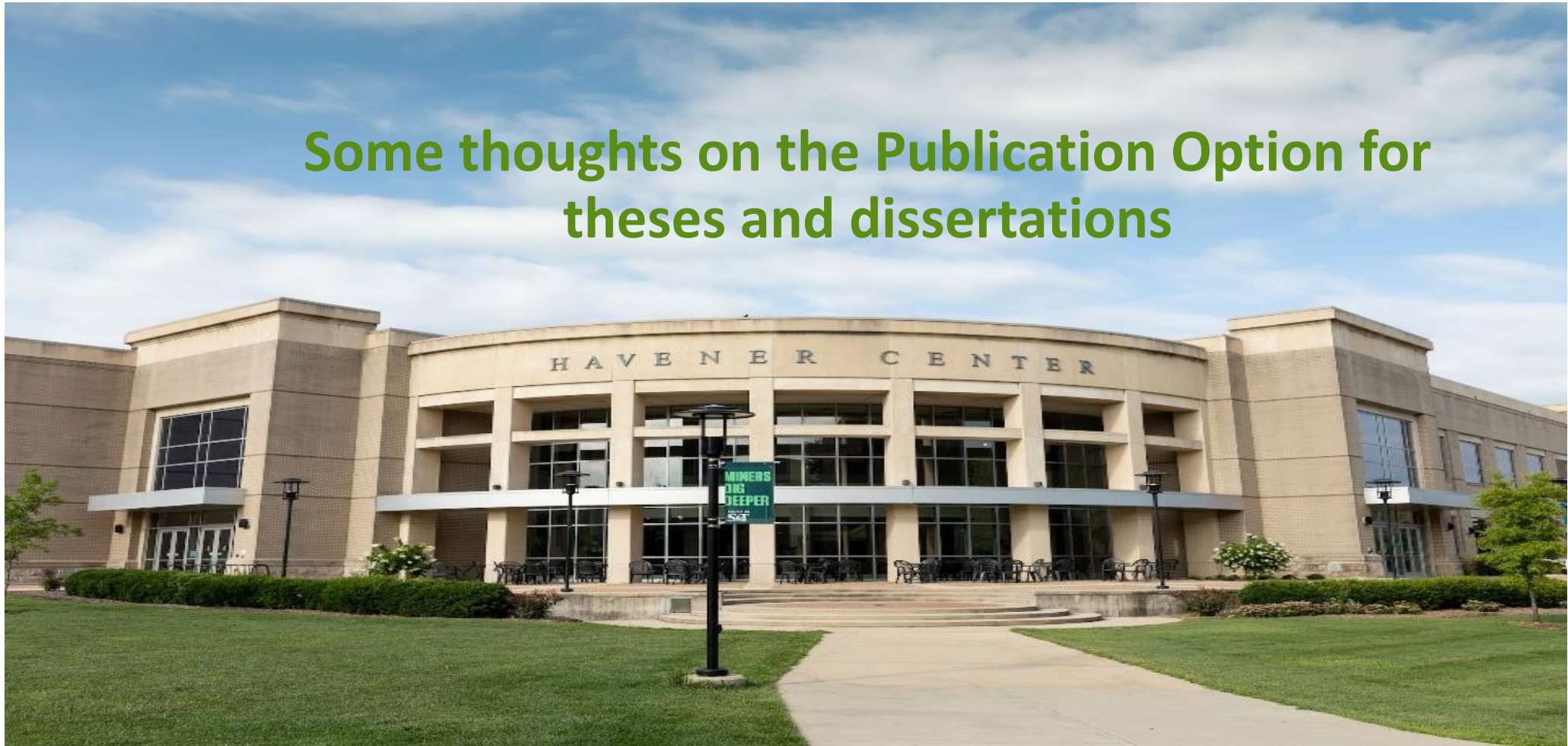


# Some thoughts on the Publication Option for theses and dissertations



# Details of the Publication Option

The publication option is described in the document “Thesis and Dissertation Specifications: Revised January 2018.”

