

Repository of Postgraduate and Undergraduate thesis in Forensic Science – making University student research available to the community

FAQs – it is expected that the FAQs will grow.

Q. What does Jorum stand for?

A. Jorum simply means 'drinking bowl' and is a repository for the storage of a range of documents.

Q. Why would you upload your student's thesis to Jorum?

A. There are a number of obvious benefits, such as

1. The repository will be accessible to caseworkers and forensic science providers (police and commercial) and therefore provide immediate application of the research.
2. Providing a platform for institutional collaborations and networks across academia and industry.
3. Supporting the R&D UK strategy going forward.
4. Providing an opportunity to facilitate the use of standard approaches to such projects and in doing so make the data generated more robust for its use in UK Courts.
5. Reducing/preventing inappropriate repetition of studies across HEIs.

Q. Who uploads the thesis to Jorum?

A. Anyone can upload a thesis to Jorum, but it is recommended that the thesis supervisor or departmental contact within the university agree to the submission and submits the thesis.

Q. Does Jorum only provide a repository for forensic projects?

A. No, Jorum provides a repository for a wide variety of disciplines and "forensic" thesis is a new area.

Q. Will there be a login and password?

A. No, Jorum is a public access repository, but to upload documents/files to Jorum a login is required. This may be your University OpenAthens login/UK Access Management Federation (Shibboleth) login.

Q. How do we ensure the quality of the uploaded thesis?

A. All the thesis are independently marked by two academics in the host institution and the thesis may have been sampled for review by an external examiner. We recommend that the submitted thesis is graded at 1st or 2.1 (Undergraduate) or Distinction or Merit (postgraduate, excluding PhDs as these are collated within a separate repository).

Q. Do I need to do anything before I upload to Jorum?

A. Simply ensure that you have title, abstract, key words and supervisor details. However, you should seek consent from the student prior to thesis submission. Student's names will be identified on the thesis unless they request to be kept anonymous. Institutions may wish to consider the option of uploading to Jorum early on in the ethical consideration process.

Q. Can the student cite their thesis on Jorum as a publication?

A. Yes, this can be viewed as a plus for the student; however, it has not been subjected to a journal peer-review process (e.g. Forensic Science International, Science & Justice etc.). Jorum will have a guide regarding this in due course.

Q. What happens if there are grammatical errors in the thesis?

A. It is anticipated that there may be spelling, punctuation and grammar related errors present in the thesis stored within the repository.

Q. How do I upload?

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A. See the Jorum 'How to' Guide!

Q. Who has asked for this repository to be created?

A. As a consequence of the Home Office Review of R&D in forensic science there is a greater need than ever to share research in forensic communities. Universities with their undergraduate/postgraduate research opportunities via their students' thesis are a currently untapped resource and therefore such a repository would seek to start to bridge this gap.

Q. What are the benefits of creating a repository of "forensic" theses?

A. There are a number of obvious benefits, such as

1. The repository will be accessible to caseworkers and forensic science providers (police and commercial) and therefore provide immediate application of the research.
2. Providing a platform for institutional collaborations and networks across academia and industry.
3. Supporting the R&D UK strategy going forward.
4. Providing an opportunity to facilitate the use of standard approaches to such projects and in doing so make the data generated more robust for its use in UK Courts.
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Q. How does the repository affect IPR/copyright/patents?

A. Ownership of the material resides with the organisation/institution. Every resource in Jorum has a Creative Commons license. This ensures that the resource is still owned by the content creator, but it makes it clear to the user what they can and cannot do with the resource.

Q. Will Jorum be able to cope with all the theses?

A. Jorum has capacity to deal with the anticipated demand moving forward.

Q. How will our institution know how the thesis uploaded have been accessed through Jorum?

A. Jorum has a core set of metrics that can be provided to the institutions. The views and download figures are openly available for anyone to view, either on an individual resources or set of resources.

Q. Will it cost me anything to upload thesis to Jorum?

A. Only a few minutes of your time to upload each thesis. There is no money required.

Q. Can the projects uploaded to Jorum be plagiarised or detected by plagiarism software?

A. It is expected that the University has submitted the thesis through Turnitin or other appropriate plagiarism detection software prior to uploading to Jorum. Jorum does not currently have the capability to submit its resources through a plagiarism detection software.

Q. How do you cite the material on Jorum in a publication?

A. Refer to the full author, title, year, link to the URL and date of access. Alternatively cite the thesis as unpublished material.

Q. How can the thesis in the Jorum database be searched for?

A. At present, material is primarily searched through the Jorum website. Resources are not readily found using general search engines such as Google or Google Scholar at present.

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