

Preserving E-theses at Queen's

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Current situation

- Online guidance
 - Copyright – E-thesis LibGuide
 - Formats - Digital Preservation LibGuide
- Open Research Training
 - Copyright training once per semester
 - Quick intro to preservation at PGR inductions
- Gaps
 - Link Rot
 - Web archiving (Irish Song Project)
 - Student awareness
 - Understanding concepts like "Preservation"

E-thesis preservation

- Since 2021 E-thesis submission has been mandatory for PGRs, no print copy is required
- 3700 e-theses +supplementary files currently in Pure
- Digitising retrospective theses with obsolete file formats e.g. cassette/video tape
- Uploading PDF files to Preservica of all submitted PGR theses
 - E-thesis team is reliant on students to be proactive about preserving content
 - We are working to backfill Preservica, challenge due to staff time and no API
- Non-traditional research outputs
 - e.g. Sonic Arts audio files not readable and URL links broken

Integrating the resource pack

- Several sections have been integrated into our Digital Preservation LibGuide <https://libguides.qub.ac.uk/digital-preservation>
- Copyright and Link Rot guides were handed out at the 'Sources to support you' event for PGRs in June.
- Sections of the web archiving and link rot guides will be adapted and integrated into our 'Destination Graduation' training session which covers preparation of the final thesis for submission to our repository.
- The "Things to Do" section on copyright will be added to PGR Induction slides in September – it is a useful, proactive list that should help students navigate copyright issues rather than panic them.
- The conversation prompts in the *Staff Reference Guide* will be useful for engagement with students submitting complex multi format theses.
- We appreciate the flexibility of the CC-BY-NC-SA Licence – it helps clarify and reassure that it's ok to use and adapt the guides.



- Resources support across the research life cycle
- Foundational information for students just beginning, or checklist for those in the panicked last stages of submission
- Staff Reference and Orientation helps onboard new Senior Library Assistants



Thank you!

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