

## Development of an interactive digital flipbook for dissertation research dissemination

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### ABSTRACT

Doctoral dissertation outputs are often presented in static formats that limit accessibility, thematic exploration, and efficient information retrieval. At the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, dissertation mapping (2010–2025) has been disseminated through conventional reports lacking interactivity, thematic search features, and user-friendly navigation, making it difficult for users to explore research trends, methodologies, and findings. To address this limitation, a digital flipbook was developed to provide structured, accessible, and visually engaging access to dissertation data. This study employed a Research and Development (R&D) approach based on the Borg and Gall model, including needs analysis, design planning, prototype development, testing, revisions, large-scale trials, and expert validation. Participants in the needs analysis stage included lecturers and academic staff, while the product evaluation involved doctoral students as primary users. Data were collected through document analysis, interviews, and Likert-scale questionnaires, and analysed using descriptive qualitative and quantitative methods. The large-scale trial with 70 doctoral students yielded a mean score of 4.57 (very feasible) and high reliability (Cronbach's Alpha = 0.91). Pearson correlation showed a strong relationship between ease of navigation and visual appeal ( $r = 0.72$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), while expert validation indicated high validity (Aiken's  $V = 0.88$ ). The findings suggest that the dissertation flipbook is an effective digital dissemination tool that enhances research accessibility, supports thematic exploration, and strengthens research mapping. The flipbook contributes to institutional digital transformation, promotes open access, and supports a data-driven academic culture at the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta.



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## INTRODUCTION

In the context of open science which emphasizes transparency, accessibility, and openness in sharing research findings, data, and methodologies higher education institutions are increasingly encouraged to ensure that research outcomes are not only produced but also widely accessible, reusable, and capable of generating greater scientific and social impact (Umbach, 202; Bertram et

al., 2023; Ross-Hellauer et al., 2024).. Open access to doctoral research enhances transparency, fosters academic collaboration, and supports knowledge transfer across disciplines (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2010; Santos-Hermosa, 2023). Nevertheless, many institutional repositories still present dissertation information in static, text-based formats with limited interactive features and navigation, which can reduce accessibility and user engagement (Macgregor, 2019; Santos-Hermosa, 2023). Without thematic organisation, visual support, and interactive navigation, valuable research outputs may remain underutilised by students, lecturers, and policy makers (Nadkarni & Prügl, 2021). As a result, innovative dissemination formats are required to bridge the gap between research production and knowledge utilisation.

From a pedagogical and cognitive perspective, multimedia learning theory emphasises that information is more effectively processed when presented through well-designed combinations of text, visuals, and interactive elements (Clark & Mayer, 2016; Singh & Mayer, 2014). Digital flipbooks align with these principles by offering structured layouts, visual cues, and user-controlled navigation, thereby reducing cognitive load and enhancing comprehension (Hadiapurwa et al., 2021). When applied to dissertation dissemination, such features help users quickly grasp research scopes, methodologies, and key findings without reading full-length documents. This approach supports efficient research mapping and strengthens academic literacy among doctoral students and early-career researchers.

At the institutional level, systematic research mapping plays a crucial role in identifying academic strengths, emerging trends, and research gaps. A structured overview of dissertation topics enables universities to align doctoral research with strategic priorities, curriculum development, and societal needs (Schalkwyk et al., 2020). For the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, doctoral research has served as a central pillar in advancing scientific knowledge across multiple disciplines. Based on the institutional mapping of doctoral dissertations conducted between 2010 and 2023, various research trends, thematic patterns, and methodological orientations have been identified. However, the results of this mapping have primarily been presented in conventional formats such as printed reports or static digital documents, which lack interactivity, flexibility, and efficient search functionality.

As digital technology continues to reshape academic communication, the presentation of institutional research outputs must evolve accordingly. Traditional reports, while comprehensive, are often less engaging and less accessible to diverse user groups (Hew, 2016). Students, lecturers, and academic administrators require platforms that allow them to explore research themes dynamically, compare methodologies, and identify emerging areas of inquiry with ease. Digital flipbooks offer an innovative solution by integrating text, images, audio, and video into a single interactive environment. In educational contexts, flipbooks have been shown to increase learning engagement, improve visual comprehension, and enhance overall user experience (Abror et al., 2019; Deivam, 2023; Lubis et al., 2023; Purnomo et al., 2024).

