

# Social Networking for Graduate Students: GradShare

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Market Manager for Graduate Research



- What problems are we solving?
- Overview of Gradshare
- Where are we going
- Q&A, Feedback

# ProQuest's Mission

- ProQuest creates indispensable research solutions that connect people and information

# Doctoral Survey

- Over 600 PhD candidates
  - US and International students
  - Across disciplines
- What challenges do you face while pursuing your PhD?

# Doctoral Survey

- Time consuming / difficult tasks
  - Course work
  - Getting time with advisor
  - Socializing
  - Familiarization with library resources
- Stressors
  - Retaining personal commitments
  - Funding
  - Dissertation topic selection



# What is GradShare?

The screenshot shows the GradShare website interface. At the top left is the ProQuest logo. The main header area contains the GradShare logo with 'BETA' and 'Graduate Student Community' text. To the right of the header are input fields for 'user id' and 'password', a 'Log In' button, and a 'Forgot password?' link. Below the header is a blue banner with the text 'GradShare - Where graduate students help each other succeed. Join the community.' Underneath the banner are four speech bubble icons, each with a yellow border, containing the following text: 'Ask Questions. Get Answers.', 'Get expert advice.', 'Share your experiences.', and 'Access your school's resources: 24/7'. Below these icons is the text 'Success in graduate school isn't easy. GradShare can help.' and two buttons: 'Explore GradShare' (green) and 'Join GradShare' (orange). At the bottom, there is a section titled 'What people are asking:' with a large white box containing the question 'What open-source or free software do you find useful for dissertation writing?' and the user 'avi, Philosophy'. The footer contains copyright information and links to Privacy Policy, Terms of Service, and Community Guidelines.

GradShare<sup>™</sup> BETA  
Graduate Student Community

user id  password  Log In  
[Forgot password?](#)

GradShare - Where graduate students help each other succeed. Join the community.

Ask Questions.  
Get Answers.

Get expert  
advice.

Share your  
experiences.

Access your  
school's resources:  
24/7

Success in graduate school isn't easy. GradShare can help.

Explore GradShare Join GradShare

What people are asking:

"What open-source or free software do you find useful for dissertation writing?"

avi, Philosophy

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# What is GradShare?

Students can ask questions  
and get answers from peers

- On campus
- Across the country

# What is GradShare?

Students can access relevant institutional e-resources

- From the Graduate School
- From the Library

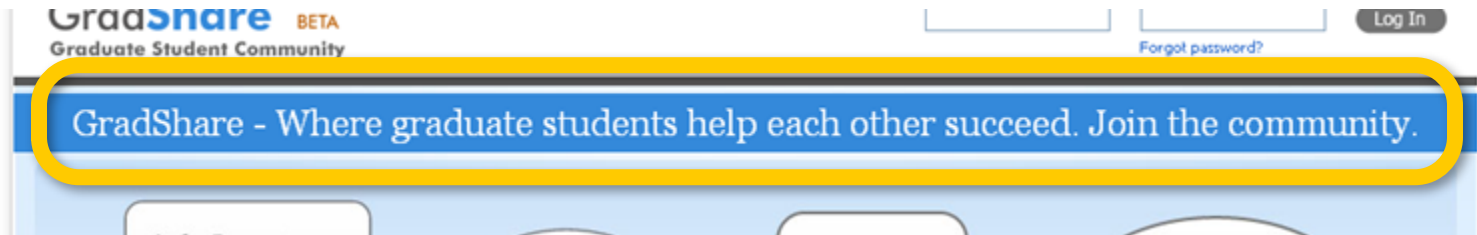


# What is GradShare?

Students can access relevant background information on common challenges

- From the topic experts

# Why GradShare?



- Graduate students have questions
- Many students feel disconnected
- Identifies local resources

# Why GradShare?

Improving graduate student  
and program effectiveness  
by...

