EPFL theses

On-demand publication offers

Recently, publishers such as LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, a subsidiary of VDM Publishing, started contacting EPFL PhD students to offer them the publication of their thesis on a print-on-demand model and their diffusion through online booksellers such as Amazon.com.

Although the benefits of a larger diffusion brought by on-demand printing are legitimate, the EPFL Library wishes to warn authors that before committing their work to a publisher, the following details should be clarified:

• Diffusion rights must be clearly stated. In particular, authors are advised to hold the copyright rather than yielding it to the publisher.

• All EPFL theses being already freely available via the library’s website and their contents having been scientifically validated by the institution, the publisher must display the following information wherever the work will be made available:
  
  o this work can be freely downloaded from the EPFL website, with the DOI link to the original document
  
  o its content is a PhD thesis submitted to EPFL
  
  o all information from the original thesis title page (academic defense date, jury composition, etc.) must be visible on the printed version of the document.

• The added value supposed to be brought by a publisher should not be limited to bulk publication on online platforms: a promotion plan should be presented to the author.