


Thomas Cooper Library	 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA	Reference Department
<b>HOW TO FIND THESES, DISSERTATIONS AND USC HONORS COLLEGE THESES</b>		AM 04/07

**Where are theses and dissertations located at the Columbia Campus Libraries?**

The Thomas Cooper library houses theses and dissertations, predominantly in the Arts and Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. Theses from the Honors College are also located at the Thomas Cooper Library; see below.

The Mathematics, Business and Music libraries will have the dissertations for their subject areas. The South Carolina Library maintains duplicate copies of USC dissertations for all subject areas that may be housed in the Annex. Please check the Library catalog for location.

**Where are the dissertations in the Thomas Cooper Library?**

Dissertations and theses are located with books and journals of the same subject. Most dissertations are available in two formats, paper and electronic full-text. A full-text copy of most dissertations since 1996 is available in PDF format via the Dissertations and Theses Database.

**Locating USC Dissertations at the Thomas Cooper Library by Author, Keyword, Title or Subject in the catalog:**

Search for your dissertation by author, title, keyword or subject or browse by department.

**Example Author Search:**

*edgar walter or edgar, walter*

Note: Will search with or without the comma

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**Example Keyword Search:**

*thes\* and english and university of south carolina*

Note: Always use the term theses (rather than dissertation) regardless of the academic degree involved. The asterisk \* will truncate (expand) the word and search theses and/or thesis.

You can search by keyword. This method will also find dissertations in various subjects and/or departments which include your keyword(s). You can also combine the word “theses” with an author’s name, for example: *theses and shuford and tuna*

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**Example Subject Searches:**

*history—theses*

*communicative disorders--theses*

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**Locating USC Dissertations by department:**

There are several ways to find dissertations in particular subject areas or departments. You can browse by subject, using the department as “subject”:

**Example Department search: (using the subject search function):**

*university of south carolina—theses—history*

Note: Departmental titles may have changed over time

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**Locating USC Honors Theses**

Theses received from the University of South Carolina’s Honors College will be cataloged at the Thomas Cooper Library and housed on Level 5. Cataloging of these honors theses began in January 2006.

**Example Subject Search:**

*university of south carolina—theses—honors*

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**Locating USC Dissertations Electronically ([www.sc.edu/library/er](http://www.sc.edu/library/er))**

Dissertations & Theses @ University of South Carolina formerly Current Research @ USC

This University Microfilm International product and contains the full-text dissertations and some master’s theses produced by University of South Carolina students from 1997 to the present.

Dissertations & Theses

This database covers dissertations accepted at accredited U.S. institutions since 1861. It selectively covers master's theses, Canadian dissertations, British, and other international dissertations. Abstracts are included for dissertations beginning July 1980 and for master's theses beginning spring 1988. PDFs of some titles are available. For dissertations and theses completed prior to those dates, references are given to the print edition of Dissertation Abstracts, American Doctoral Dissertations and Masters Abstracts. Abstracts may be consulted in those publications.

Once in the database you can locate USC dissertations a number of ways, including searching under author, title, school or advisor.

## DISSERTATIONS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES

### Overview

Along with using the online Dissertation databases for finding theses and dissertations, the University Libraries owns or has access to many resources to aid in your search for dissertations. The following list of sources is available to USC patrons.

### Resources

Dissertation Abstracts International. A: The humanities and social sciences.

Z5055 .U6 A1 SEC. A

Dissertation abstracts from the humanities and social sciences. Lists dissertations published since 1969.

Dissertation Abstracts International. B: The sciences and engineering.

Z5055 .U6 A1 SEC. B

Dissertation abstracts from the sciences and engineering. Lists dissertations published since 1978.

Dissertation Abstracts International C: European Abstracts.

Z5055 .U6 A1 SEC. C v. 37 - 49

Dissertation abstracts from Europe. Lists dissertations published from 1976-1988.

Dissertations after 1988 are listed in Dissertation Abstracts International C: Worldwide.

Many online databases and reference books offer listings of dissertations and theses from around the world. These have been organized by specific country or area. Call numbers are for the Thomas Cooper Library Stacks.

### World

#### Foreign Doctoral Dissertations via CRL

Coverage of non-U.S. dissertations in DAI (ProQuest) is sketchy, and it can be difficult to identify and obtain copies of foreign dissertations. However, the Center for Research Libraries actively collects foreign dissertations and provides them to member institutions through interlibrary loan. Unfortunately, their collection is not completely indexed in the Foreign Doctoral Dissertations Database, so if you need a foreign dissertation that isn't listed there, it's well worth making an interlibrary loan request for it anyway. Please allow extra time -- if the dissertation you need is already at CRL, it will come quickly, but if they need to purchase it, it may take six months to a year.

**To Request copies of dissertations not accessible through University Libraries, current USC faculty, staff and students should contact the Interlibrary Loan Department**

Guidelines for acquiring dissertations through the Interlibrary Loan Department may be found at: [http://ill2.tcl.sc.edu/policies\\_and\\_procedures.htm](http://ill2.tcl.sc.edu/policies_and_procedures.htm) or you may call their office at 777-2805.