Beyond improving engagement, flipbook-based media also support the development of digital skills and creative thinking. Erawati et al., (2024) reported that flipbook-based e-modules promote student creativity in technology-oriented courses, while Hadiapurwa et al., (2021) found that digital flipbooks enhance visual literacy among elementary students. The flexibility of flipbook platforms allows for multimedia integration, adaptive layouts, and mobile accessibility, making them suitable for diverse learning and information-seeking contexts (Lestari & Nur, 2023; Perdana et al., 2021). However, challenges such as usability issues, technical limitations, and digital literacy gaps must also be considered to ensure effective implementation (Listyawati & Muhyadi, 2017; Usman et al., 2024).

At the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, the absence of an interactive platform that systematically presents dissertation mapping results has limited the accessibility and practical utilisation of doctoral research. Valuable findings that could inform curriculum development, research supervision, and institutional policy are often confined to static documents that are not easily searchable or visually navigable. This condition reduces the potential impact of doctoral research as a strategic academic resource. Therefore, there is a pressing need to develop a

digital dissemination platform that not only organises dissertation data systematically but also facilitates multimedia-based exploration and thematic navigation.

This study adopts a Research and Development approach to design, develop, and evaluate a digital dissertation flipbook for the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. The flipbook integrates structured metadata, thematic categorisation, and interactive features to support efficient exploration of research topics, methodologies, and trends. A feasibility study is conducted to assess the product's effectiveness, usability, and visual appeal. By transforming static dissertation reports into an interactive digital flipbook, the flipbook aims to enhance research accessibility, promote knowledge sharing, and support academic decision-making.

From an institutional policy perspective, the development of this flipbook aligns with Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta's Strategic Plan (RENSTRA), which emphasises improving research quality and integrating digital technologies into academic services. As part of broader higher education digitalisation efforts, the flipbook also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in promoting quality education through improved access to academic information.

Moreover, recent studies have highlighted that many institutional repositories still rely on static text-based files with limited discoverability and user engagement (Macgregor, 2019). Scholars advocate for the use of interactive interfaces, visual knowledge mapping, and thematic navigation to enhance the visibility and impact of academic outputs (Santos-Hermosa, 2023). By combining multimedia learning principles with open science practices, the dissertation flipbook serves as a bridge between traditional repositories and the modern demand for user-friendly knowledge navigation, an essential feature of 21st-century knowledge ecosystems.

In summary, this study does not merely digitise existing dissertation mapping reports but transforms how doctoral research is accessed, understood, and utilised at the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. The proposed flipbook represents an innovative academic infrastructure that supports transparency, accessibility, and optimal use of research outputs. It is expected to serve not only as a reference tool for doctoral students but also as a strategic resource for academic planning, research supervision, and institutional development. Therefore, the main aim of this study is to develop and evaluate an interactive digital flipbook as a digital dissemination platform for doctoral dissertation research. Furthermore, the model developed in this study has the potential to be replicated by other higher education institutions as part of their digital transformation initiatives in academic knowledge dissemination.

## METHOD

This study employed a Research and Development (R&D) design to develop an interactive digital flipbook for disseminating doctoral dissertation research at the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta (SPs UNY). The development process followed the Borg & Gall (1983) model, which includes needs analysis, design planning, prototype development, testing, revision, and dissemination. The population consisted of all doctoral dissertations produced at SPs UNY between 2010 and 2025 across three doctoral programs: Educational Research and Evaluation, Vocational and Technical Education, and Educational Science. A total sampling technique was applied, meaning that all available dissertations were included to ensure comprehensive research mapping.

Table 1. Research Instruments

No.	Instrument	Purpose	Main Content
1	Dissertation categorisation guide	Classify dissertation content	Themes, methods, findings, year, study program
2	Interview guide	Identify user needs and preferences	Open-ended questions
3	Evaluation questionnaire	Assess flipbook quality	Likert-scale items on usability and appeal

Secondary data were obtained from dissertation documents, which were coded and categorised according to research themes, sub-themes, methodologies, and key findings. Primary

data were collected through interviews and Likert-scale questionnaires involving doctoral students, lecturers, and academic staff to explore user needs and evaluate the flipbook’s usability, readability, navigation, and visual appeal. The research instruments included (1) a dissertation categorisation guide, (2) an interview guide, and (3) a product evaluation questionnaire.

