

# Supporting change and diversity for theses in an institutional repository

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## **Abstract**

In an academic institution, theses and dissertations are an important part of the learning process. Although standard approaches exist for electronically handling theses in a library, there is still a wide variety of theses to support. Some disciplines pose specific requirements on the theses (eg in architecture) and departments can have different policies on creating and submitting theses.

The library has to cope with diversity in the thesis metadata and it should be aware that they can change over time. This paper addresses the consequences for the library and proposes a number of solutions to handle the submission and management of electronic theses. The goal is to establish a digital repository which can adapt to new developments in the thesis policies and metadata. The institutional repository at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Brussels, Belgium) is used as a case-study.