



Identifier Functionality for EThOS at the British Library

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What's EThOS?

EThOS is the UK's thesis service, offering search and discovery of all UK theses, and direct access to all those that are digitally, openly available.

http://ethos.bl.uk

EThOS

What's THOR?

THOR will establish seamless integration between articles, data, and researchers, built on persistent identifiers (PIDs). As part of this, we will improve the connections between theses and their authors with the use of:

- ORCID IDs: http://orcid.org
- DataCite DOIs: http://datacite.org

http://thor-project.eu



Aims

Strengthen support and functionality of PIDs for theses to enable:

- → good data management practice at career inception
- → assessment of how theses are cited
- → tracking of career paths and impact of PhD funding
- → global tracking through international adoption

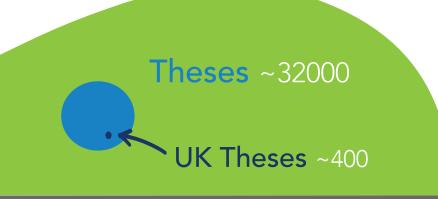
Identify theses with DOIs:

- → making them more easily accessible and citable
- → and reduce lag behind use of DOIs for other outputs

Identify thesis authors with ORCID iDs:

- → enabling reliable author identification and attribution
- → early in the research career so that author, supervisor and university benefit from greater visibility

DataCite DOIs ~8 million



Challenges

Legacy theses:

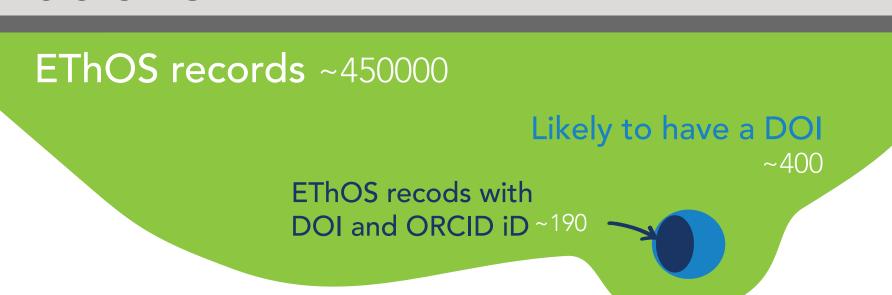
There are 435,000 records in EThOS already completed without an author ORCID iD. How can we apply PIDs, however old the thesis?

Future theses:

How can we take advantage of thesis PIDs going forward?

THOR is funded by the European Commission under call H2020-EINFRA-2014-2, project number 654039 Images from freepik.com and flaticon.com

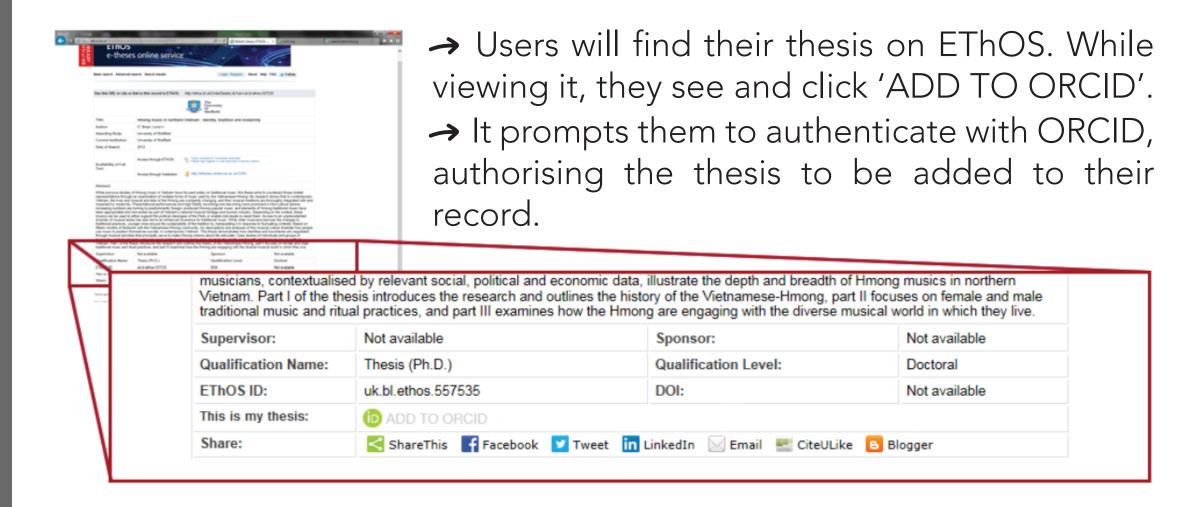
Solutions



Manual claiming of EThOS records:

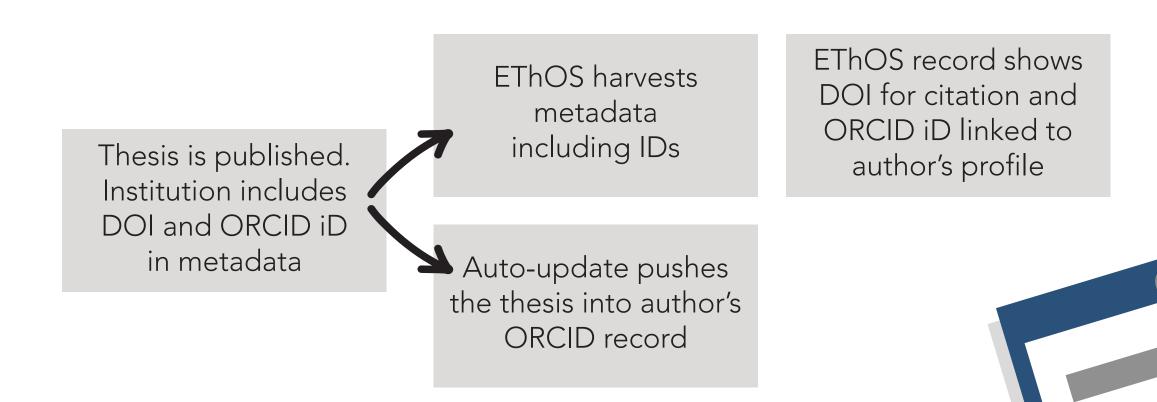
- → is required, as DataCite currently contains so few UK theses that Search & Link (http://search.datacite.org) is not useful here.
- → but has low uptake: only 98 EThOS records have been manually claimed.
- → will not significantly increase unless made easier.

To increase the number of claims, EThOS proposes to add a claim button.



Implement the ideal workflow:

Linking future thesis authors and their works.



Work with the community:

To maximise the value of the work, we cannot do it in isolation. We want to work with UK institutions to ensure that:

- → thesis are given globally unique PIDs
- → PhD candidates are aware of ORCID and have iDs
- → thesis and author PIDs are included in metadata sent to DataCite when DOIs are assigned
- → thesis PIDs are available to and provided by aggregators such as EThOS

We want theses aggregators to:

- → hold and display thesis and author PIDs
- → enable the ORCID claim button on more platforms