Data collection was conducted through document analysis, thematic coding, interviews, and user trials of the flipbook prototype. Qualitative data obtained from document analysis and interviews were analysed using the Miles & Huberman (1992) analytical framework, which includes data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Meanwhile, quantitative data from Likert-scale questionnaires were analysed using descriptive statistics, including mean scores and standard deviations, to assess the product's feasibility and usability. Quantitative data analysis was conducted using SPSS software. In addition, instrument reliability was assessed using Cronbach’s Alpha, and Pearson's correlation analysis was conducted using the framework. At the same time, quantitative data were analysed regarding the flipbook's visual appeal. The combination of qualitative and quantitative analyses enabled a comprehensive evaluation of the flipbook's feasibility, usability, and effectiveness as a research dissemination medium.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

#### *Preliminary Study and Needs Analysis*

The preliminary stage focused on identifying user needs for disseminating doctoral dissertation research at the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. A document review of doctoral dissertations completed between 2010 and 2025, involving approximately 630 dissertations from three doctoral programs (Educational Sciences, Educational Research and Evaluation, and Vocational and Technology Education), was conducted to examine the distribution of research topics, dominant methodological approaches, and emerging research trends. This document analysis was complemented by semi-structured interviews with leaders of the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, doctoral supervisors, and academic staff to capture institutional demands for dissertation data to support academic development, research planning, and evidence-based policy formulation.

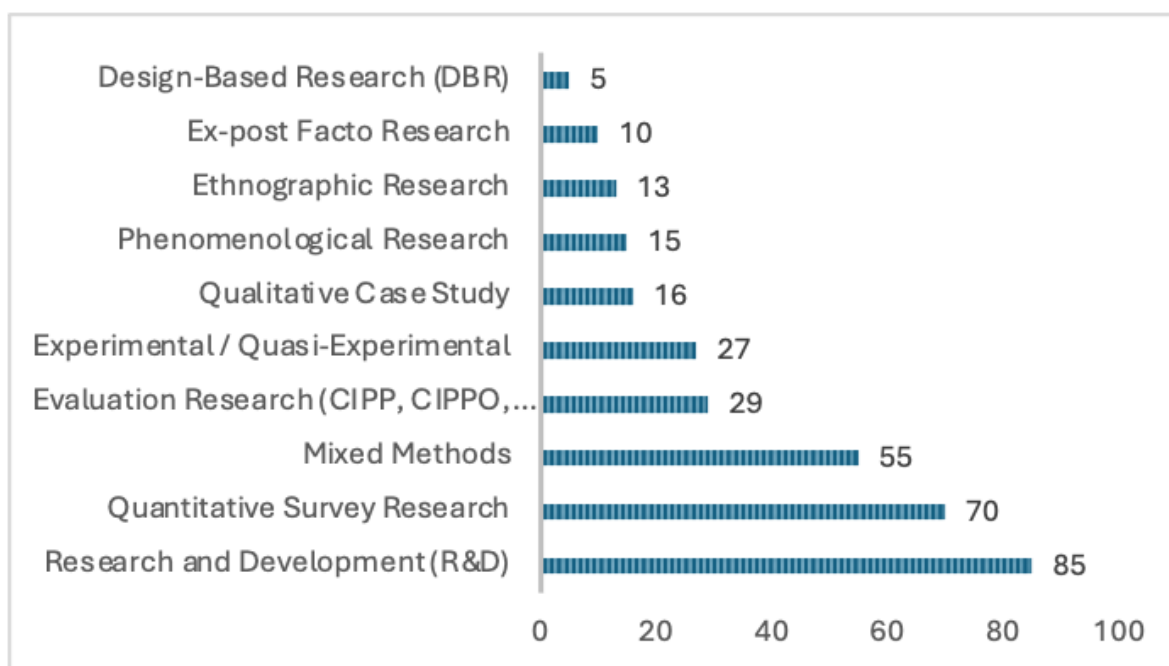


Figure 1. Top 10 Trends in Research Methods Used in Doctoral Dissertations (2010–2025)

