

HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

- Founded in 1640
- A total of 31,200 students of all levels (2018)
- Employs 7,838 people (4,458 persons teaching and research)
 - 259 library staff, 1,095 teaching and research support staff
- A total of 5,514 completed degrees in 2018 (69% of these by women)
- Multi-disciplinary, 12 faculties and four campuses + four research stations (one in Kenya)
- 27,741 applicants in the main admissions procedure; 3,438 admitted students (2018)



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI 1.1.2018

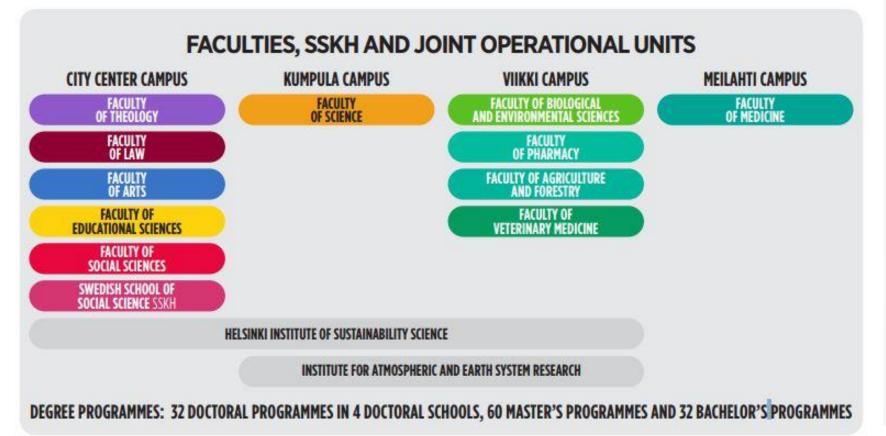
UNIVERSITY COLLEGIUM

CHANCELLOR

BOARD

RECTOR

UNIVERSITY SERVICES



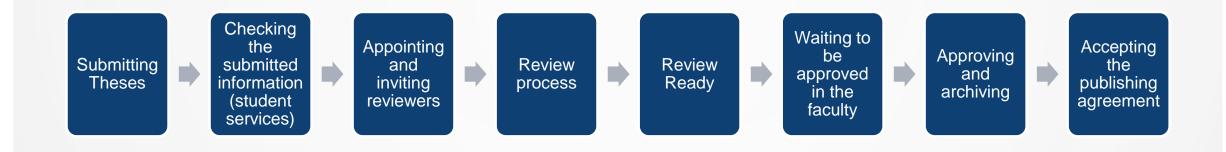


THE SERVICE FOR PROCESSING MASTER'S AND BACHELOR'S THESES

- The Library has developed a relatively complex and ambitious Dspace-based service for digital Master's and Bachelor's Theses
 - Developed by Joonas Kesäniemi
- The first faculties started using the system in 2014
- The Library solely in charge of the service for the first years



