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Inspire New Levels of Achievement in Undergraduate Research

Dissertations are one of the most important resources available to advanced researchers at the graduate level. But did you know providing undergraduate students with access to ProQuest Dissertation & Theses (PQDT) Global also helps them achieve their academic and career goals?

By using these scholarly works in the classroom, instructors can support the development of information literacy skills like evaluating credible resources, presenting evidence-based arguments and exposing students to the research process.

Additionally, dissertations can help students better prepare for their future in the workplace. The PQDT collection provides historic as well as emerging research across every discipline, providing insights and information on the evolution of such areas as education, business, STEM, nursing, the social sciences and more. Such perspectives can ensure students are prepared for the latest challenges in the workplace, and potentially anticipate future developments in their fields.



Building researcher confidence

Embarking on research for higher education assignments is often daunting but using PQDT to get started can demystify those difficult first steps. Dissertations can expose students to original, cutting-edge ideas and a spectrum of scholarly voices to provoke their interest in any given topic area. This engages students' curiosity, inspiring them to ask research questions they want to answer – and then make it easier and more inviting for them to do so.

- **Find specific niche topics:** PQDT is often the only place to locate research on very specific, unusual or obscure topics and trends of today and from throughout history.
- **Include diverse voices:** A spectrum of researchers from around the world offer unique perspectives, insights and experiences that may not be available from other sources.

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Understanding the research process

The introduction section of most dissertations outlines the research process step-by-step – from forming a hypothesis and presenting an argument to describing techniques for gathering and evaluating information to support conclusions. This can help novice researchers develop a deeper understanding of the process and how each of these pieces fit together. In the PQDT database, students can also compare dissertations on related topics to explore various approaches to research, observe how different outcomes are reached and consider the diverse perspectives of global scholars.

- **Achieve information literacy:** A credible source and reference to develop the proper nomenclature and identify other relevant search terms in that field.
- **Quickly conduct literature reviews:** Use dissertations as a starting point to locate published books and articles on the topic and branch your research from here.

- A** Linked References
- B** Cited by Links
- C** Foundational Research
- D** Similar Dissertations

The screenshot shows the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Enter your search terms...". Below the search bar, the title "Speech Motor Complexity in Childhood Apraxia of Speech" is displayed, along with the author "Case, Julie E." and the institution "New York University". The interface includes navigation options like "Download PDF", "Order a copy", "Cite", "Email", and "All Options". A list of references is shown, with the first reference being "Boersma, P. (1998). The OCP in functional phonology. Manuscript [ID#A-253-0998]". A sidebar on the right highlights "Foundational Research on this topic" with a link to "The Treatment Effects of Frequency of Speech Therapy in Early Intervention: A Program Evaluation" by Pepe, Danielle. At the bottom, there are sections for "Similar Dissertations" with titles like "Motor Learning Guided Treatment with Childhood Apraxia of Speech: Cueing & Feedback" and "Environmental Influences on communication development: Implications for children w...".



Preparing for careers

Dissertations spotlight the latest issues and developments in areas like education, business, engineering, medicine, technology and the social sciences as well as in the arts and literature. For students preparing for a career in any of these fields, PQDT exposes them to emerging challenges and opportunities they will likely face in the workplace. By using PQDT in the classroom, instructors can help students understand the real-world impact and application for scholarly research and how it relates to future employment trends and the skillsets necessary to succeed.

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(CITATION: Woods, S., Phillips, K., & Dudash, A. (2020). Dissertations and Theses in Top Nursing Publications: A Bibliometric Study. Evidence Based Library and Information Practice, 15(4), 68–82. <https://doi.org/10.18438/ebliip29764>)

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