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著作彙編之學位論文:

定義、規範與相關議題

Thesis by Publication:

Definition, Regulations and

Issues for Consideration

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著作彙編之學位論文: 定義、規範與相關議題

周倩

摘要

在台灣,撰寫學位論文通常都是研究生得以畢業的基本要求。目前傳統的學位論文通常指完成單一研究,依照論文格式寫成的專著,僅有少數科系學生的碩士或博士論文得以作品、成就證明連同書面報告或以技術報告代替。近年來,著作彙編之學位論文(Thesis by Publication,簡稱TBP)的形式開始出現,國外大學對其有政策規範,學界並有相關研究論文;台灣高等教育部分科系雖已採行多年,但是似乎未見任何大學有明確的政策與相關討論。本文採文件分析法,利用網路公開文件,探討此類學位論文,首先探討澳洲、英國、日本大學之規範,其次以相關研究整理出定義並探討相關議題,重新定義獨立研究的能力,並提供實務作法,期能作為台灣高等教育學界之參考。

關鍵詞:著作彙編學位論文,在學期間論文出版,先前著作彙編博士學位,研究生,高等教育

前言

在台灣,撰寫學位論文幾乎是研究生能畢業的一個基本要求,也是驗收其研究所學習成效的具體展現。學位授予法(2018)規定,僅有少數科系,如藝術類、應用科技類或體育運動類碩博士班,其學生之碩士或博士論文得以作品、成就證明連同書面報告或以技術報告代替;其他的研究生,一定要繳交學位論文,經學位考試委員會通過才可以畢業。所以撰寫學位論文,是絕大部分研究生必須經歷的重大考驗,需要堅毅與恆心,並在指導老師的引領下,才得以完成。

國立陽明交通大學教育研究所教授 E-mail: cchou@nycu.edu.tw 傳統的學位論文(以下簡稱「傳統論文」)通常是指完成一個單一的研究、依照論文格式寫成的專著(monograph),又稱為thesis-by-monograph(簡稱TBM; Liardét & Thompson, 2020)。這種論文格式在各領域或許有差異,但是以科學論文寫作為例,通常是依照基本格式如Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion(簡稱IMRAD; Gastel & Day, 2017; Sollaci & Pereira, 2004)撰寫。論文內容與結果通常沒有公開發表過,也就是只有指導教授、學位考試委員會委員(通常稱為「口委」)閱讀批判過;口試通過、上傳繳交給學校後,這本論文會收藏於學校與國家圖書館,未來或許會被改寫成論文投給研討會、期刊,或出版成一本專著(monograph或book),當然這本學位論文也可能從此束之高閣,不再做任何延伸研究或公開發表。

近年來,學位論文有了其他的形式,在此稱為「著作彙編之學位論文」(Thesis by Publication,簡稱TBP),此種學位論文包含至少一篇(或部分)已發表或接受的論文。換言之,此種學位論文顛覆了「寫完才發表」的傳統形式,變成「先發表才彙集」的形式。這種學位論文形式於1960年代在英國與北歐地區興起(Green & Powell, 2005; Wilson, 2002),現在幾乎澳洲所有大學都採用(Jackson, 2013),常見於工程、科學、醫學界,但人文社會學界也逐漸開始接受(Mason & Merga, 2018a)。興起的原因,一方面是大學常以著作數量來計算研究績效,二方面是研究生,特別是博士生,畢業後的職涯發展需要依如erin, 2016)。國外的大學相關政策與研究論文都已經累積了不少,台灣的高等教育界部分科系也已採行多年,但似乎未見任何一所大學有明確的政策與相關討論。

本文採用文件分析法,利用網路的公開文件,來探討此種有別於傳統形式之學位論文。由於本文作者於學術資料庫蒐集研究論文時,發現目前多以澳洲、英國、北歐之相關研究為主,且作者查詢網路公開之大學校級文件中,明確規範Thesis by Publication(或Thesis with Publication等詞彙)並有相關說明的學校亦以這些地區的大學為主,因此本文主要彙整這些地區之研究,包含定義、著作篇數要求、寫作格式要求,著作權與作者歸屬、學位考試;本文也整理了TBP的相關議題,包括優缺點、領域差異、學生所需的技巧與特質等,期能對台灣高等教育,包括大學校方、指導教授、研究生,提供一些參考。

二、著作彙編學位論文的定義

(一)在學期間之發表著作

由著作彙編而成的學位論文一般而言指的是學生在學期間所發表的著作, 後來收錄到其學位論文中。國際出版倫理委員會(Committee on Publication Ethics, 2017)的定義為,這種學位論文包含至少一篇(或部分)已發表的期 刊論文,但是在澳洲的一些大學相關規範,有的放寬到已發表的書籍章節(如Queensland University of Technology, 2017),研討會論文(如Macquarie University, 2020a),有的甚至放寬到「被接受」、「準備投稿」的論文(如University of New England, 2015)。上述大學都規定,這些著作必須是學生在學期間完成的。