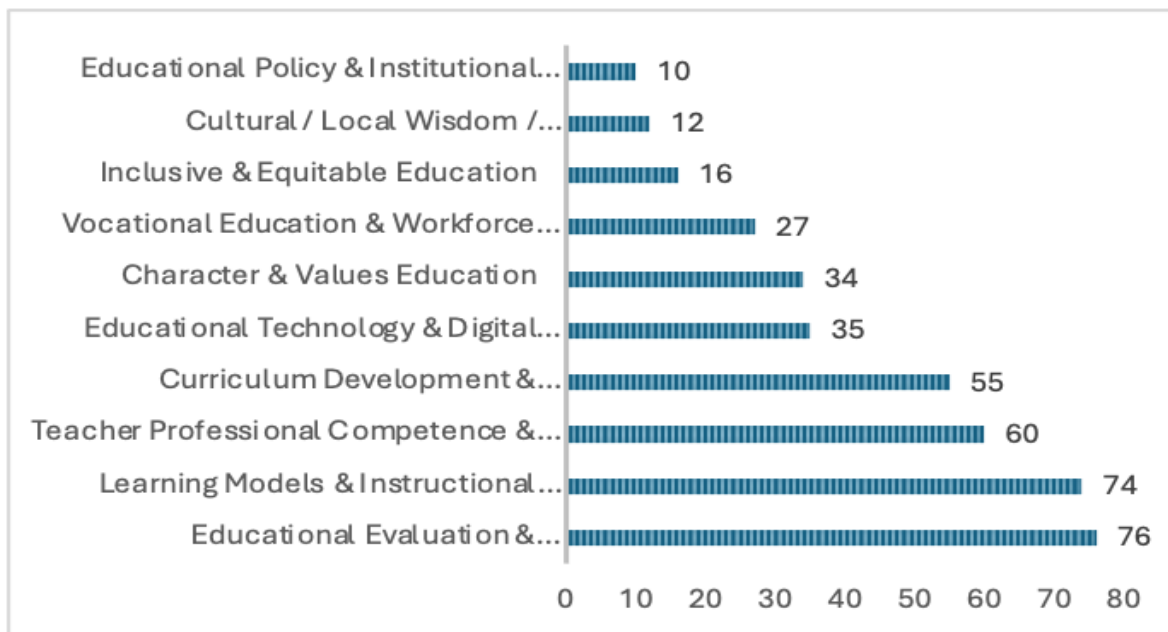


Figure 2. Top Ten Research Topic Trends in Doctoral Dissertations (2010–2025)

In addition, initial feedback was collected from doctoral students regarding their difficulties in locating previous dissertation studies. Students reported that searches for research topics, methods, and keywords were still largely conducted manually and scattered across separate documents, resulting in inefficient information retrieval. Overall, the preliminary findings indicated that dissertation information was fragmented and had not yet been integrated into a structured and interactive digital channel. This condition justified the development of an interactive digital flipbook as a research dissemination repository that presents dissertation mapping results in a systematic, visual, and accessible manner for diverse stakeholders.

**Product Design and Prototype Development**

Following the needs analysis, the flipbook was designed conceptually and technically to provide systematic, visual initial access to dissertation mapping results. On the opening page, the content is presented as visual representations of dissertation covers arranged to resemble a digital bookshelf, creating a sense of curation, order, and ease of orientation for users. Each cover represents a specific disciplinary cluster and functions as an entry point to more detailed dissertation information. This approach enables users to conduct intuitive preliminary exploration before engaging with structured metadata and academic content in greater depth.

