

Important information regarding electronic cumulative dissertations at the Technische Universität Braunschweig

Definition of a cumulative dissertation

A cumulative doctoral thesis is an independent publication comprising several articles or book chapters that have been published in peer-reviewed journals or have been accepted for publication. This form of doctoral thesis is permissible provided that the doctoral regulations of the relevant faculty allow it. A detailed summary sets out the academic framework of the individual publications.

Legal regulations by faculties

For information on the permissible form of a cumulative doctoral thesis, please consult the relevant doctoral regulations of your faculty (see <https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/en/ub/publishing-open-access/thesis-office/number-of-copies-to-be-handed-in>).

Publishers' legal regulations

Before you include articles in your cumulative doctoral thesis, it is necessary to clarify the legal situation regarding their subsequent use. For publications that were not published in Open Access, please consider the following key questions:

- Did you grant the publisher **exclusive rights of use** to your publication when you signed the contract? If so, the publisher's regulations apply.
 - o Which version of the article does the publisher permit for use in a cumulative dissertation? A useful overview of the applicable publisher regulations regarding cumulative dissertations can be found at TU Berlin: <https://github.com/tuub/theses-publisher-policies/blob/master/policies.md>
 - o Does the publisher have any guidelines on the format in which the article must be cited (including the DOI, copyright notice and similar details)?
- If you only granted the publisher **simple rights of use** when the contract was signed, you may republish your text without consulting the publisher. In any case, you will need the publisher's permission to use the publisher's version (including logos).

If you are using articles from your own Open Access publications, the relevant re-use rules of the chosen CC licence apply. CC-licensed publications allow you a great deal of freedom regarding re-use. We therefore recommend publishing your articles in Open Access wherever possible.

Using Open Access articles makes it easier for you to publish your cumulative dissertation in Open Access as well.

Citation of articles used within the cumulative dissertation

It is important for those reusing the dissertation to see where and under which licence the articles used were originally published. To ensure correct citation, we strongly recommend that you to include the DOI of the original publication and a reference to its licence – for example, the CC licence or ‘All rights reserved’ – in the attribution mentioned above.

Licensing the cumulative dissertation

If you wish to publish your cumulative dissertation on [LeoPARD](#), the institutional repository of Technische Universität Braunschweig, you must select a licence for it, preferably a Creative Commons licence. Provided that all articles used are Open Access, this is generally not a problem and you are free to choose. This also applies in principle if one or more articles have not been published in Open Access. In this case, the phrase ‘unless stated otherwise’ must be included alongside the chosen licence to make it clear that the licence does not apply equally to all parts of the work. Please feel free to contact us if you have any doubts.

It gets more complicated if you do not use content from the articles in its original form, but instead paraphrase it or alter it in some other way. If the publisher holds the exclusive rights of use, you will need their permission to do so (see publishers’ legal regulations). For Open Access articles, the scope of the licence is the deciding factor. For example, articles that include an ‘ND’ element in the licence may only be reused in their original form.

Here is a brief overview of the topic as video (in German): <https://doi.org/10.5446/69340> (Carolin Becklas, Jonas Hauss: Open-Access Publikation einer kumulativen Dissertation – Was muss ich beachten? CC BY 3.0 DE)

We wish you every success in writing your dissertation. If you are unsure about anything, please contact the University Library (ub-publikationsservices@tu-braunschweig.de) early enough to avoid any problems with your publication.