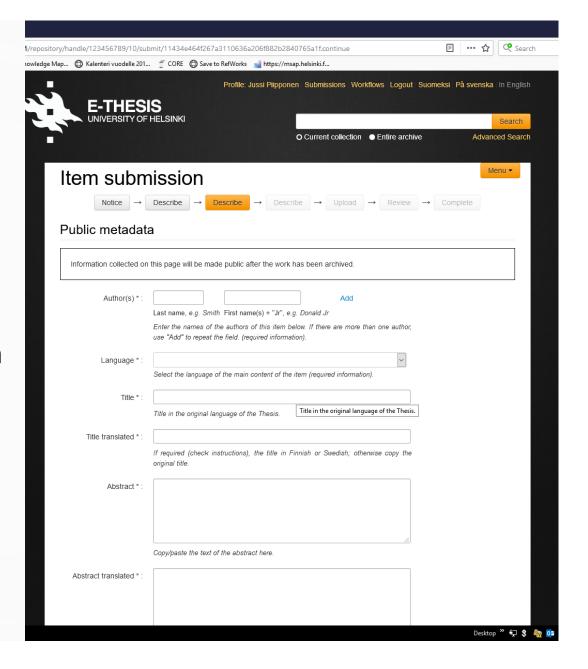
THE PROCESS FOR THESES IN E-THESIS





SUBMITTING THESIS

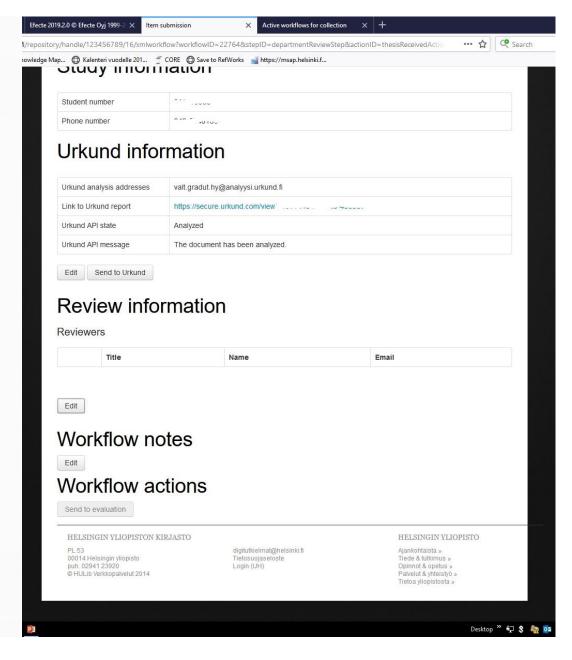
- The student logs in with Shibboleth and submits the metadata, personal information and information about the studies
- The student uploads the thesis





THESIS RECEIVED

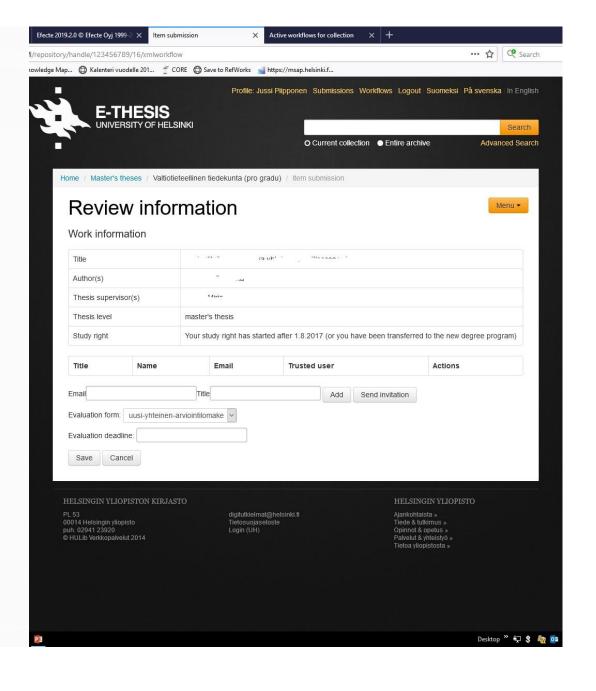
- Student services check the submission
- A report from a plagiarism detection system is available





APPOINTING AND INVITING REVIEWERS

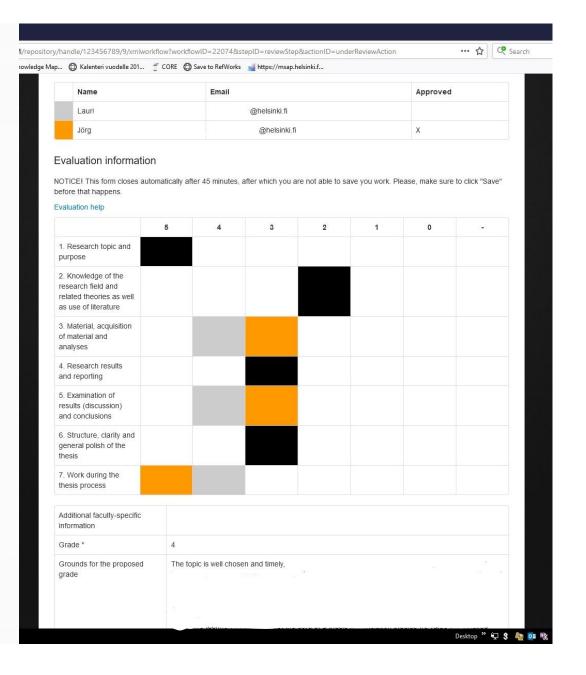
- Student services use the system to invite the reviewers
 - The reviewers can be also from other organisations than the University