有的澳洲大學(如University of Canterbury, 2018)不用TBP這個名詞,用 的是學位論文包含發表作品(including published work in a thesis),鼓勵學生在 學位論文中包括已發表或投稿中的作品。The University of Melbourne (2021) 也允許學生將已發表的論文放入學位論文中,稱為「有發表論文的學位論文」 (thesis with publications);或將發表論文中之素材(materials)放進學位論文中, 再重新撰寫文字。換言之,依照此二大學的學位論文規範,學生可以在學位 論文中放入自己已發表或投稿中的內容,但仍須依照該校規定的論文格式撰 寫,如文獻探討、更詳盡的研究方法等。其他國家的大學亦有此類論文規範, 如紐西蘭的Massey University使用thesis with publications (簡稱TWP)稱呼此 類論文,並有相關指引文件(Massey University, 2019)。英國的King's College London (2018, 2021) 於對該校此類有別於傳統形式的學位論文則使用 a thesis incorporating publications (簡稱 TIP); University of Cambridge 則規範符合資格的 該校畢業校友且在學術領域有顯著貢獻者,可申請此類特殊條例(under special regulations) 之博士學位 (Day, 2020; University of Cambridge, 2021a)。綜合上 述,不論TBP或TWP等名詞,都是學生將在學期間發表的著作,彙編至其學 位論文中畢業。本文皆以TBP通稱之,進行以下討論。

二)入學前之發表著作

除了上述在學期間的發表著作彙編成學位論文,還有一種學位,特別是博士學位,是用入學前的著作組合成博士論文,在此借用澳洲多數大學所使用的名稱「Ph.D. by Prior Publication」,稱之為「先前著作彙編之博士學位」。此種學位起源於1966年英國的University of Cambridge,雖然具創新性,但是當時引起很多的質疑,後來才逐漸被其他英國、北歐的大學採用,又稱為「staff doctorate」(Davies & Rolfe, 2009; Jackson, 2013; Wilson, 2002)。

所謂「之前著作」是指一位社會人士累積了相當多的學術著作後,向大學申請進入博士班就讀,經過一段在學期間(如澳洲Griffith University規定是全時一學期或部分時數一學年),即可將過去著作彙編成冊為博士論文,通過學位考試以獲得博士學位。換言之,此種博士學位「回溯性」彰顯學生入學前在學術界的努力與成就。Jackson(2013)在其調查的澳洲34所大學中,發現有九所提供此類學位,申請此類學位的博士候選人通常在註冊後的3到12個月內提供彙整至其學位論文的著作概要、個人履歷,或應大學要求,對於將彙整至其

學位論文的著作,進行綜合性的評析,論述其學術貢獻等;Griffith University(2015)的Higher Doctorates by Publication Policy亦闡明,可被授與此種學位之學位候選人資格包括如具有原創性的學術貢獻,以及擔任相關領域已出版著作的第一作者或主要作者;而已出版的著作類型則包括經由同儕審查的期刊論文或書本章節等。

英國有多所大學採用這種形式的TBP,但是申請條件及論文格式要求各有 不同。例如University of Portsmouth (2021)要求申請這種博士學位的人至少已 經於前一個學位畢業五年以上,加寫一個五千到一萬字的評述(commentary) 說明統整性、知識創新上的重要性,再經過口試(viva voce)通過。University of East Anglia (2021, n.d.) 則闡明,申請者需要累積五到十年的學術著作、入校 成為部分時數學生達六個月;整本博士論文加寫一個15,000字的批判分析後, 字數約在八萬到十萬字中間。Warwick University (2021) 則特別鼓勵大學畢業 七年以上、有碩士學位、在該大學工作的教職員來申請這種博士學位,並註冊 12個月;博士學位論文則要求有三至八篇學術著作並提供所有出版資訊,加寫 一個五千到一萬字的文件,說明各篇收錄著作的關係、整體貢獻等。University of Westminster (2021) 則要求10年內專書、專書論文或經審查的期刊論文才 能納入學位論文。此種入學前作品成為博士論文比較有名的例子,是工程師 Frederick Alexander Macmillan於1950年代在University of Cambridge就讀碩士班 時,發表了一系列有關物體在流體中移動速度的計算誤差校正(如Macmillan, 1954),被後世廣泛引用暱稱為「Macmillan Correction」,他於2009年81歲時, 以電話完成口試學位考試,獲得University of Cambridge博士學位(McMartin, 2009; Tavoularis, 2010) •

在日本也有所謂的「論文博士」,相對於傳統需要修課數年的「課程博士」。 文部省的「學位規則」(1953年頒布,目前官方網站法規資料為2016年10月1 日更新版本)第二章中規範:各大學可以通過研究生博士論文審查,並確認其 具有學術能力者,就可以授予博士學位(学位規則[昭和二十八年文部省令第九 号],2016)。但是各大學之校級規範沒有澳洲、英國嚴格或具體,例如從東京 大学(1957)的學位規則、以及東京工業大学(2019)、早稲田大学(2021)、慶 應義塾大学(2021)的最新版學則規定,均可以授予這種論文博士學位,但是 沒有細部規範。

經過上述分析,可收錄的著作,分為「在學期間」之著作與「入學前」的著作,由於台灣目前幾乎沒有提供後者形式之博士學位,也就是沒有這種採回溯性彰顯未具博士學位、但是學術著作等身的社會人士,給予其博士學位的情形。故以下之討論及建議(包含TBP或TWP),都是針對前者(在學期間單獨或與其他作者共同發表,再彙編成學位論文的形式),不另外註明。

