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HARVARD LIBRARY  
Office for Scholarly Communication

## Dispatch - Summer 2016

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# DISPATCH

Summer 2016

## HOW WELL DOES GOOGLE INDEX HARVARD'S OPEN-ACCESS REPOSITORY?

More than half the visitors to DASH, Harvard's open-access repository, are referred by Google or Google Scholar. We in the OSC knew that Google and Google Scholar indexed DASH, and had their own reasons to do it thoroughly. But we also knew that configuration mistakes on our side could deter or derail the Google crawlers.

From spring of 2015 to the spring of 2016, Rebecca Lewis (UMass-Boston), Alexis Dhembe (Simmons College), and Mark Jemerson (Simmons College) systematically searched for DASH works in Google and Google Scholar. They picked samples from several different categories of DASH records - altogether they tested the Google-discoverability of nearly 1,000 works in DASH.

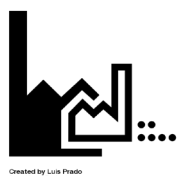
The results are reassuring: 99.5% of DASH works are indexed by either Google or Google Scholar, and 93.2% are indexed by both. When the study turned up works not appearing in either Google or Google Scholar, we identified the problems and fixed them. "I'm very happy with the study," says OSC Director Peter Suber. "It answers a question that we couldn't answer without data. Google indexes DASH comprehensively. The point of opening up Harvard's research is to make it easier to find, retrieve, read, and apply, and we spend a good deal of our time making DASH compatible with discovery tools. One result is that scholars around the world can find Harvard research in DASH even if they don't know that DASH exists, don't know where it's located, don't know what it contains, and don't visit to run local searches."

### DASH PASSES EIGHT MILLION DOWNLOADS

Users from every country on earth combined to download over 8 million works of Harvard scholarship from DASH, Harvard's open-access repository, since its launch in 2009.

## FEATURED DASH WORK: MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS (M&A)

*Chineme Jeff Maduka, OSC Open Access Fellow and graduate student at Harvard Law School*



Created by Luis Prado from Noun Project

Contracts are complex legal creatures. One kind of contract known to create far more complexity than many others is the merger and acquisition (M&A) contract. Businesses and corporations, like humans, undergo dramatic changes in their lives. One such major change for a corporation - akin to the human experience of matrimony, even death - is an M&A transaction. In an article available in DASH, titled "M&A Contracts: Purposes, Types, Regulation, and Patterns of Practice," Harvard Law School Professor John Coates excellently leads the reader through the full spectrum of M&A contract dynamics, starting from the basic purposes of contracts in general, and M&A contracts in particular, to the types of M&A transactions, the contents of typical M&A contracts (illustrated by actual examples), and the peculiarities of M&A contracts for U.S. targets as shaped by ownership and regulation. Unconventionally, this article uses empirical studies to analyze the contents and effects of M&A contracts in the complex world of deal making. The article has been downloaded 438 times since it was deposited in DASH in July 2015.

## YOUR STORIES MATTER

[osc.bul.harvard.edu/dash/stories](http://osc.bul.harvard.edu/dash/stories)

*I'm a PhD candidate in Spain, I want to express my gratitude to Harvard for sharing this, and other papers, which are absolutely fundamental for my research activities.*



Created by Chiara Claus from Noun Project

Feedback from a scholar in Spain, related to Robert Barro's 1974 article "Are Government Bonds Net Wealth?" downloaded over 19,000 times from DASH since 2008.



## HARVARD LIBRARY

Office for Scholarly Communication

The Office for Scholarly Communication (OSC) spearheads campus-wide initiatives to open, share, and preserve scholarship. With support from OSC, open-access policies are now in place at all Harvard University schools. OSC also runs supporting programs, such as DASH, the Copyright Advisory Program, ETDs @ Harvard, and the HOPE Fund.

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