

The **University Digital Conservancy (UDC)** provides free, worldwide open access to scholarly and administrative works produced by or about the University of Minnesota.

## The UDC is:

- a showcase for certain categories of student works, such as **dissertations**, Master's Plan A and professional papers, honors theses, capstone papers, and UROP projects
- a venue for **faculty** to deposit copies of their works (articles, research data, conference proceedings) for long-term preservation and open access
- centralized, searchable access to institutional digital resources that would have traditionally gone to the **University Archives**

## Benefits of Submitting to the UDC:

- **free/open access** - your digital works will be made available to the widest possible audience, free via the web
- **long-term access/preservation** - a permanent url for each of your works guarantee no more broken links, and the Digital Conservancy strategies ensure that your works will remain accessible and usable over time
- **increased visibility** - content in institutional repositories like the Digital Conservancy receive higher ranking in Google and Google Scholar search results increasing your works' exposure and potential for higher impact (works are cited more frequently)
- **full text searching** - search across the full text of your works using Google, Google Scholar, or a Digital Conservancy search box embedded on your own website

## Consider an Embargo if:

There are some important issues you may need to consider before sharing your work.

- **your work contains sensitive data** - works in the Digital Conservancy are accessible to anyone with an internet connection, worldwide - but some sensitive or private information (such as social security, health, or education records) must be anonymized or not shared
- **your work includes potentially patentable inventions** - if information about a patentable invention is shared publicly before the inventor applies for a patent, the patent may be denied
- **you are considering publication** - Some commercial publishers prefer not to publish works that are already available in full online
- **your work is jointly authored** - If your work was authored jointly with other collaborators, or you have signed a copyright transferral form, it is good practice to make sure that you own the rights to share publicly via the Digital Conservancy.

## What to Do Next:

To submit your work, simply fill out the **Deposit Agreement** provided by the Graduate Student Services Office. Hand it in with your signature page and title page, and your dissertation will automatically be added to the Digital Conservancy!

If you have further questions please contact the UDC directors:

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