三、著作彙編學位論文的篇數與貢獻要求

要多少篇在學期間著作才能彙編成一本學位論文?許多澳洲的大學都說要有「足夠」的論文,至於具體篇數則有不同規定。例如紐西蘭的Massey University(2019)建議二至六篇;澳洲La Trobe University(2021)建議博士論文約四至六篇,碩士論文約三至四篇,但沒有說明是哪一種著作。Macquarie University(2020a)建議二至八篇,University of New England(2015)也建議這個篇數,並建議學生,除了做為這些論文的共同作者外,最好也要是其中一些論文的單一作者(sole author)或主要作者(principal author); The University of Newcastle(2021)雖然沒有具體篇數建議,但是要求學生在一半的論文中為主要作者(lead author)。領域差異也展現在著作數量的要求上。例如Mason與Merga(2018a)針對澳洲23個大學的165本人文社會科學領域TBP博士論文進行研究,發現這些學位論文所含的著作數為1至12篇,平均為4.5篇。

Hagen (2010)的研究使用書目計量的方式,統計 2008 年瑞典的 Karolinska Institute 之352本TBP博士論文與挪威University of Tromsø的58本TBP博士論文,發現不分領域的這些論文平均包含4.2篇著作,中位數是5,共同作者數平均為5。因此 Hagen 認為從這兩個研究機構的統計數據看來,這種自1990 中期起至2008 年彙編著作數逐漸下降、共同作者數增加的情形,符合學術研究國際化的趨勢。然而,Hagen 以 2008 年 Helsinki University TBP 之規範「學生為三篇頂級 (leading) 期刊論文單一作者」來審視上述兩個機構的論文,發現若以此規定來看,這兩個機構八九成的博士論文都不合格。由此研究可看出,TBP政策標準宜交由各校訂定,也可看出各校標準有所不同,規範訂定上有各自考量。

四、著作彙編學位論文的寫作格式要求

由著作彙編的學位論文如何呈現其章節架構?澳洲的大學如The University of Newcastle、University of Canterbury的相關規範提及,這不是把著作簡單裝釘在一起就可以,也不是以量取勝,而是必須重新彙編成一個有聚焦(cohesive)、整合性(integrated)、具持續性(sustained)、有邏輯性(logical)、有整體重要性(significance)的作品;換言之,不相關的著作不能納入,也絕不是把現有的論文拼湊在一起即可。這也是為何本文不將TBP翻譯成著作「裝訂」或「集結」,而用「彙編」學位論文的理由。以上述這兩所大學的規範看來,著作彙編學位論文的重點為,每一篇著作如何整合在這個研究主軸下,以及彼此的關係;此類學位論文也需要包括一個綜合論述,說明每一篇著作對研究主軸的個別具體貢獻。

有些澳洲大學對著作彙編學位論文還有細部的格式要求,例如University of New England (2015) 有推薦的格式,包含正文之前的各式文件:除了傳統學位論文的封面、大綱、圖表目錄、誌謝,還有該大學需要的候選人證明 (candidate certification,聲明這本論文只為了該大學學位考試,沒有交給其他大學)、序言(preface,說明這是一本由著作彙編的學位論文)等。又例如 The University of Newcastle (2021) 也要求一本著作彙編學位論文需要一個綜述 (overview) 來完整說明研究發展脈絡,每篇著作在其中的貢獻,以及彼此的關係。Griffith University (2015) 則要求緒論中按時序列出著作,如果學生是著作的共同作者,則需說明在該研究中的責任與貢獻。

Mason與Merga(2018b)針對2014至2017年間畢業的社會科學(包含心理、商管、教育、設計、法政、語言、人類學)的153本TBP論文,分析出11種論文架構(如「三明治架構」(sandwich model)將著作彙編於前言與結論中的章節;「二篇章架構」(2-part model)則是以學位論文前言、文獻探討、研究設計方法、研究貢獻、結論為第一部分,全部的著作則放在第二部分),並提出朝向聚焦整合的策略,包括善用文字帶領讀者閱讀這本論文:這些文字通常出現在第一章,但是也可出現在後續每一章節的前言中;重新排版以求一致,包括重複文字部分如何處理、標題和圖表的形式與編號、參考文獻的寫法、論文頁碼等。英國King's College London的此種學位論文可包括以原出版期刊論文、書籍篇章形式之內文;然而,學生仍需要加上額外的章節,將這些出版的論文統整,以符合該校學位論文的要求(格式可參見Lin,2019)。

五、著作彙編學位論文的著作權與作者歸屬

由著作彙編而成的學位論文,最令人質疑的就是著作權的歸屬,也就是已 發表的期刊論文,著作權究竟是誰的?被彙編在學位論文的這些著作,如果有 共同作者又該如何處理?尤其令人不安的是,如果這篇著作除了指導老師、學 生之外還有其他作者,那麼這位學生作為其中一位作者,是否可以將其當作學 位論文的一部分?

關於著作權歸屬這個疑慮,首先,有共同作者的著作該如何處理? Macquarie University (2020b) 要求學生簽署一個「作者貢獻度聲明」(Authorship Contribution Statement),包含五個部分:第一,詳細列出著作的名稱、通訊作 者、出版資訊(期刊名稱、研討會名稱、出版社名稱等)、狀態(進行中、投稿中、已接受、已發表);第二,學位論文名稱、系所名,以及此學生在這本學位論文的貢獻;第三,除學生外的其他作者的個別貢獻;第四,除學生外每一位作者都需簽署同意第三部分描述的正確性,第五,資料保存;資料名稱、 形式、保存處(或DOI)、保管人。除此之外,學生也要在論文每一章(或每一 個實驗)的腳註(footnote)或尾註(endnote)中詳細說明每一位作者的貢獻。 University of Canterbury(2018)也要求學生對每一篇收在學位論文中的著作簽署 一張共同作者表單(co-authorship form),說明學位論文章節中有用到具共同作 者的部分,以及學生在此著作中負責的部分與整體貢獻度;此表也需這些共同 作者(或一人代表)簽署。

