ProQuest **Digital Dissertations**:
December 1999 Progress Report

William E. Savage   UMI Dissertations Publishing

Since 1938, Bell & Howell Information and Learning (formerly UMI) has been providing the academic community with dissertation archiving, reference and on-demand copy services. With coverage that extends back to 1861, the UMI Dissertation Abstracts database contains over 1.6 million citations. Over one million full text titles are available in paper, microfilm or microfiche formats. Adding over 55,000 titles annually, nearly every degree granting institution in the United States and Canada is represented in the UMI Dissertation Abstracts database and microform archive.

ProQuest **Digital Dissertations** opens Bell & Howell Information and Learning's archive of dissertations to the scholarly community by providing World Wide Web access to <u>both</u> the Dissertation Abstracts database and the full text of all new dissertations submitted for publication.

- In February 1999, Bell & Howell Information and Learning and the U.S. Library of Congress completed an agreement providing on-site users at the Library of Congress with access to *ProQuest* **Digital Dissertations**. Bell & Howell Information and Learning has guaranteed the Library permanent access to this digital collection. Hence, the Library of Congress has recognized the *ProQuest* **Digital Dissertations** collection as a remotely located digital collection of the Library of Congress. Under contract with the National Library of Canada, UMI Dissertations Publishing carries out the collection, dissemination and preservation of the Canadian national production of Ph.D. dissertations and Masters' theses.

Visit *ProQuest* **Digital Dissertations** at **http://wwwlib.umi.com/dissertations** to preview the new services offered. There you will find:

- The most current two years of the Dissertation Abstracts database, over 100,000 citations and abstracts, <u>freely</u> available for searching.

- The <u>full text</u> of over 150,000 dissertations is available now at this Web site. Dissertations are available in two formats: Full PDF and TIFF images wrapped in PDF.
    - Those institutions that submit dissertations electronically will see their documents in full PDF; those that submit in paper will see their documents in TIFF images.
    - A library subscription option to the entire full text collection of new dissertation titles also is available.

In addition to World Wide Web access to the Dissertation Abstracts database and on-line access to the full text of new dissertations, *ProQuest* **Digital Dissertations** offers the following services at <u>no charge</u> to the library or graduate school:

- Digital submission via FTP is now available. The only paper documentation now required is the publishing agreement form, copyright registration, abstract and title page.

- Each institution publishing with Bell & Howell Information and Learning will receive free campus-wide online access to the full text (in PDF format) of dissertations and theses submitted by that institution <u>regardless</u> of the format submitted.
    - Bell & Howell Information and Learning guarantees that each submitting institution shall have permanent access to its own digital files.

- Free twenty-four page previews of dissertations and theses submitted from 1997 forward.
    - Linked to Dissertation Abstracts on the Web, these PDF preview files are available for viewing at no charge.

- Bell & Howell Information and Learning will provide each participating institution with a unique Web URL that links a listing of citations, abstracts and twenty-four page previews of current dissertations and theses submitted by that institution.
    - *Current Research @* is updated monthly, providing each graduate institution with a Web presence that showcases graduate research.
    - Please see: **http://wwwlib.umi.com/cresearch/main** for links to institutional registration pages.

- Beginning with dissertations received as of January 2000, all titles will receive an ISBN (International Standard Book Number). Titles will be listed in the UMI Dissertation Abstracts database and other well known on-line and web-based book distributors and databases.

- Enhanced browsing by subject functionality for the UMI Dissertation Abstracts database. (due January, 2000)

- Free MARC records of dissertations and theses submitted for publication returned to source institutions.

- Beginning January 1, 2000 all dissertation authors will receive a ten percent (10%) royalty on all sales of their dissertation. Royalty payments must exceed $10.00 in a calendar year to be paid. If that minimum is not reached, royalties will be accrued until they do.