Although the document is not part of the graduate catalog, it is still policy established by the Graduate Faculty. The document contains the following information regarding the publication option:

# Policy Conflict

1. The publication option is allowed when **one** or more papers within the thesis/dissertation are prepared with the objective of publication in a professional **journal**.

2. Therefore, even if you are the sole or one of several authors of material in a **published book or journal**, you must obtain written permission from the copyright holder if you are including this material in your document.

3. Some academic programs at Missouri S&T permit you to include **articles or other materials that you have previously published, that have been accepted (or submitted, in press, or under review) for publication, or that have been otherwise presented to the public** within the body of your thesis or dissertation. This is referred to as the "publication option."

# Copyright Issue

“Publishers of books and journals hold the copyright for all materials they publish. Therefore, even if you are the sole or one of several authors of material in a published book or journal, you must obtain written permission from the copyright holder if you are including this material in your document. ”

“You are responsible for securing all necessary permissions and paying any permission fees in advance of using copyrighted materials in your work. It is recommended that copies of the written permission you receive be placed in the appendix of your thesis or dissertation.”

“The section portion of each thesis/dissertation should include an introduction, a conclusion, and, if applicable, references, which are separate from the introduction, conclusion, and references of each paper. In the event that any paper within the thesis/dissertation is retracted, the section portion should be able to stand alone and provide the reader an overview of the student’s research. ”

Issue: In multiple cases copyright permission is not received and that part of the dissertation must be blacked out. We have T/D with no content other than an introduction and a conclusion.

# Data

## 2015-20 Dissertations:

Degree Program	Pub Option	Non-pub option	Pub-option pct.
Ceramic Engineering	2	0	100.0%
Materials Science & Engr	20	1	95.2%
Chemical Engineering	42	3	93.3%
Geology & Geophysics	26	2	92.9%
Engineering Management	13	1	92.9%
Mechanical Engineering	62	5	92.5%
Electrical Engineering	62	8	88.6%
Chemistry	45	9	83.3%
Metallurgical Engineering	5	1	83.3%
Computer Engineering	13	3	81.3%
Petroleum Engineering	29	9	76.3%
Physics	17	9	65.4%
Civil Engineering	27	24	52.9%
Mathematics	14	16	46.7%
Aerospace Engineering	11	13	45.8%
Nuclear Engineering	11	16	40.7%
Geological Engineering	12	20	37.5%
Computer Science	7	17	29.2%
Systems Engineering	4	11	26.7%
Mining Engineering	0	27	0.0%
Explosives Engineering	0	7	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>67.6%</b>

# Quality Issue

76 of 420 publication dissertations (18% of the total) used only unpublished papers (16 of them had not even submitted for publication any of the papers used). Almost 52% of the dissertations used more than half unpublished papers. 15.5% of all dissertations used only published or accepted for publications papers.

Pct. Unpublished papers used	Total dissertations
100%	76
>75%	37
>60%	56
>50%	49
>33%	79
>25%	33
<25%	25
0%	65

“unpublished”= not published or accepted for publication

# What Do Others Do?

## No Publication Option

Institution	Type
MU	SYS
UMKC	SYS
Illinois Tech	PEER
NJIT	PEER
Stevens	PEER
UA-Huntsville	PEER
CMU	ASP
Lehigh	ASP
Northeastern	ASP
VA Tech	ASP

## Partial Option

Institution	Type	
UMSL	SYS	Occasional inclusion of a previously published paper as chapter
CO Sch Mines	PEER	Portions of the dissertation may be previously published, with permission granted from the publisher

## Publication Option

Institution	Type	
MTU	PEER	Dissertations can be a single book-length work or a group of articles. Reproduction of any section of an article that is larger than allowed for by "fair use" policies requires appropriate copyright permission
Purdue	ASP	Students are permitted "article-based thesis structure... a collection of published (or will be published) research articles consisting of an introductory and concluding chapter." Copyright permission must be granted
GA Tech	ASP	Some departments allow it.

# Proposals

1. Resolve conflicts in policy (journals vs. conference vs. book chapter)
2. Publication option must include at least two papers
3. The papers must have been published or accepted for publication
4. Copyright permission must be received before publication