其次,有些大學(如The University of Melbourne, 2021)亦說明不可拿具有特別編輯格式的版本直接放在論文中。根據周倩等(2020)的討論,如果期刊出版商與作者簽署的是「非專屬授權」,則期刊出版商只有刊載一次之權利,著作人之著作財產權並未喪失。雖然期刊一定會對接受的單篇手稿進行文字編排,只要沒有進行插圖等額外的美術設計,這樣可能就不另外算成「編輯著作」而受到著作權法的保護,然而由周倩等(2020)的論點觀之,建議學生還是不要直接把期刊、書籍的版本(有其特定typesetting的版本)放在學位論文中,事實上澳洲各大學也不准許就這樣直接「裝訂成冊」。如果學生想直接把自己已出版的著作放在自己的學位論文中,建議詢問該著作的書籍、期刊出版商,有沒有相關的政策。

六、著作彙編學位論文的學位考試

使用著作彙編的學位論文去考學位考試時,有沒有什麼不同?由本研究搜尋的文獻與大學規範得知,許多大學都說,著作學位論文與傳統學位論文考試相同,只是TBP需要時時更新內容狀態(例如被接受了、有修改的版本)。La Trobe University(2021)對於考試比較寬鬆,說明如果學位論文中的一個著作已經被接受,口委就不會要求學生改進這部分,但是對於尚未發表的部分可要求改進。Queensland University of Technology(2017)則說,期刊論文的審查人看的是個別著作的品質,口試委員審查的是整本學位論文的聚合性,也可能產生相反的意見;換言之,TBP不是自動就會通過口試。口委可針對學位論文的每一部分發問,學生要能回答整本論文的問題。因此,口試中的學生不能說這部分是其他人負責的,所以不瞭解該部分。

因為TBP與傳統論文相較,指導教授通常花較多功夫和學生一起寫作,所以Moodie與Hapgood(2012)提醒,口委可能很難判定此論文中學生對原創性、品質的貢獻,以及其獨力完成的能力;建議口委要多詢問著作外的寫作部分,例如綜論及結論,以確保學生對這本學位論文有通盤的理解與及獨力傳達內容的能力。Jackson(2013)也建議,如果口委對這種學位論文考試不太熟悉,系所可以提供適當的指引。

另外一個相關的議題是,台灣各大學都要求學生在口試前,把學位論文 草稿用原創性相似度比對軟體進行檢視,以減少抄襲的疑慮。但是著作彙編 學位論文中本就有已發表、被收錄在比對軟體資料庫的著作,該如何看待比對出來的相似度數值?關於這一點,The University of Melbourne (2021)特別說明該校學生用iThenticate (一種原創性比對軟體)時,可以用其「thesis with publications」選項,藉此排除已發表著作部分,但是學生要在比對報告中說明用了哪些功能、排除了哪些部分。

七、相關議題探討

本文依據網路公開文件,統整歸納著作彙編學位論文(TBP)的定義、文章篇數、作者貢獻與寫作格式要求、著作權與作者歸屬,以下整理出三大議題,並提出作者個人意見與建議。

(一)著作彙編學位論文的優缺點

TBP有哪些優點或缺點?研究指出,TBP的訓練可以讓學生早日練習做學術發表:從一開始的人際合作分工、研究進行,中期的期刊或研討會論文撰寫,到後期的投稿、處理外審意見、面對接受或拒絕的決定等,這些都是培養一位研究者的必要過程,有助於其累積學術發表的紀錄,更可幫助有志於未來任職於高等教育、學術研究界的畢業生找到工作(Francis et al., 2009; Kamler, 2008; Mason et al., 2020a)。Green與Powell(2005)認為,Ph.D. by published work(相當於本文的TBP)的興起,就是部分英國的大學對傳統論文是否能有效訓練學生撰寫期刊論文的疑慮。Horta與Santos(2016)研究葡萄牙從1968到2009年間獲得博士學位的664人進行求學期間與之後學術表現的關連性,發現其念博士班期間就有發表紀錄的人,畢業之後有較佳的研究生產力與成果(指學術著作在Web of Science資料庫中每年被引用次數、終生被引用次數)、比較常發表單一作者之著作、有比較多國際合作研究。除此之外,根據Jackson(2013)的調查,在澳洲,比起撰寫傳統論文,TBP能讓知識的傳播較快速;若研究生(特別是博士班學生)在求學期間就開始練習進行學術發表,也有助於降低休退學率。

不過,TBP也有缺點及風險。文獻指出,首先,比起慢磨型的傳統論文, TBP除了需要學校端的政策同意,學生端需要時間學習寫期刊、研討會論文, 需要好且快的寫作技巧,更需要指導老師端大力的投入。其次,學生投稿出去 要面對審查委員的嚴厲批評,而且意見常常不一致,這是一種折磨;更重要的 是,在現代以論文數量為績效指標的學術文化中,許多期刊,尤其是頂尖期刊 往往退稿率都很高,學生是否能耐得住冗長的審查過程或多次拒絕後的重新投 稿、會不會傾向將研究成果做分割發表,以及會不會在求「有」期刊論文或有 「好」期刊論文間與指導教授發生意見不合的情事,在在考驗選擇TBP的學生與 指導教授(Merga, 2015; Merga et al., 2019)。Robins與Kanowski(2008)也從學生的角度討論了TBP的優點(有助未來職涯發展、培育專業知能、有具體時間表等)、缺點(需較長時間投入、需參與研究社群、指導教授負擔較重、不易改變研究方向等);即便如此,以該文第一作者的個人經驗而言,TBP的優點還是高於缺點。

