A Researcher's Perspective
Using ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global to answer and ask the biggest questions.

Students, researchers, faculty, corporations, and government entities use ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global to analyze the newest research to inform hypotheses – and identify questions that are left unanswered. Some common use-cases for PQDT full-text are:
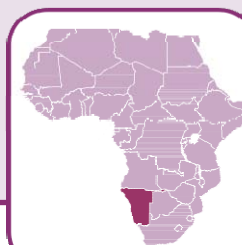
- Gathering primary sources
- Analyzing detailed data sets and context for publications in the Sciences
- Text and data mining research projects
- Discovering the latest trends in research

- Conducting comprehensive literature reviews
- Discovering unique niche topics
- Using as a guide for dissertation and methodology development

RESEARCHERS ASKING BIG QUESTIONS:

Analyzing primary research to determine how to build on the past and define what is left un-discovered.

A Cyberfeminist Analysis of Two African Authors' Works

"I use PQDT Global to find a research niche or topic to write about," says Luise. In order to have comprehensive coverage, Luise refers to literature reviews by others and collects the most relevant and reputable sources. "I currently use keyword search for "ecofeminist analysis of [authorName]" and within the last 10 years to see if research already exists and if new work has been published."

Luise Shikongo
Masters of English and Applied Linguistics Student
Namibia University of Science and Technology

STEM Technologies in Education

"I used ProQuest Dissertations to research topics for a book I wrote on drones in libraries," Joiner said. To keep up with cutting-edge developments in libraries and STEM, Joiner consults the database for the most recent dissertations in areas related to her current research. Doing so provides her insights on what other scholars are uncovering in their research, as well as

Ida Joiner
Education Doctoral Student
Texas Wesleyan University

helps Joiner keep on top of the latest trends, issues and discoveries that intersect with her interest in the use of drones in libraries.
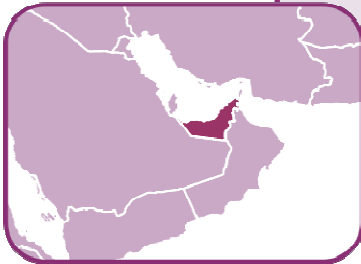
Cherry Jean Dela Cruz Recio
Philosophy Doctoral Student on Leadership
United Arab Emirates University

Teachers' Perceptions of Reforms and Self-Efficacy

"I use ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global to find references to sources from relevant dissertations on my topic. Starting with PQDT makes building a broad and detailed collection of sources much easier, since I can start with relevant dissertations and then also branch out and use those sources that are found in the Recommended Source panel within the platform."

"I also check the methodologies others have used to help inform my research plan." Cherry currently uses keyword searches such as "self-efficacy," "reforms," "teacher motivation," "teacher satisfaction," "student achievement," "educational change," or a known author/title (from a reference), and also limits her research to the last 10–15 years.

FACULTY RESEARCHERS ANSWERING BIG QUESTIONS:

Using dissertations for text and data mining to uncover trends and validate hypotheses.

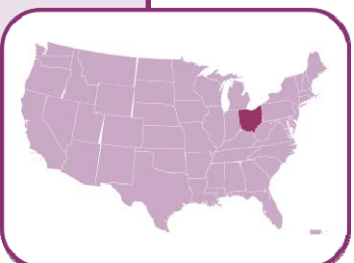## The Evolution of Research and Doctoral Education

"In my UMETRICS project I worked alongside researchers at several universities across the country and examined the employment and earning outcomes of Ph.Ds. We combined data from universities, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses database." The authors tracked and analyzed across the field of study, showing the placement and earnings of the Ph.Ds. The result was an article in Science magazine and keen insights into trends in interdisciplinary work, the evolution of research and doctoral education, and graduate school outcomes. "We can take that key milestone event and map it to publications, citations, and patents they've received. We've managed to build a whole constellation of data around ProQuest as the keystone."
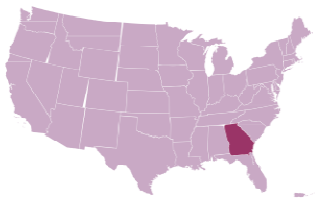
Bruce Weinberg
Professor of Economics and Public Administration
The Ohio State University

![ProQuest]

Avoiding Bias by Starting at the Source

Terri Piggot
Professor
University of Georgia, U.S.

Terri, along with fellow professors and researchers, Jeffrey C. Valentine, Joshua R. Polanin, Ryan T. Williams, and Dericka D. Canada, used PQDT to help verify research for their paper, *Outcome-Reporting Bias in Education Research*, where the study examines outcome-reporting bias in educational research by comparing the reports of educational interventions from dissertations to their final published versions. Her paper concluded that if only published literature is used for research, it is likely that the effect of the studies will be overestimated. "We now encourage people to look for unpublished literature as well, and the best source of unpublished literature is in the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses library. If the unpublished work is not taken into consideration you become subject to publication bias," says Pigott.

Analysis of Dissertations on China's History

"I use the content within ProQuest Dissertations & Theses to examine the trends in scholarly research on China through the production of doctoral dissertations. "Field studies" usually rely on published materials (books, journals) to study how a given field of research changed over time. Yet, because a lot of dissertations do not get published, looking at doctoral dissertations on a documentary basis establishes such a study on a plane that reflects more accurate actual research trends."

Christian Henriot
Professor/ Researcher,
Modern Chinese History
Aix Marseille University, France

About ProQuest

ProQuest is committed to supporting the important work happening in the world's research and learning communities. The company curates' content that matters to the advancement of knowledge, assembling an archive of billions of vetted, indexed documents. It simplifies workflows so that people and institutions.
use time effectively.

ProQuest and its companies and affiliates — Ex Libris, Alexander Street, and Bowker — stand for better research, better learning, and better insights.

ProQuest enables people to change their world.

AMPLIFY your research.
IMPACT your world.
ANALYZE your influence.