REVIEWING PROCESS

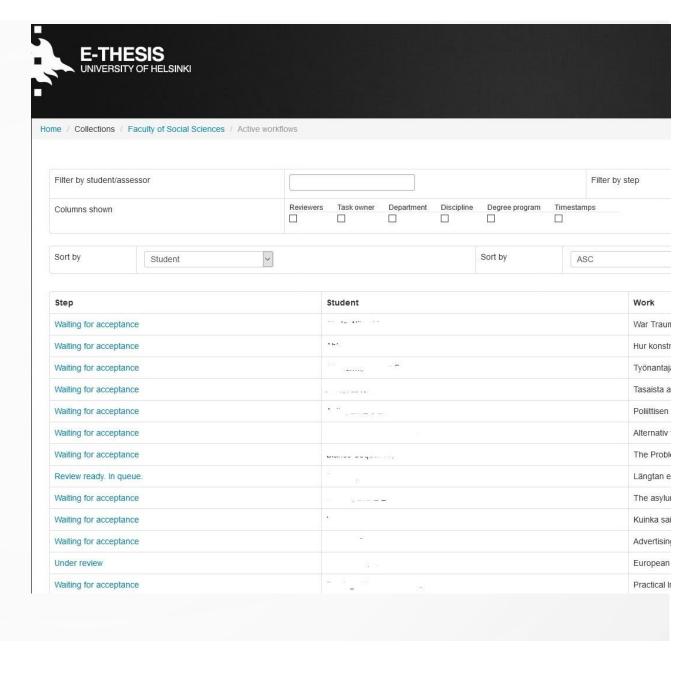
- The reviewers edit the evaluation form until they agree on the review
- The link to the report in the plagiarism detection system is available to the reviewers





REVIEW READY AND WAITING TO BE APPROVED

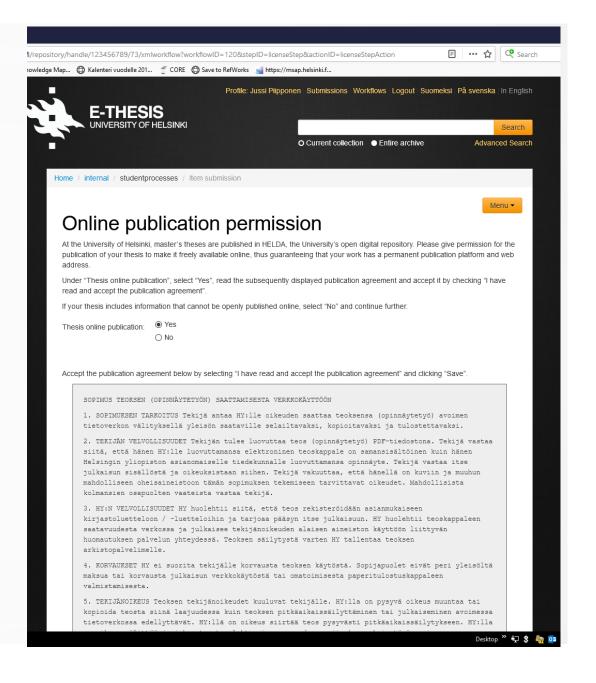
- Student services manage the theses workflows in each faculty (submissions, reviewing, approval)
- The system produces a list of theses to be discussed in the Faculty board meeting





APPROVED AND ARCHIVED & PUBLISHING

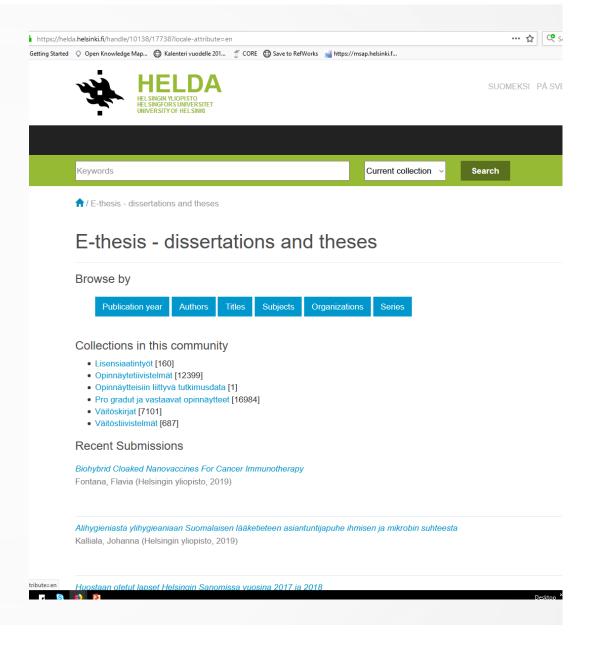
- Storing and publishing theses
- The students can choose to publish their theses in Helda (open repository)





RELATED SYSTEMS

- The repository exchanges information with
 - a plagiarism detection system and
 - a linked open data system
 - open access repository of the University





A LOT OF PEOPLE RELY ON E-THESIS: MANY TYPES OF USER ROLES

- Students submitting their theses and giving permission to publish the thesis (~ 2500 users yearly)
- Administrative personnel in study administration (~40 users)
 - Receiving and checking the submissions
 - Appointing and inviting reviewers
 - Drafting a list of Theses to be accepted in the faculty board meeting
- Academic reviewers (University personel & experts from other organizations) (several hundreds a year)
- Library personnel (3 users)
 - Looking after the storing and publishing
- Admin users (3 users)
- In addition: **Readers** almost 3 million downloads for openly available Master's Theses yearly (2018)



