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EDITORIAL

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ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATIONS (ETDs) AND PUBLICATION ETHICS: A JOURNAL MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

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To increase the visibility of students' theses and dissertations, many higher education institutions are moving from print to Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), which is publicly available in open access repositories ([Ramirez, Dalton, McMillan, Read, & Seamans, 2013](#)). Prerequisites for this transition include the demand from faculties and students, budgetary considerations, stable online content, high image quality, guaranteed perpetual access, and discoverability of content (indexed by powerful engines and also cited) ([Baskin, Newyear-Ramirez, Luther, Baskin, & Gastel, 2008](#)). However, this movement has resulted in both pros and cons of ETDs.

Many faculty members and students think that openly accessible ETDs may diminish publishing opportunities because they are considered as prior publications ([Holt, 2002](#); [Ramirez et al., 2013](#)) and some publishers reject ETD-derived manuscripts ([McCutcheon, 2010](#)). In contrast, some faculties argue that ETDs are generally accepted by publishers ([Ramirez et al., 2013](#)), which were reported by

their experiences in the publication process. This issue has been asked many times by the authors to the editorial members of Belitung Nursing Journal (BNJ). Therefore, this editorial is noted to present our concerns regarding ETDs and publication ethics.

First, BNJ publishes an original work, if it is a dissertation/thesis chapter (or part of your dissertation/thesis) that has been published in electronic or paper format, it needs to be revised for publication in our journal, and should significantly fit with publishing guidelines (such as format, scope, audience, voice) to prevent the same form as a thesis or dissertation. However, you may need to obtain permission from the university to retain the right to reuse it. In other words, we welcome submission of ETDs-derived manuscripts, and it should be seen from a case-by-case basis.

Second, all submissions in our journal are subject to peer review, and frequently papers change in response to reviewers' feedback. So, it will be completely different from a dissertation or thesis chapter.

Third, BNJ does not publish full theses or dissertations. However, for information, submission of full theses and dissertations that have been published in openly accessible ETDs to the publishers such as ProQuest or other publishers that publish theses and dissertations, then it is considered duplication or plagiarism.

Fourth, in conjunction with ETDs, we also conditionally receive an article that its abstract has been published in the conference's book of abstract with or without ISBN (International Serial Book Number) as long as a copyright transfer agreement is signed. The published articles will be considered as "the expanded version from the conference". However, if you think that you can revise your abstract to be completely different from the abstract submitted to the conference, or if you withdraw the abstract from the conference's abstract book, then you do not need to sign copyright transfer agreement. In addition, the book of abstracts is totally different from a conference proceeding. The abstracts book is the compilation of *abstracts*, while a proceeding is the compilation of *full-text articles* from participants in an academic conference. So, if your full-text article has been published in a conference's proceeding, then you are ethically not able to submit to other publishers.

Fifth, if you have already published an article in one journal, and trying to submit and publish the same article in another journal using different language (a full translated article) without copyright permission, confirmation and agreement from the first publisher/journal, then it is considered duplication too.

Sixth, double submission or submitting the same manuscript to two or more different

publishers / journals is ethically unacceptable. We have found several cases in BNJ during this year.

In conclusion, understanding the ethical issues regarding ETDs and publishing in a journal is essence for faculties and students to increase the awareness of the potential ethical problems that may arise in publication. However, publication policies are quite diverse among publishers, and most of them may have no ETD policy at all. At the end, we are demanded to be a "smart" scholar to think critically to prevent unethical publishing behavior in the future.

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None declared.

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