Social Networking for Graduate Students: GradShare

Jeff Lang - Market Manager for Graduate Research
Outline

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

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.

What people are asking:

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

awl, Philosophy
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

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?

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

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

What software is best for creating/designing research?
Get Answers: Thesis/Dissertation > Writing

Ask a Question

Questions

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asked by Segovia - Environmental

What software is best for creating/designing research posters?

Your University Resources

Topic: Thesis/Dissertation
Subtopic: Writing
Department: Aquatic sciences (change)

Databases

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

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

Electronic Theses & Dissertations
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**

Experts in the field of grants/funds can help you write a proposal. When possible, talk to someone in the office with expertise in the area of your proposal. Make sure you always provide a clear and concise statement of purpose and that your proposal is free of jargon. Remember that you are soliciting 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**

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 of where 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**

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

**Answer this Question**

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

- Ask users for their feedback
- Let them know their opinion counts
- Give them a sense of ownership

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...

12 votes for Hyperlinks added in question responses should be links

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

7 votes for Let people add their own tags

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.

6 votes for allow emailing other users

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

4 votes for Let users reply to comments

I want to be able to reply to one of the comments on the website, but all comments go to the same level.
• Alpha Launched: July, 2008

• Beta Launched: October, 2008

• Public Launch: February 16th, 2009
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