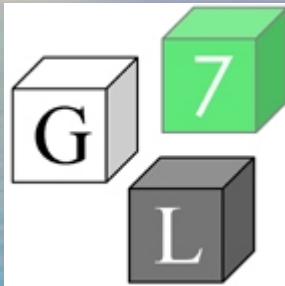


THE ACCESSIBILITY TO DOCTORAL THESES IN SPAIN: A POLITICAL CHANGE AND A RECONSIDERING OF ITS NATURE



Open Access to Grey Resources

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- **The situation of Doctoral Theses in Spain before the digitalisation.**
- Due to the intrinsic interest of doctoral theses, in Spain lately, the efforts of the academic authorities to make an exhaustive control of the ones that have already been defended in the public and private universities in our country have been multiplied. And also promoted by the users, the people in charge of the University Libraries have arrived to the conclusion that Doctoral Theses are an essential material that can not lack in their collections. It seems to be unavoidable to resolve access difficulties and solve problems related to bibliographic control.
- Bibliographic control implies the store of the document, its description and inclusion in retrieval recuperation instruments: catalogues, repertories, databases. The access means its inclusion inside a stock where it can be looked up without being plagiarized, avoiding in this way the violation of the author rights. The digitalisation has solved many of the problems experienced by people who needed to consult previous defended theses.
- In the Spanish State, the projects that include Doctoral Theses information retrieval tools have been slower than in other countries and have been started up in its origin thanks to the initiative of some universities that have tried to make available the catalogues or repertories of their own theses; in time these lists, thanks to the technologies application, have become Data Bases.

- Later on, it was seen the necessity of elaborated Doctoral Theses national bibliographies or collective catalogues, first printed and after automated in the whole country.
- Leaving apart particular contributions of each university, we can state that in the Spanish State it exists a national information resource about Doctoral Theses defended in its public or private universities: the TESEO DataBase.
- This DataBase has been preceded by an attempt of published printed repertoire, promoted by the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia. TESEO was born in the 80s, with information since 1976, which is updated periodically and fed from the data sent by the Doctoral Commission of each university, by the already mentioned doctoral index card, which that is nothing but an official formulary with all the data related to the study done, including a big summary, the author must write explaining the methodology used and the principal conclusions of his/her Thesis.
- Without any doubt, TESEO is the most complete DataBase available in Spain. It is a strictly referential DataBase, having into consideration its character of general national repertoire

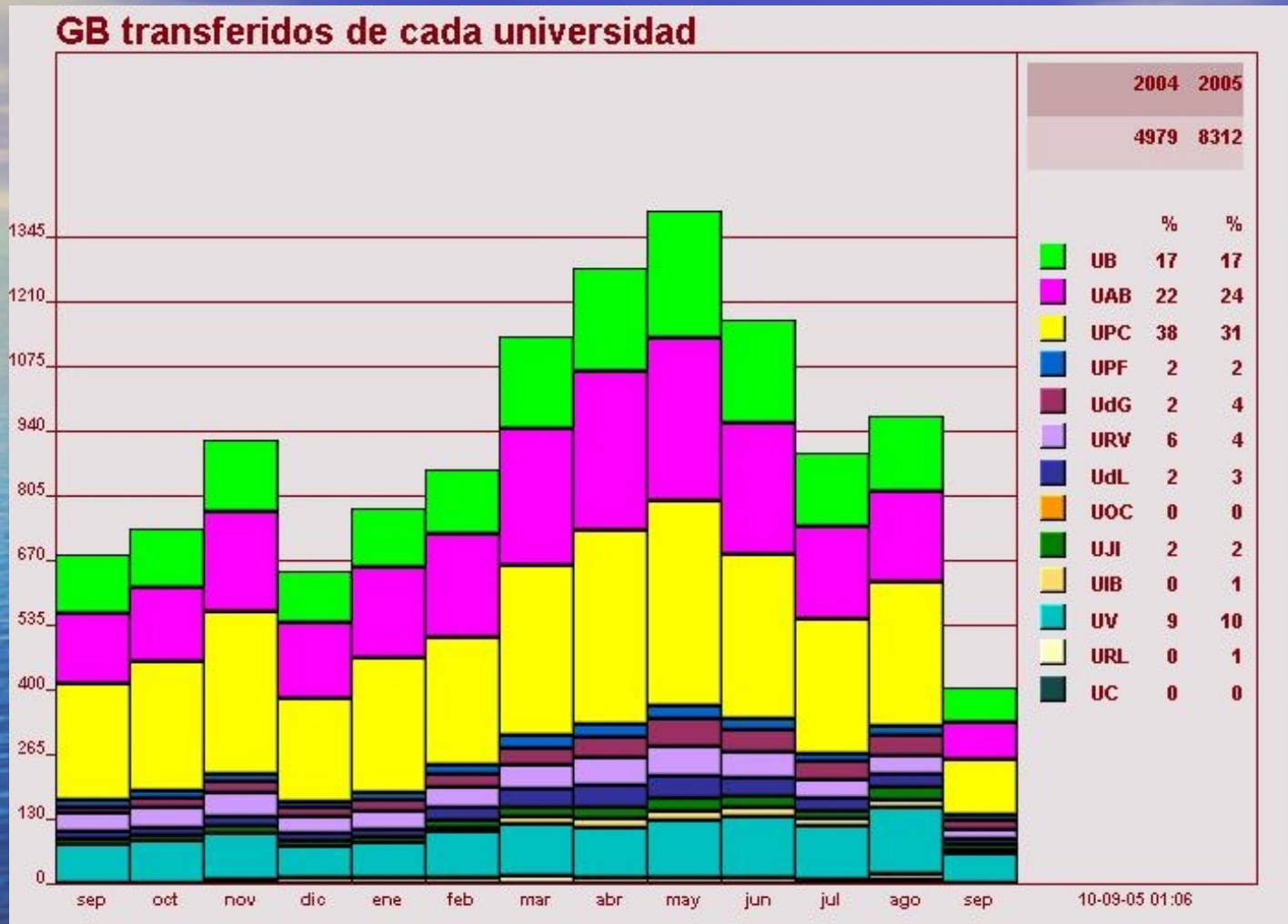
- **Doctoral theses digitalization projects in the Spanish universities.**
- Approximately, we see that a meaningful step forward is happening in our country with reference to the Digital Theses free access through the university strengthening of their theses digitalization. That's it, the scientific researching make good use of the facility and immediacy that the network offers to published researching works [Ayuso-García y Martínez Navarro, 2004b: 50] and, in general, to provide and generates eprint. However, it hasn't been an institutional initiative, as the TESEO DataBase, that promotes it and justifies itself due to the University autonomy.
- The truth is that this process has been carried out in different ways that we can synthesize in two groups: Doctoral Theses digitalization projects through cooperatives projects and projects from the Spanish Universities, and the case of the Biblioteca Miguel de Cervantes.

