profit enterprises
  – had some kind of policy on prior publication and simultaneous submission

• Subject matter of the publications varied
• Majority did NOT have a policy that referred to work that may have been made electronically accessible on the Web

• Why no policy?
  – Manuscripts are handled on an individual basis; existing policy applied to web-based publications by implication; editorial policy had not yet been set

• 15 people (18%) said that ETDs would constitute prior publication

• 1 person – absolutely not...
Comments from the survey

- New issue
- Too long
- Proportion
- Revisions
- Market

- Condensed, contextualized
- Peer review
- Exposure
- Remove or restrict
General comments

- Copyright
- Time, audience
- Chapters
- UMI, Harvard
- Better paper
- Virginia Tech response...
E-mails

- Taylor & Francis – definitive versions
- Referred back to publishers
- “A bit of a tricky issue this…”
- Different format
Publishers, pro & con

• **Sage** – “Please note that we do indeed consider posted electronic theses and dissertations to be previously published material and would not accept them as original publications.”

• **Elsevier** – “...stated emphatically that [Elsevier] encourages its authors to link their articles in Elsevier journals to their personal web sites and authorizes their departments to provide such links.”
Conclusions

- DERIVED
- Virginia Tech’s alumni survey
- Keep surveying
- Seek opportunities to continue this discussion
This does matter...

• Perceptions
  – Deterrent to all electronic publishing
  – Deterrent to a new form of scholarly communication

• Misinformation

• Looking ahead - holding down costs

• Information sharing, making YOU think about it