- Expanding the peer mentoring community
- Increasing awareness of the local information environment

# Why GradShare?

- This is how people are communicating now
  - Facebook: 120 million active accounts
  - MySpace: 110 million active accounts
  - LinkedIn: 30 million active accounts





Life Sciences

« Select a new subject area

## Start Here

Select a topic and subtopic

- Thesis/Dissertation
  - Thesis topic selection
  - Proposals
  - Committee selection
  - Writing**
  - Defending
  - Submitting
  - Publishing
  - Advisor relationships
- Researching
- Job Search/Career planning
- Teaching
- Grants/Funds
- Publishing
- Work-Life Balance

## Get Answers: Thesis/Dissertation > Writing

### Ask a Question

Post

### Questions

See: all | unanswered | answered

I remember that Graduate studies (or some other grad organization at FSU) used to give a subsidy to students who need to print a poster about their research for a conference. Did anyone hear about something like that?

3

Answers

asked by lagutena - Computer

Answer this

Is there any software that I can use to manage the "Table of Contents" and "Table of Figure" portion of a thesis?

3

Answers

asked by moin

Answer this

What's the best way to write and manage the References part of your dissertation? What software do you use?

13

Answers

## Your University

**Topic:** Thesis/Dissertation  
**Subtopic:** Writing  
**Department:** Aquatic

Databases

ProQuest Dissertations

Dissertations from over American and European range of academic subjects abstracts for doctoral dissertations masters theses.

Tools

RefWorks

Online bibliography creation management tool. Available to students.

Papers for Mac OS

for organizing & searching papers and for creating your personal library of

Grad School Advisor

## Get Answers: Thesis/Dissertation > Writing

### Ask a Question

[Post](#)

### Questions

[See: all](#) | [unanswered](#) | [answered](#)

I remember that Graduate studies (or some other grad organization at FSU) used to give a subsidy to students who need to print a poster about their research for a conference. Did anyone hear about something like that?

**3**[Answers](#)

asked by [lagutena](#) - Computer

[Answer this](#)

Is there any software that I can use to manage the "Table of Contents" and "Table of Figure" portion of a thesis?

**3**[Answers](#)

asked by [moin](#)

[Answer this](#)

What's the best way to write and manage the References part of your dissertation? What software do you use?

**13**[Answers](#)

asked by [Segovia](#) - Environmental

[Answer this](#)

What software is best for creating/designing research posters?

**9**[Answers](#)

### Your University Resources **1**

**Topic:** Thesis/Dissertation

**Subtopic:** Writing

**Department:** Aquatic sciences ([change](#))

#### Databases **1**

##### [ProQuest Dissertations & Theses](#)

Dissertations from over 1,000 North American and European universities on a full range of academic subjects. Includes abstracts for doctoral dissertations and masters theses.

#### Tools **1**

##### [RefWorks](#)

Online bibliography creation and management tool. Available free to students.

##### [Papers for Mac OS](#)

for organizing & searching your research papers and for creating bibliography. It is your personal library of science.

##### [Grad School Advisory](#) **1**

##### [Electronic Theses & Dissertations](#)



Get Answers

Expert Advice



Life Sciences

« Select a new subject area

## Start Here

Select a topic and subtopic

- Thesis/Dissertation
- Researching
- Job Search/Career planning
- Grants/Funds
  - Grant proposals
  - Financial Aid/Student Loans
  - Getting help from University Research Office
  - Working with funding agencies
- Publishing
- Work-Life Balance

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## Expert Advice: Grants/Funds

Expert Advice provides explanations and insights relating to graduate school topics from experienced professionals such as faculty members and administrators.