另一個相關議題為,學生是否在學位論文中展現「獨立做研究」的能力是TBP常被人質疑的地方,此亦可能是其缺點之一。不論國內外,要求撰寫學位論文的初衷,就是在培養學生具有某種程度之「獨立研究」能力,並在指導教授適切的引導下,完成一份合於畢業資格的學術作品,對於人類知識的進展有具體貢獻;如果一本學位論文是由數篇合著之著作彙集而成,這個學生的貢獻要如何被評量?與此相關的概念是「透明度」(transparency)問題:比起傳統論文通常只有學生與指導教授兩人的貢獻,TBP彙編的著作其他作者是否同意、有沒有如實地在TBP中陳述每一篇共同作者的個別貢獻,都是需要考量與注意的。

另一方面,在這個研究設備材料昂貴、講究合作研究的年代,研究者或許應該重新思考何謂獨立研究能力,或許不該立即等同於「獨力」完成一個研究、一人寫完一篇論文,而是考慮由更多的指標來衡量。University of Cambridge (2021b) 即說明,該大學理解在一些領域中,學生的研究很多都是一個團隊一起完成的,所以呈現在學位論文的研究也是受到其他人的幫助,因此學生在學位論文的前言及特定之處,都需要註明。綜上所述,具體做法可包含:對於其他共同作者的貢獻,除了在論文前言、每章序論中說明每一篇收錄著作之先前發表情形外,甚至可以更細緻地在個別研究下註明(如:圖一由〇〇同學提供,統計分析由〇〇完成,圖二與〇〇實驗室合作,由他們執行提供結果等),如此就可更清楚彰顯先前著作中共同作者的貢獻。

二 採用著作彙編學位論文的領域及個別差異

哪些領域比較接受或較常採用TBP?一般說來,STEM(自然科學、科技、工程與數學)以及醫學領域採用的比較多,人社領域則較少。Cumming(2009)認為,STEM領域比較多的原因是,這些領域的博士生通常是在一個實驗室中執行指導教授交付的任務,且任務完成後會共同具名為作者去發表著作。Mason與Merga(2018a)針對澳洲23所大學的636本TBP博士論文進行研究,發現屬於STEM領域的論文占42.94%,其次是生醫的31.13%,人文社會占25.94%。人社領域中又以心理(認知心理、認知科學)TBP論文數最多,其次為商管/經濟/會計,再次是教育、設計與建築、政治與法律、語言學、人類學與社會學、創作藝術、地理學,最少的是新聞學、文學和哲學。

幾乎每一個有TBP制度的澳洲大學都有政策上的提醒:除了不是每個領域都適合或接受TBP外,還有指導老師的個人風格、經驗上的差異以及學生的個

別差異(見Mason et al., 2020b)。Liardét與Thompson(2020)訪談了澳洲某大學的14位博士生與四位指導教授,發現學生決定撰寫TBP論文或傳統式論文主要受到指導老師的影響,而指導老師的考量則是由於學域的慣例與出版要求。比較有趣的是,該研究發現非以英語為母語的博士班學生較傾向撰寫TBP,因為這些學生認為要寫出一大本傳統論文比寫出數篇期刊論文要困難許多,且指導老師會加入一起撰寫期刊論文。

澳洲的大學(如La Trobe University, 2021; Queensland University of Technology, 2017)建議學生早一點與指導老師討論研究方向、參與的計畫,以及學位論文的形式。本文更進一步建議,指導教授與學生,甚至與其他作者,在研究開始、論文撰寫初期,就應該討論這篇研究成果轉化為論文的作者列名與排序,以及未來的用途(如作為學位論文的一部分、教師升等論文、計畫成果報告,或某一作者要拿去申請教職)。如果可能,建議用書面形式做成一個類似契約或備忘錄的文件更佳;畢竟一個研究要完成、論文寫完被期刊接受刊登,常常需要歷經很久的時間、牽涉到版本更動與人事更替,若共同作者間只靠口頭約定或「默契」行事,可能會導致未來的爭議。

最後,由於不是所有的領域都接受TBP,且個別研究者對TBP亦有不同認知,所以學位考試或學位論文外審時,或許會因為審查者不同的認知導致評量尺度不一致的問題。本文作者身兼任教大學的學術倫理辦公室主任,遇到最棘手的情形可能是,有口委極度不認同這種TBP形式,甚至認為這是一個違反學術倫理的案件(抄襲、自我抄襲、一稿多投或合著人登載不實)。另一種極端的情形是,口委都認為這本論文裡包含了已發表著作,既然都經過個別期刊主編、審查者的考驗,所以整個學位考試淪為形式,可以草草簽名結束,甚至學生也期待這個學位考試只是徒具形式而已,不用太認真準備。但這樣是否合乎舉行學位考試的宗旨、這本論文整體是否達到該校該系所的學術標準,也值得思考。