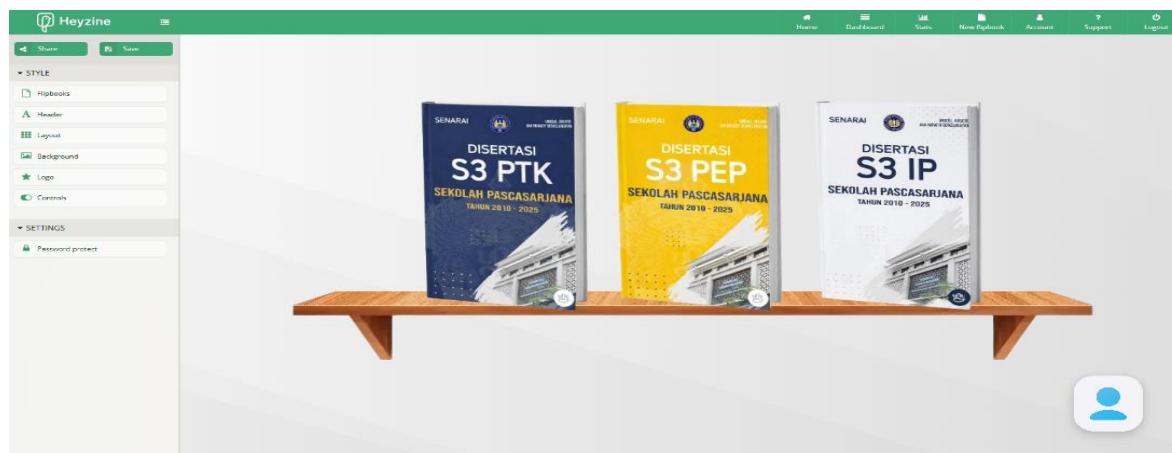


Figure 3. Digital Bookshelf Interface of the Heyzine-Based Interactive Flipbook for Dissertation Research Dissemination

Subsequent pages provide structured tabular visualisations that display detailed dissertation metadata, including research titles, years of completion, research methods, models or approaches, and thematic classifications. These tabular views enable users to examine patterns and trends across time, compare methodological preferences, and trace the development of specific research themes. The page-flip interaction, navigation controls, zoom, and search features embedded in the Heyzine interface further enhance readability and usability, supporting efficient exploration of large-scale dissertation datasets.

Importantly, the flipbook is designed not as a standalone repository, but as a complementary dissemination layer that can be integrated with the institutional digital repository of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. The dissertation data presented in the flipbook can be directly linked and synchronised with the official UNY e-repository (<https://eprints.uny.ac.id/>), enabling users to seamlessly transition from summarised and visualised dissertation mappings to full-text documents. This integration strengthens accessibility, ensures data consistency, and positions the flipbook as an interactive gateway that bridges high-level research mapping with authoritative archival sources.

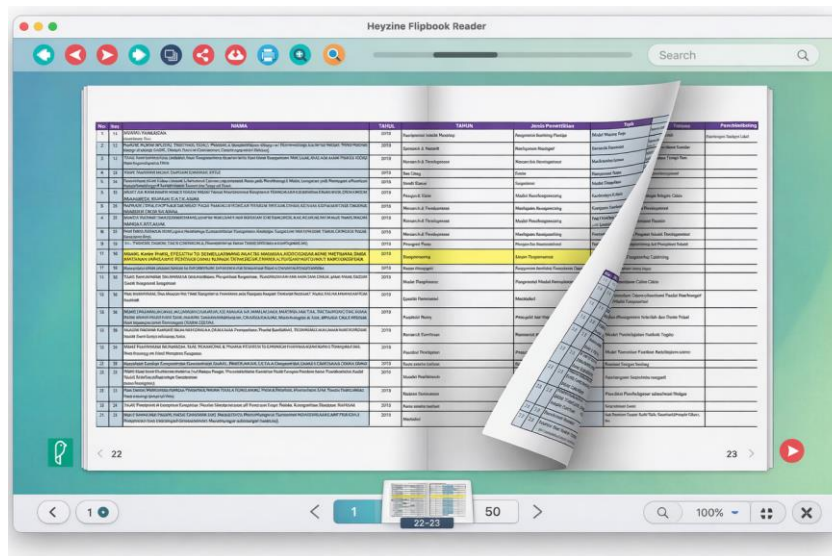


Figure 4. Tabular Visualisation of Doctoral Dissertation Metadata in the Heyzine Flipbook Interface

