

Finding Dissertations and Theses at UNCG libraries

Hi, this video will show you how to find dissertations and theses through the UNCG Libraries. We'll look at dissertations and these published at UNCG and beyond.

To get started, navigate to the libraries' homepage, library.uncg.edu. Once you're there, select the "databases" link in the "Research" box. If you know the database you want by name, this is the best place to go because it provides an alphabetical listing of databases. We will click on the "D" to find Dissertations and Theses Full Text.

Let's start with the one that's just called dissertations and theses full text. This covers dissertations and theses from around the world, some of with date back to the mid nineteenth century. Most of the recent dissertations and theses are provided in PDF full text.

Using this resource, we can do a basic search for a topic, like ACL injuries. Results are sorted by relevance, but you can narrow your results significantly on the right. You might limit to English, for instance, or slide the date range around to get only the most recent dissertations on this topic.

You can also select the advanced search option to do more sophisticated searching. If you want to find the dissertation that your professor wrote, for instance, you can search by author. I'll search for Dr. Terranova's dissertation by typing in his name and selecting author from the dropdown menu. There are lots of other search options on the advanced search page. For instance, you can search for dissertations by advisor or institution. If you know that a lot of work is being done on your area of interest at UNC Chapel Hill, you can search for your topic and then include UNC Chapel Hill in the institutions box.

No matter how you find your dissertation or thesis in this database, clicking on the title will pull up the full text of the paper if it is available. You can also download the PDF file, email this to yourself (which I recommend as an easy way of keeping track of the sources you find), or print (but be careful – they're often 200 pages or longer!).

That's a basic introduction to Dissertations and Theses Full Text. I'll jump back to the databases page and select Dissertations and Theses @UNCG. This is a subset of the larger database we just looked at. This is great if you'd like to see dissertations completed in your department over the last few years, or to find projects advised by your advisor. For instance, if we search for Diane Gill in the advisor field, we can see all of the dissertations Dr. Gill has advised at UNCG.

If you have any questions about finding and using Dissertations and Theses Full Text, head to the library homepage, click the Ask Us! button and chat with us, or contact your Kinesiology librarian.

Thanks and happy researching!