- **Cooperative Projects.**

The most important cooperative projects that have taken place are:

- a) The server “**Tesis Doctorales en Red**” (TDR). One of the first initiatives of doctoral theses digitalization that has taken place in our country by the Centro de Supercomputación de Catalunya (CESCA), consortium created in 1991 and revised in their statutes in 2003. It is here where the Servidor de Tesis Doctorales en Red (TDR) has its space.
- The Servidor de Tesis Doctorales en Red (TDR) born as the result of an agreement signed in 1999 between the Universitat Digital de Catalunya (1999-2003) and, at that time, Comisionados de la Sociedad de la Información de Universidades e investigación and the Universities of Catalunya: Autònoma de Barcelona, Politècnica de Catalunya, Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Universitat de Lleida, Universitat de Girona, Universitat Rovira i Virgili and finally, the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, besides the Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca, CESCA and the Consorci de Biblioteques Universitaries de Catalunya (CBUC). Later other universities of the so called “Arco Mediterráneo” have been incorporated: Universitat Jaime I (July 2002), Universitat de les Illes Balears (December 2002), Universitat de Valencia (April 2003), Universitat Ramon Llull (October 2004), Universidad de Murcia (July 2005) and also the Universidad de Cantabria.

FIGURE 1



- Information quantity, in gigabytes, transferred by Universities
- The added value also allows knowing the percentage of the stock consultation for country/domain and Universities.

- **The Digital Theses in the Spanish Universities.**

- This Project is coordinated by the Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias (REBIUM) that collaborates with the Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas (CRUE). It's an ambitious project, which compiles all Doctoral Theses initiatives in Spain with a complete text. This project, as the one we have seen before, and collaborating with TDR verifies that the Spanish universities, on the whole -as well as the particular actions that we will see afterwards- go for the creation of systems to diffuse in OAI their Doctoral Theses and other academics and scientific documents, which contribute to spread this typology of GL.
- In this way, it motivates the creation of their own open archives or it recommends to use the TDR server to deposit them and even the e-prints server of the Universidad Complutense (now in testing phase).
- To retrieve the information it's used the online Doctoral Theses Cybertheses researcher, as well as to supply information about the TESEO Data base and the Electronic Theses and Dissertations Cybertheses/ Cyberdocs Digital Library.
- Regarding the online Doctoral Theses international projects, those systems wich help to spread the Theses and other academics works information in OAI are chosen, knowing the access difficulty even with the efforts that are being made to solve it, but above all aware of the importance of these documents to the economic, researching and also social and industrial activity.





Proyectos españoles | Proyectos internacionales | Búsquedas en Cybertesis | Teseo | Objetivos

Proyectos internacionales de tesis digitales en red

Las principales universidades internacionales están apostando fuertemente por la creación de sistemas que permitan difundir en OAI sus tesis doctorales y otros materiales académicos.

Adjuntamos un listado de los principales servidores a nivel internacional.