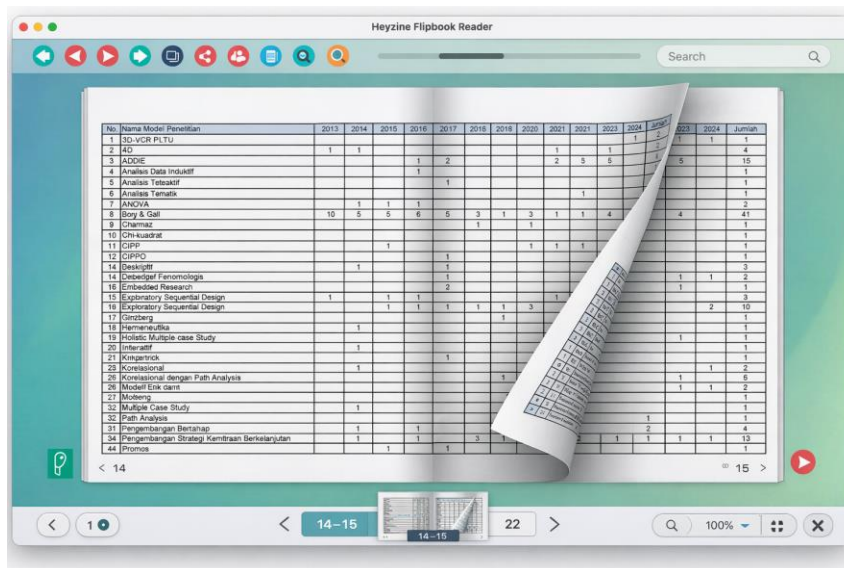


Figure 5. Research Method Distribution by Year

### ***Internal Trial and Limited Trial Results***

An internal trial was conducted to assess the prototype's initial feasibility before broader implementation. Ten doctoral students from different programs (Educational Research and Evaluation, Vocational and Technical Education, and Educational Science) tested the flipbook using their own devices. They explored its navigation, thematic search, and dissertation summaries. Using a 5-point Likert scale, the internal trial yielded an overall mean score of 4.40 (very feasible). The highest ratings were obtained for user benefits ( $M = 4.60$ ) and visual appeal ( $M = 4.50$ ), while ease of navigation received the lowest score ( $M = 4.20$ ) yet remained within the feasible range. Feedback suggested minor improvements, including adding methodological filters, optimising text size for mobile reading, and providing a user guide page.

A limited trial with 10 doctoral students produced consistent results, with an overall mean of 4.40 and low variability across aspects ( $SD \approx 0.39$ – $0.44$ ). The highest aspect was user benefits ( $M = 4.60$ ;  $SD = 0.33$ ), while ease of navigation remained relatively lower ( $M = 4.20$ ;  $SD = 0.44$ ), indicating a need for refinement in menu structure and quick-access features.

Table 2. Results of the Internal Trial of the Dissertation Research Flipbook

No.	Assessed Aspects	Mean Score	Category
1	Content Feasibility	4.40	Very Feasible
2	Readability	4.30	Very Feasible
3	Navigation Ease	4.20	Feasible
4	Visual Attractiveness	4.50	Very Feasible
5	User Usefulness	4.60	Very Feasible
<b>Overall Mean</b>		<b>4.40</b>	<b>Very Feasible</b>

Based on the results of the internal and limited trials, the author concludes that the Heyzine-based interactive dissertation flipbook demonstrates a high level of feasibility and practical value as a digital research dissemination tool. The consistently high mean scores across both trial stages indicate that the flipbook effectively supports users in accessing, exploring, and understanding dissertation research outputs in a more structured and visual manner. While minor usability refinements are necessary, these do not undermine the overall functionality of the system. Instead, they highlight opportunities for iterative improvement in line with the research and development framework. Overall, the trial findings affirm that the flipbook is ready for broader implementation and further enhancement, and has strong potential to function as an integrative gateway connecting dissertation mapping, academic exploration, and institutional digital repositories.

