



EVALUATION, STORAGE AND PUBLICATION OF THE THESIS

OPTU-project



BACKGROUND

- Ongoing project on the renewal of thesis processes and information system services (OPTU)
 - E-thesis system developed in the library and maintained by OPA and the library is at the end of its life cycle
 - The project focuses only on thesis processes for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.
 - The processes will be examined from the stage when the thesis is ready to be submitted for assessment up to the stage when it is stored and possibly published openly
 - <https://flamma.helsinki.fi/s/34CHG>

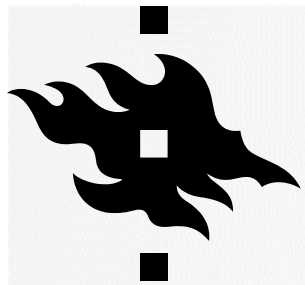
Current state of e-thesis

- Used to store Master's theses in all faculties
- Used as a gateway to open publication of Master's theses in all faculties
- Examination and evaluation of Master's theses in all faculties except the Faculty of Science
- Used for the evaluation and storing of bachelor theses in the following faculties/units: KTDK, LTDK, TTDK and SOCKOM



PRODUCTS

- Updated process descriptions for the evaluation of theses
- Description and prioritisation of user needs
- New version of the information system (ethesis)
 - *The new version of information system will be in production when the project is completed.*
 - *The new version of IT system will replace the old IT system and users of the current E-THESIS will migrate to the new version*
- Thesis instructions for students (concerning the thesis file to be submitted for assessment, its assessment, storage and publication)
 - Information on the E-thesis home page should be transferred to the thesis instructions (joint vs. programme-specific instructions)
- Updated guidelines for the examiner
- Instructions on how to use the information system for all user groups
- Description of the service → The services and the division of labour between the library and the teaching and student services (OPA) have been clarified.



SITUATION

- Process description of the target state for the evaluation, storage and publication of Master's theses completed
- Target state of the process for the evaluation, preservation and publication of doctoral theses with comments in the degree programmes
- In the new information system, the "pass-through" of Master theses for submission for publication completed
- Process for evaluation, storage and publication of Bachelor's theses in development by end of year

1. The student submits the thesis

2. The Student Administration receives information about the submitted thesis (list of received)

3. Responsible person to identify examiners

4. The thesis is forwarded to the examiners for evaluation

5. Examiners assess the thesis & approve the maturity test (if an abstract)

6. Postponed until the decision-making meeting (lists)

7. Grades recorded in Sisu (first by hand then automatically)

8. The thesis is stored first in Helda and later in Siilo (permanent archive)

9. Published thesis available on Helda via browser



WHAT CHANGES?

- eThesis is only a system for evaluation
- The University of Helsinki's digital archive (Helda) will display all theses (restricted and open)
 - At library branches, theses can be viewed via Helda, not via E-thesis
- The new information system has an interface to Sisu
- No need to manually maintain degree programme and specialization information
- Basic student data and necessary performance information is available in SISU
- The right to study can be checked
- Reduction of the time needed to enter a grade separately (direct export of the grade to SISU is under planning)



WHAT CHANGES?

- New information system interface to Annif
 - Students can choose their preferred subject from the suggested keywords
 - Findability of theses will be improved (e.g. OpenAIRE)
 - subject indexing will be easier and faster for students.
- The new information system no longer has an interface with Ouriginal
 - Contract with Ouriginal ends at 31.12.2024.



TIMETABLE

User testing in a test environment September-November 2023



Piloting - January-February 2024

For those that use assessment areas recommended by ONE 2017



Launch March-August 2024