E-THESIS WORKFLOW AND ROLES SUMMARISED

Roles

Student

Reviewers

Administration

Student Student administration Reviewer Student administration official (in charge of Library personnel & official evaluation and approval) student The Student fills in The reviewers edit the The thesis and the The thesis has been After the thesis has The student administration checks evaluation form until evaluation is waiting to added to the agenda of been approved in the - the metadata faculty, the thesis is the submitted they have agreed on be added to the the faculty board - personal information stored in the repository the evaluation agenda of the faculty information, and meeting appoints and invites board available for the library - information about the the reviewers personnel and studies The reviewers check A list of Theses to be customers in the library the report from the The student and the discussed and premises. The student uploads plagiarism detection reviewers are sent the accepted in the system evaluation report (PDF) meeting is produced the pdf. which is sent The student is given to the plagiarism the oppotrtunity to detection system accept the publishing agreement. The library Helda open repository Plagiarism detection Metadata catalogue and system

HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Full-text if the student

accepts the publishing

agreement

enriching

metadata



THE STUDENT SERVICES STEP IN (2017)...

- Hello Library, you are doing a pretty good job, but we are a little concerned how you can manage all that
- E-thesis supports a key process in the university: submitting, reviewing and approving theses
 - The whole process usually not associated with the Library
- The processes and practices vary from faculty to faculty
 - Multidisciplinary university with 12 faculties



...AND THE LIBRARY SAYS THANK YOU

- The volumes large
 - Over 2000 Master's theses processed yearly
 - Over 600 Bachelor's theses processed yearly
- Strong demand for user support
- IT resources in the Library very limited
- In short, the extra resources and expertise very welcome



THE BEGINNING OF THE COLLABORATION – WHAT IS THIS DSPACE?

- The Student Services had no background with repositories or E-thesis service
- Getting to know the system took a while
- The superiors in the student services had to be convinced about the resources needed
- Basic documentation lacking work started



WE CAN WORK IT OUT – HOW WE COLLABORATE

- Over the past two years Helsinki University Library and the Student Services have come up with the following ways in which we collaborate in running and developing the service
 - Developing the service
 - Introducing the process to new faculties
 - User support & producing instructions
 - Reaching out to the user groups



DEVELOPING THE SERVICE

- A team in charge of developing the service has been established
 - Library, student services, educational technology services + it consultants
 - Weekly meetings
 - Discusses the user feedback and user cases
 - Discusses and decides about the priorities in developing the service
- Development sprints (JIRA Board)
 - Library IT & IT consultants + coordination
- Constant communication channel (Flowdock)



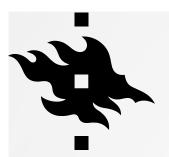
INTRODUCING THE SERVICE TO NEW FACULTIES

- Faculties eager to adopt reviewing process
- Involves meetings, discussions and consultations with the faculty
 - Some features such as the evaluation form have been customised according to the wishes of each faculty
 - Piloting the system before the full implementation
- Negotiating on the new tasks
- Training new users (student services personnel, teachers, students)
- All the faculties use the system as of summer 2019



TACKLING USER QUESTIONS AND INSTRUCTING USERS

- A ticketing system (Efecte)
 - A more efficient way of handling user support
 - Experts from the Library and the Student Services handle the user cases
- A coordinated way of producing instructions for the user groups
 - ethesis.helsinki.fi
 - Blog https://blogs.helsinki.fi/digitutkielmat/
 - University's instructions for students https://guide.student.helsinki.fi/en
 - Coming in fall 2019 https://teaching.helsinki.fi/



COMMUNICATING WITH USER GROUPS

- Actively finding opportunities to meet users (being aware of theses related discussions)
- Regular meetings with the officials in the student services
 - User feedback gathered
 - Information for the technical development
- Training the student services officials
- Information desk for the students about to submit their Theses to the system
- Student and teacher panels to gather user feedback



LESSONS LEARNT

- Combining expertise and skills fruitful
 - Library: software, metadata as well as publishing and storing
 - Student services: the processes of submitting, reviewing and approving of theses, the contacts to the faculties, organizational and administrative skills
- The contacts with the users all important the library may not have all of them
- Organizational and administrative skills essential when running a repository service with a large number of users & customised workflows
- The end-product is a fairly successful service (even if technical challenges lie ahead)
 no turning back to a pre-digital environment in reviewing theses
- The collaboration has made working with E-thesis service more structured, more user-oriented, more inspiring and more fun!



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