Table 3. Results of the Limited Trial

No.	Assessed Aspects	Brief Indicators	Mean	SD	Category
1	Content Feasibility	Metadata completeness, content relevance	4.40	0.39	Very Feasible
2	Readability	Font size, text/table readability	4.30	0.41	Very Feasible
3	Navigation Ease	Menu, Next/Back/Home buttons, table of contents	4.20	0.44	Feasible
4	Visual Attractiveness	Color scheme, layout, design consistency	4.50	0.36	Very Feasible
5	User Usefulness	Supports searching by topic/method/year	4.60	0.33	Very Feasible
<b>Overall Mean</b>			<b>4.40</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>Very Feasible</b>

### ***Revision Outcomes and Large-Scale Trial***

Based on feedback from the limited trial, revisions focused on improving navigation clarity and reading comfort. Enhancements included a clearer menu structure and quicker access to program-level sections, increased text readability on mobile devices, and extended search filters, particularly by research methodology. A short user guide page was also added, and interface consistency was strengthened. After revisions, a large-scale trial involving 70 doctoral students demonstrated improved feasibility. The flipbook achieved an overall mean score of 4.57 (very feasible), with strong ratings across all aspects: content feasibility ( $M = 4.55$ ), readability ( $M = 4.50$ ), ease of navigation ( $M = 4.45$ ), visual appeal ( $M = 4.60$ ), and user benefits ( $M = 4.75$ ). These

results indicate high acceptance and perceived usefulness of the flipbook as a digital research dissemination medium.

**Reliability and Correlation Findings**

The evaluation instrument demonstrated excellent internal consistency (Cronbach’s Alpha = 0.91), indicating high reliability in measuring user perceptions of the flipbook. Pearson correlation analysis identified a strong positive association between ease of navigation and visual appeal ( $r = 0.72$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ). This suggests that improvements in interface usability and navigation clarity were closely linked to users’ perceptions of the flipbook’s attractiveness, reinforcing the importance of user-centred design for digital academic dissemination products.

Table 4. Results of the Reliability Test

	<b>Cronbach’s Alpha</b>	<b>N of Items</b>
	0.910	20

Table 5. Correlation Test Results

	<b>Ease of Navigation</b>	<b>Visual Appeal</b>
Ease of Navigation	1	.720**
Visual Appeal	.720**	1

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

**Expert Validation and Aiken’s V Analysis**

Expert validation was conducted after the large-scale trial to ensure the product met academic and technical standards. Content experts reviewed the completeness, accuracy, and relevance of the dissertation metadata and thematic organisation. In contrast, media experts evaluated the visual design, readability, navigation structure, and functionality of interactive features (thematic search, hyperlinks, and responsive display). In addition to qualitative expert feedback, the content validity of the evaluation instrument was examined using Aiken’s V. Results showed that item-level coefficients ranged from 0.82 to 0.94, with an average value of 0.88, exceeding the commonly accepted minimum criterion ( $V \geq 0.80$ ) and indicating strong agreement among experts regarding item relevance. Across assessment domains, the mean Aiken’s V values were: content feasibility ( $\bar{V} = 0.89$ ; range 0.84–0.94), visual quality ( $\bar{V} = 0.87$ ; range 0.82–0.92), navigation and features ( $\bar{V} = 0.88$ ; range 0.83–0.93), and user benefits ( $\bar{V} = 0.90$ ; range 0.85–0.94). Overall, these findings support the instrument's validity and confirm that the flipbook product is suitable for institutional dissemination.

Table 6. Content Validity Results of the Instrument Using Aiken’s V

<b>No.</b>	<b>Assessed Aspect</b>	<b>V Value Range</b>	<b>Mean V</b>	<b>Category</b>
1	Content Appropriateness	0.84 – 0.94	0.89	Highly Valid
2	Visual Quality	0.82 – 0.92	0.87	Highly Valid
3	Navigation and Features	0.83 – 0.93	0.88	Highly Valid
4	User Benefits	0.85 – 0.94	0.90	Highly Valid
<b>Overall Average</b>			<b>0.88</b>	<b>Highly Valid</b>

**Discussion**

The development of the Dissertation Research Flipbook at the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta responds to the institutional need for a structured, accessible, and digitally based research dissemination medium. The preliminary study revealed that dissertation information was scattered across separate documents, lacking adequate thematic search functionality. This condition made it difficult for students, lecturers, and academic administrators to explore research themes, methodologies, and trends efficiently. Therefore, the digital flipbook was developed as a strategic solution to integrate dissertation data into a systematic and interactive platform.