### How to find help for writing a proposal

by Sarah Starr - Director, Funding and Research Development, The Ohio State University Office of Research

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Comments

always clear and the sponsor's program officer can help clarify them. Remember that you are wasting not only your time but theirs' by turning in a proposal that is not fundable or is missing important data. Through this conversation you ... [Read More](#)

### Things you should know about the Research Office

by Sarah Starr - Director, Funding and Research Development, The Ohio State University Office of Research

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Comments

What to think about/do before contacting the office: Have a specific funding opportunity that you plan to write a proposal for. Read the guidelines thoroughly and prepare a list of questions you have concerning those guidelines. Talk to the sponsor to get a sense if they consider this to be a fundable project. Pr ... [Read More](#)

### How to start looking for funding possibilities

by Sarah Starr - Director, Funding and Research Development, The Ohio State University Office of Research

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Comments

Strategies that will help you find potential sponsors include: Develop a list of words and phrases that describe what you need funding to do. A good way to do

## Your University Resources

Topic: Grants/Funds

Subtopic: None selected

Department: Aquatic sciences ([change](#))

### Databases

#### COS Funding Opportunities

Updated daily, includes more than 23,000 records, representing over 400,000 funding opportunities, worth over \$33 billion.

### Tools

#### COS Workbench

View your weekly COS Funding News, Alert results, and tips. Manage your MyProfile, your personal career webpage.

### Grad School Advisory

#### Grants and Funding Information Service (GFIS)

Funding opportunity workshop and database resources from the UW Libraries/Graduate School

#### UW Doctoral Degree Policies and Procedures

Doctoral degree policies and procedures from the UW Graduate School



# Questions and Answers

What open-source or free software do you find useful for dissertation writing?

asked by Avi posted on Jul 31, 2008 10:42:40 AM PST

👍 (0) 🗨️ (0) Rate Question: + - !

Answer this Question

+ Question Description:

Answers: 9



Here are my two favorites. Neomem is a great little note-taking program that lets you create a custom database very easily while also allowing a great deal of straight text entry (something most databases have trouble with). It is also extremely fast and stable. Unfortunately, the data import-export in the program is very limited, so don't use it for things like citations which you may need to move around from one program to another. Download it here: <http://www.neomem.org/> My new favorite program is Q10. This is a full-screen typewriter program. By full screen, I mean absolutely full screen. You can set it up so that the only thing you see on your screen is the text you are writing. No toolbars, no Windows start bar, no Firefox window just begging you to surf it! While it may not seem like a big deal, I have found that this helps me enormously to focus while writing. The program does not allow formatted text (just plain .txt files), so it likely isn't the program to use for writing good drafts of dissertation chapters. Download it here: <http://www.baara.com/q10/> Please reply to this post to the list your own favorite free software along with a description of what it does and how it is useful for dissertation writing.

- Not all questions are equal
  - Some questions go unanswered
  - Others spark long conversations

# Gathering Feedback

## Feedback Forum

If you've participated in the GradShare beta, please enter your ideas for improvement. This is the place to voice your valuable opinions.

Enter your idea or opinion ..

top ideas **hot** **new** **accepted** 6 **completed** 10

12 votes **vote for** **Hyperlinks added in question responses should be links** **planned**

In the body of an answer, if you post a properly formatted URL (e.g. [http://www.\[domain\].\[ending\]](http://www.[domain].[ending])) then the site should automatically make the link into a URL that viewers can click.

[comment](#) | by anonymous

7 votes **vote for** **Let people add their own tags** **under review**

The site already has some good tags on it that you can use to describe a question but it should be possible for any user to add their own tag.

[comment](#) | by anonymous

6 votes **vote for** **allow emailing other users** **under review**

I want to email someone who left comment. How can I get in touch with him?

[comment](#) | by anonymous

4 votes **vote for** **Let users reply to comments** **planned**

I want to be able to reply to one of the comments on the website, but all comments go to the same level

[comment](#) | by anonymous

- Ask users for their feedback

- Let them know their opinion counts

- Give them a sense of ownership

# GradShare Timeline

- Alpha Launched: July, 2008
- Beta Launched: October, 2008
- Public Launch: February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

# Participation

- Participating Schools: 14
- Registered Users: 1,100
- Distribution: 90 - 9 - 1



# Planned Improvements

- Importing library resources
- Interaction with other networking sites
- One-on-one communication
- and more...

- Questions and Feedback
- <http://www.gradshare.com>