(三)採用著作彙編學位論文形式的學生所需技巧與特質

有些研究針對TBP的學生需要的技巧與心理特質進行研究,例如Merga等(2019)收集澳洲35所大學246個採用TBP畢業博士的問卷資料,歸納出六個完成TBP的技巧:合作與人際技巧(collaboration and interpersonal skills)、學術寫作(academic writing)、處理投稿事務(publication journey negotiation)、處理同儕審查與意見(dealing with peer-review and feedback)、組織/計畫/時間管理(organization, planning, and time management),資訊科技熟練度(information technology proficiency);以及四個完成TBP的心理素質:挫折容忍力/耐力(resilience and patience)、決心/專注/熱情(determination, focus, and passion)、獨立性/自信心(independence and assertiveness)、內省性/適應性/自我改進

的開放性(introspection, adaptability, and openness to self-improvement)。本文作者認為這些完成TBP的必備技巧與心理素質,其實對於撰寫傳統學位論文的學生也是必要的,只是可能少了與期刊通訊的技巧與磨練(例如查詢審稿進度、回應審查者的評語、重新修改投稿,進行文稿校對、簽署著作權同意書)。更進一步而言,這些技巧與心理素質,也是任何一個博士班學生在整個求學過程必須具備的,也不僅限在撰寫博士論文階段。

另一個澳洲研究(Kamler, 2008) 訪談了來自四所大學的12位畢業博士(教育與科學領域各半),探討不同領域與指導方式對他們博士班期間進行學術寫作的影響。其中最主要的結論是指導教授的發表經驗傳承很重要,也就是協助學生建立投稿優質期刊的信心與能力,以及給學生作為共同作者的合作機會,讓其學習如何實際撰寫期刊論文;這些受訪者都很感謝指導教授的經驗傳承,以逐步建立自己的學術識別度與發表紀錄,但在同時,所有學生都表示自己要處理高度的學術焦慮與投稿的艱難困苦。其實,這也是作為研究者終生要面臨的挑戰,只是讓他們提早在博士班就經歷了。

八、結語:對台灣高等教育的啟示

TBP的興起,或多或少反應了高等教育的生態與學術評價制度:以研究績效,特別是期刊論文數量與品質,來評量一所大學的整體研究表現,以及其中研究者的個別學術成績。所以,學生入學後,指導教授帶著學生參與計畫、做研究、寫論文,而這些合著的論文未來可算入教授的研究績效,亦可放入學生的學位論文,這似乎是個很合理、實際的學術知識生產流程。另一方面,近年來高等教育擴張與國際化,但有意追求高等學位的學生人數漸少,也就是念博士班的意願者人數降低,大學端只好用各種策略讓學生能及早畢業,或帶著學術發表紀錄去擠進大學或研究機構的任職窄門,這種TBP也可說是其中一種策略,也是高等教育界演化的結果之一(見Guerin, 2016)。

本文作者綜結上述TBP的相關定義、規範,以及相關議題(見表1)。經由網路公開文件,本文歸納TBP已經逐漸被歐洲、澳洲的大學採納,成為一種可行的學位論文形式,所以只要有大學端的具體政策,基本上就沒有學術倫理(例如自我抄襲)的疑慮,只有學術品質(例如貢獻度大小)的問題。再者,澳洲也有很多大學訂定相關政策、聲明書,讓欲採用TBP的學生、指導教授有具體的指引來進行論文寫作,也讓被彙編入學位論文的著作共同作者有清楚的認知與表達意見的機會,此些文件可供台灣高等教育參考。最後,本文探討了TBP的相關議題,例如TBP的優缺點、重新定義「獨立研究的能力」,並提供一些想法與實務作法。

brary Sc.

著作彙編學位論文相關規範與議題整理 表 1

台灣現況或給 澳洲 英國 日本 台灣的啟示 • 文部省「學位規則」第二章 學生在學期間發 定義 學生在學期間發表之 • 台灣高等教育已經有此 種論文形式,但是從教 育部到各大學,都沒有 表之著作或書籍 章節等集合於學位論文之內文(如 規範: 各大學 可以通過研究 具體規範。 King's College 生博士論文審 •建議大學校方訂定政 學時發表著作彙編 查,並確認其 London) • 策,允許「著作彙編學 成學位論文,如 具有學術能力 位論文」為學位論文之 Queensland University of 者,就可以授 一種。 予博士學位。 Technology \ Macquarie University \ University • 部分大學可 of Canterbury) • 授與,但未 有嚴格具體定 義(如東京大 学、東京工業 大学、早稲田 大学、慶應義 塾大学)。 • 台灣高等教育機構中應 以註冊入學前特定時 以註冊入學前之 段之學術著作,應大 學 術 著 作,加 該沒有此種學位論文獲 上評述或批判分 學要求,提供著作概 得學位之形式。 要、個人履歷,或進 析,組合成博士 行綜合性評析,組合 論文(如University 成博士論文(入學前 of Portsmouth \ 之發表著作彙編成學 University of East 位論文,如Griffith Anglia)。 University) 規範 · 論文數量:依照學校 King's College • 東京大学學 • 各大學可針對「著作彙 規範,以及領域差 London規範此種 異,約二至八篇。 學位論文不需重 則,東京工業 編學位論文」做原則性 大学、早稲田 指示。 新彙整著作,就 大学、慶應義 • 大學校方可責成各院或 作者定義:學生擔任 塾大学的最新 以原出版的期刊 系所根據各學域特點做 其中論文的單一作者 版學則均列有 論文、書籍篇章 或主要作者。 細部規範(例如著作篇 形式為學位論文 規定,但無細 數、發表之研討會/期 部規範。 • 格式要求: 將所有著 內文。然而,學 刊等級、學生為作者之 要求、論文寫作格式、 作整合成清楚聚焦研 生仍需要加上額 究主軸、附有綜合論 外的章節,將這 學位考試規則)。 述之學位論文。 些出版的論文統 整,以符合該校 •大學校方可訂定「共同 • 著作權歸屬: 學生應 作者同意書」範本,作 為申請口試之必要文件 學位論文的要求。 知會論文其他作者, 並取得同意。 相關 • 優缺點: 具有較佳的 • 大學校方確保學術品質 研究生產力,但投稿 之管控。 議題 過程時間冗長、學生 • 大學校方要求指導教授 是否因此具備獨立研 肩負更多指導義務與責 究能力受到質疑。 任。 領域差異:需考慮領 • 大學校方確認無學術倫 域、指導老師、學生 理之疑慮。 及口試委員的個別差 •院系所重新定義「獨立 研究」能力。 學生特質:申請此種 • 學生釐清作者與著作權 論文形式學生所需之 技巧與心理素質。 歸屬。

