

Regulations for cumulative doctoral theses at the Department of Library and Information Science¹

- §1 A cumulative doctoral thesis must contain a self-contained presentation of the research work and its results. The cumulative thesis must not be purely additive. It should therefore, in addition to the articles submitted, contain an introduction, a method chapter and a summary of the results achieved (taking into account the relationship between the individual works).
- §2 The thesis must contain a collective title and a complete list of literature.
- §3 The thesis is an independent research work and must demonstrate the doctoral candidate's ability to carry out independent scientific work and meet the scientific requirements of the subject. Publications or texts submitted for publication can form part of the thesis if they are closely linked, in terms to time and content, to the overall concept. Only peer-reviewed articles and conference contributions that were submitted no more than two years prior to enrolment as a doctoral candidate shall be recognised.
- §4a A cumulative dissertation comprises at least three specialist articles in peer-reviewed journals or conference proceedings. At least two articles must have been written by the doctoral candidate as the sole author. A list of all journals and conference proceedings that have been accepted without additional approval can be requested from the Department's Examination Board. Other means of publication must be approved by the Examination Board by means of an informal application. A third specialist article written in sole authorship can be replaced by at least two peer-reviewed articles to which the doctoral candidate has made a substantial contribution (see §4c). Since the thesis represents an individual scientific achievement by the doctoral candidate, it must be stated for each individual article and in agreement with the other co-authors what the individual scientific contribution of the doctoral candidate consists of. This should be done separately according to the relevant work steps (e.g. conception, data analysis, interpretation, writing of the publication). Forms for this are available from the Examination Board.
- §4b There is no maximum limit to how many peer-reviewed articles can be included in the thesis.
- §4c Articles in which the doctoral candidate is a co-author, and the doctoral candidate's own contribution was substantial can be included in a thesis if the independent contribution of the candidate is at least 30%. The following regulations shall apply: (1) The chairperson of the Doctoral Degree Committee may not be a co-author. (2) Only one of the reviewers may be a co-author of a publication. (3) The majority of the members of the Committee may not be co-authors of cumulative theses.
- §5 At least one specialist article must be accepted at the time the doctoral degree procedure is initiated. All other specialist articles must be submitted. If the articles have not already been published or accepted for publication, it is up to the reviewers to assess whether this potential exists. The Examination Board will also appoint a third reviewer for this specialist article.
- §6 Already published works must be clearly marked in the doctoral thesis.
- §7 Only after publication of all specialist articles or the cumulative doctoral thesis and the delivery of the doctoral certificate will the degree "Dr. Phil." be granted.
- §8 The Department would like to point out that the doctoral candidate is obliged to independently clarify all legal questions related to publication before submitting the cumulative thesis.
- §9 Upon application to the Doctoral Degree Board, the cumulative degree thesis can be changed to a non-cumulative submission up to four weeks prior to submission, and vice versa.

¹ Reading version. The German text version is legally binding.