Principales servidores internacionales de tesis:

- **Cybertesis**
- . Tesis electrónicas en Línea
- **Digital Library of Electronic Theses and Dissertations**
- **Cyberthèses / Cyberdocs**

Otros sitios con tesis digitales en formato electrónico:

- **DOE Environmental Sciences Division**
- **Konstanzer Online-Publikations-System** (in German)
- **National Library of Canada**
- **Theological Research Exchange Network (TREN)**
- **UMI**
- **University of Michigan**
- **University of Stuttgart**
- **Independent ETDs**
- **Unifacts**
- **SOSIG (The Social Science Information Gateway)**
- **Dissertation.com**
- **Diplomica.com**

- **University and/or digital libraries own projects.**
 - Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM).
 - Through the Biblioteca Complutense, users can have access to the digital collection of the Theses of the UCM. This collection has more than seven thousand digitalized Theses from 1990-2000. However, only 3000 from the total of the stocks can be freely consulted by Internet. The open access “archivo institucional E-print UCM”[\[1\]](#) has been created; it allows the consultation from a complete text from every searcher in Internet, which is undoubtedly very interesting. The search can be of a complete text, of register, and advance. It also can be done through index, author, Faculty, Department, etc. The information recover is of a complete text in PDF format
 - Universidad de Granada (UGR).
 - This university allows access through its University Library. In the link “Varios” (quite surprisingly) we access the Theses of the UGR in digital format from the 1st February 2005 only through the Departments. It’s interesting to note it indicates the number of Theses that have been read and their reference, but it’s disappointing that the access to approximately 200 Theses is not free and it’s restricted to UGR users
- Universidad de Granada (UGR). Available in Web:



UGR

Universidad
de Granada

Biblioteca Universitaria

Novedades y actualidad



Bases de **datos**



Historical Abstracts



Ulrichweb: La base de datos Ulrich ahora disponible en Web



Revistas electrónicas

★ Varios



Tesis de la UGR presentadas en formato electrónico a partir de 1 de febrero de 2005

(Acceso restringido a usuarios doctores de la UGR)

- Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV)
- This university creates the Doctoral Theses Digital Library in the electronic edition inside the PQ Digital Dissertations database. It allows searches of bibliographic references and abstracts and also the first 24 pages of the Theses. The access is free and without any cost in PDF format. It's interesting to note external users have the possibility of buying the Thesis in digital format. Maybe the problem is the language used is Catalan and not everybody, even in Spain, can understand it.
- Universidad de Murcia (UM)
- As many others this university is included in the network Project and the institutional page. Theoretically all universities have a tool to edit their Theses in digital format, through TDR or through the REBIUM Project, and this fact is helping without doubts to permit the free access and the information retrieval.

The Digital Doctoral Theses of the Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes (BVMC) case.

- Although it is not a university institution, it's necessary to point out the role that this Virtual Library plays in the GL access, in particular in Doctoral Theses, and the importance its free access has in this project since it was created. In general, we can state that the BVMC is a major project of digital edition of the bibliographic, documental and critical Spanish and Spanish-American heritage, which pretends the Hispanic cultures universal strengthening through the use of more advanced technologies .
- This Digital Library was inaugurated in 1999 as an initiative of the Universidad de Alicante and the Banco de Santander-Central Hispano, in collaboration with the Fundación Marcelino Botín. It's designed as a cultural, educative and researching offer to universities, private or public institutions involved in Hispanic culture. It's a singular project that constitutes a great web access window to several digital cultural and bibliographic webs of Spain and Spanish-America.

It allows the visit to the Libraries' Webs in both continents. It also offers a complete directory of the library and bibliographic electronic resources in the entire world, but above all, and that's why it's so interesting for us, it acts as an editor and headquarters of some works inside the GL: Doctoral Theses and educative and scientific text publications. As we can see, it's a different offer that gives Doctoral Theses information not only from Spain but also from Spanish-America.



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Martes, 15 de Noviembre **de 2005**

- **CONCLUSIONS.**

- Summing up we would like to go back to the concept we have already explained at the beginning of this work by saying that this part of the GL, Doctoral Theses, is not really widespread and often when they are very limited. That's why the access to scholars, researchers and users in general is very difficult, even though this situation is getting a little bit better nowadays.
- We would like to point out that, in spite of its importance, the TESEO DataBase is not enough. Nowadays, in Spain, maybe a little bit later than in other countries, networked Doctoral Theses digitalization projects are being made. Because of this tendency of limited access is luckily changing very fast, since approximately between the 20% and the 30% of the Theses in our country are digitalized and have free access.
- From the seventy two registered Spanish Universities, according to our data, only approximately a quarter of them contribute, cooperating with other institutions or universities or on their own, to Doctoral Thesis digitalization and free access. However, we have to say that this number has been a considerable improvement and the instruments and tools to allow the access and spread with the TDR (CESCA) and REBIUN projects and the proposal of the UCM, etc. already exists.
- It's necessary to consider the quality of the Doctoral Theses retrieval instruments and to promote the quality control of them, specially those who are published in Internet and have free access (Ayuso- García, Martínez Navarro, 2004c: 135).
- **The future is encouraging.**