其實,台灣各大學的不同學域,已經或多或少採用了TBP(在學期間之著作彙編成學位論文)一些時日,但是似乎尚未有大學、系所訂定相關政策,只交由個別的指導教授依自己的經驗與偏好去執行;學生則除了詢問老師大原則方向外,多只能以學長姐之論文為參考範本,但這樣可能會產生寫作上的不確定性,也會造成學術研究品質管控的問題,以及共同作者貢獻與著作權歸屬的疑慮。本文作者所在的學術倫理辦公室,最常被諮詢的問題也是這類TBP有無自我抄襲的疑慮,以及共同作者貢獻分配的問題。

本文呼籲台灣的各大學(而不是教育部),或許能夠考慮該校的學術標準,思考訂定相關的政策、提供統一的共同作者聲明文件(或共同作者同意書)、要求系所監督畢業論文的學術水準、賦予指導教授更多的指導義務與責任、協助學生發展各式研究所的生存技巧(survival skills)、提供更多學生學習、心理、生涯發展的輔導;同時,大學校方應尊重領域差異,留給各系所做細部規定的彈性(如TBP著作篇數與等級、論文格式),如此不但可適用於台灣大專校院的各學域系所,也可接軌國際的高等教育趨勢,培育更多具競爭力的研究人才。

本文囿於人力限制,研究範圍僅限以澳洲、英國與北歐國家高等教育TBP制度進行研究之文獻,以及澳洲、日本與英國大學規範,並未將美加之大學列為研究對象,主要是由於作者經線上文獻查訪,未發現美國大學有校級之統一規範;然而,是否其各學院、學系有類似之規定,或個別教授有指導TBP形式之論文,尚留待後續進一步研究與探討。

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Thesis by Publication: Definition, Regulations and Issues for Consideration

Chien Chou

Abstract

In Taiwan, writing a thesis or dissertation is a basic need for graduate students to fulfill their requirement for graduation. The traditional thesis or dissertation usually refers to a monograph written and formatted by required order after completing a single research. Only students from a few departments may use their certificates of achievement with written reports or technical reports as substitutes for their theses or dissertations and apply for graduation. In recent years, the thesis by publication (TBP) approach has begun to appear. Foreign universities have their own policies and regulations for including published works as part of final thesis submission, and there are also a number of related research papers in the academic field. In Taiwan, some university departments have already adopted the TBP approach for years, but it seems that no local university has a clear school policy or brings up relevant perspectives to the authorities for discussion. To address the issue of TBP, this study uses document analysis method, analyzing public documents on the Internet and aims to portrait the TBP approach from literature. Firstly, the author inspects school regulations of Australian, UK, and Japanese universities; secondly, research papers are reviewed and the definition of TBP along with topics for consideration are listed. The recast of capability for independent research and practical practices are also discussed and presented, in the hope that this study will serve as a reference for policy makers in Taiwan's higher education.

Keywords: Thesis by publication, Publishing during candidature, Ph.D. by prior publication, Graduate student, Higher education

SUMMARY

Introduction

In Taiwan, nearly all graduate and Ph.D. students are required to submit their theses or dissertations in support of their academic candidature. According to the Degree Conferral Act (2018) enacted by the Ministry of Education, only

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students taking degree programs in arts, applied science and technology or sports are eligible to submit their proofs of achievement or professional/technical reports instead of their degree theses. Most of the other students in Taiwan still need to present and successfully defend their thesis studies, which embody their research results and competence.

A traditional thesis-by-monograph (TBM; Liardét & Thompson, 2020) usually indicates the completion of a single study, and the writing follows the IMRAD structure: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion (Gastel & Day, 2017; Sollaci & Pereira, 2004). In addition to this format, an alternative type of degree thesis, namely, thesis by publication (TBP), has been introduced in higher education and is now listed as one type of graduation thesis approved by some universities. A TBP includes a collection of the degree candidate's published works, and this type of Ph.D. degree is currently available in Northern European and Australian universities. In Taiwan, however, there seems to be no local school policy on such an issue or relevant discussions brought up by authorities. Therefore, the current study uses documentary research and seeks to discuss TBP in detail, including its definition and types, school regulations/policies, and issues for consideration, such as advantages and disadvantages for students, disciplinary differences, and qualifications for those who wish to undertake their degree by TBP. The results of this review study could serve as a reference for policy makers in Taiwan's higher education.

Definition and Types of TBP

The most well-known definition of TBP is a thesis that includes a collection of one's published works during candidature. According to the document by the Committee on Publication Ethics (2017), a TBP includes at least one or part of a published journal paper. However, several universities broaden the inclusion of published papers into book chapters and conference papers. Some universities even approve the inclusion of accepted papers or ready-to-submit manuscripts in a TBP. A variety of names regarding TBP are used in universities. "Thesis with publications (TWP)", "a thesis incorporating publications (TIP)", or "including published work in a thesis" can be seen in university policies and regulations.

The Ph.D. by Prior Publication originated in the United Kingdom in 1966 is another type of TBP. Currently, some universities in Northern Europe, Australia and Japan have regulations regarding this type of Ph.D. The candidates who are eligible to apply for admission are individuals who have already published their works with both good quality and quantity.

In Japan, the degree of "Dissertation Ph.D." is regulated by the Degree Conferral Act of Japan (revised in 2016) compared to the degree of "Curriculum

Ph.D." Although there are no detailed school policies or regulations, once universities recognize the academic competence of candidates, such a degree can be conferred.

Requirements and Regulations for TBP

How many published papers should be included to qualify as a TBP? Australian and New Zealand universities differ in these numbers and types. Generally, two to eight papers are required for a Ph.D. thesis. Authorship is another requirement. The candidates need to be the principal or leading authors of some papers or at least the co-authors of all included papers, depending on the respective universities' regulations.

Regarding the format of TBP, almost all Australian universities do not allow just a matter of binding the papers together. Instead, the candidates need to reorganize all included papers into cohesive, integrated, and sustained work in a logical way with an emphasis on its significance. Some universities have detailed format requirements, such as a newly written overview, statement of respective papers' contribution to the theses, or candidates' contributions to each paper.

Copyright is usually a major concern for TBP. Generally, candidates need to provide some type of authorship contribution statement or co-authorship form to demonstrate that all authors of the papers are informed and give their consent. Candidates are suggested to re-typeset the published papers into the format of degree theses. As long as the published papers are nonexclusively licensed to journal publishers, there should be no legal concerns.

Upon the completion of a TBP, an oral defense needs to be held. Some universities have stated that a TBP is not a guarantee for passing because the review emphasizes the coherence and total quality of the thesis. Generally, candidates are expected to answer all questions for any part of the thesis, regardless of whether she or he is responsible for this part.

Issues for Consideration

Advantages and Disadvantages for Students

Research has shown that there are some advantages for Ph.D. students who wish to undertake their degree by TBP. The major advantage is that students can learn earlier about how to be involved in research projects, collaborate with other researchers, execute the research procedures, report the results, and practice academic publishing. The accumulation of research experiences and a portfolio of published work can also enhance the competitiveness of Ph.D. graduates in the job market. However, students may also face the strict challenges of journal paper writing, harsh critiques, and callous rejections. Moreover, the engagement and commitment of thesis advisors in TBP-related research work may deeply

influence the success of TBP. Finally, TBP is sometimes questioned because the "capability of doing independent research," which is usually required for Ph.D. graduates, may not be fully demonstrated. The assurance can be checked in a rigorous oral defense. Nevertheless, the present author suggests redefining this term, especially in the age in which cross-disciplinary, large-scale, collaborative research is highly encouraged.

Disciplinary Differences

Past research has indicated that not all disciplines accept TBP. Generally, the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and medicine adopt TBP more than those of humanities and social sciences. In addition to disciplinary differences, individual thesis advisors' personal preferences and experiences may affect the adoption of TBP. Therefore, most Australian universities suggest that Ph.D. students consult their advisors about their type of thesis as early as possible. Once TBP is adopted, the oral defense committee members should also be on the same page.

Student Skills and Attributes

Students' personal attributes and expectations may also contribute to the decision on their chosen type of degree theses. Regardless of the type, i.e., TBP or traditional, the pursuit of a Ph.D. is a long, challenging and stressful journey. Merga et al. (2019) conclude that the needed attributes for Ph.D. students include resilience/patience, determination/focus/passion, independence/assertiveness, and introspection/adaptability/openness to self-improvement. However, their study recommended that TBP candidates have more collaboration/interpersonal skills, abilities in addressing peer review and feedback, and organization/planning/time management and be equipped with information technology proficiency.

Implications for Taiwanese Higher Education

The rise and adoption of TBP somewhat reflects the recent changes in higher education. For university and individual researchers, performance-based evaluation that counts journal papers has become mainstream. Therefore, advisors and graduate students form a team that undertakes research work together to generate more research outputs. The papers included in TBP can thus be counted as performance indicators of both students and advisors.

In Taiwan, TBP has already been adopted by some disciplines and individual advisors, but there seems to be no government-level (such as those from the Ministry of Education) or university-level policies. The present study suggests that Taiwanese universities take into account the establishment of relevant, general regulations (i.e., the recognition of TBP, a co-author agreement statement, etc.) and that individual college, department, or graduate program have detailed

requirements (i.e., the paper number, paper type, authorship, format, and oral defense information). Universities should also oblige colleges, departments or graduate programs to redefine the "capability of doing independent research", control the quality of theses, require advisors to be more responsible in supervising candidates, and remove the concerns of duplicate publication. For students, universities should urge them to clarify the authorship and copyright issues of papers to be included and provide them with more survival skills and learning and consultancy resources for their academic success.

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ROMANIZED & TRANSLATED REFERENCE FOR ORIGINAL TEXT

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