The limited trial results indicated that the flipbook prototype met the initial feasibility criteria, achieving an average score of 4.40 (indicating highly feasible). The highest ratings were in the user benefits and visual appeal aspects, suggesting that the flipbook was not only informative but also visually engaging. User feedback, such as the need for additional methodological filters and text size adjustments, provided essential input for further revision and development. This confirms that the Research and Development approach was implemented systematically and was user-centred. Such an iterative development process aligns with media development models that emphasise phased testing and user-based revisions to ensure product relevance and effectiveness (Gall et al., 2003; Sugiyono, 2015).

Following revisions, the large-scale trial involving 70 doctoral students yielded an overall mean score of 4.57, indicating improved product quality. The instrument reliability coefficient ( $\alpha = 0.91$ ) demonstrated excellent internal consistency, confirming the credibility of the evaluation results. Furthermore, the strong positive correlation between navigation ease and visual attractiveness ( $r = 0.72$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) highlights the importance of intuitive interface design in enhancing user experience. These findings support previous studies by Davis (1989) and Kim & Park (2019), which showed that usability and appealing interface design significantly influence user satisfaction and technology acceptance.

From the user perspective, the flipbook facilitated faster access to dissertation references, supported cross-program research exploration, and provided clearer insights into methodological trends at the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. The interactive digital format proved more attractive and efficient than conventional reports, aligning with higher education digital transformation policies that promote technology-enhanced academic services. Previous studies conducted by Setiawan et al., (2019) and Yusuf (2021) also confirm that interactive digital media can enhance information accessibility, search efficiency, and the quality of academic decision-making.

Expert validation further strengthened the findings from user trials. Content experts confirmed the accuracy and completeness of the dissertation metadata, while media experts emphasised the professional design, readability, and device-independent interactivity of the flipbook. The Aiken's V content validity index (mean = 0.88) indicated a high level of expert agreement regarding the relevance and clarity of the evaluation indicators. This result is consistent with studies emphasising the importance of expert validation and content validity testing in ensuring the quality of educational development products (Azwar, 2001; Retnawati, 2016).

Conceptually, the flipbook serves not only as a documentation medium but also as a research-mapping tool that supports topic selection, identification of research gaps, and methodological trend analysis. This function positions the flipbook as a strategic academic resource for strengthening doctoral research quality and data-driven academic culture. Prior studies have shown that systematic research mapping helps institutions design more structured and sustainable academic development strategies (Burhan & Arifin, 2020; Kurniawan et al., 2019).

In practice, the flipbook can be integrated into the academic information system of the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta as a digital learning resource and research reference tool. It can also support institutional decision-making on curriculum development, disciplinary mapping, and the evaluation of research direction. Future enhancements may include analytical features, visualisations of research trends, and direct links to national and international publication repositories. These findings support the notion that strengthening digital academic information systems enhances university governance and institutional competitiveness (Turrohmah & Suryanto, 2023). Overall, the results demonstrate that the Dissertation Research Flipbook at the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta is a feasible, valid, and reliable digital dissemination medium. The product meets academic standards, aligns with user needs, and supports the institution's digital transformation agenda.

## CONCLUSION

This institutional research aimed to develop a Digital Dissertation Research Flipbook for the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta as a structured, accessible, and interactive

dissemination medium. The preliminary study revealed that dissertation information was scattered across separate documents and lacked thematic search capabilities, making it difficult for users to explore research themes, methodologies, and trends efficiently. The flipbook was developed using a Research and Development approach, which included needs analysis, design planning, prototype development, limited trials, product revision, large-scale trials, and expert validation. The limited trial results showed that the flipbook demonstrated high feasibility, with an average score of 4.40. After revisions, the large-scale trial involving 70 doctoral students produced a higher mean score of 4.57, supported by excellent instrument reliability ( $\alpha = 0.91$ ). These findings indicate that the flipbook demonstrates strong quality across content feasibility, readability, ease of navigation, visual appeal, and user benefits. Correlation analysis revealed a strong positive relationship between navigation ease and visual attractiveness ( $r = 0.72$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ), indicating that an intuitive interface significantly enhances user experience. Furthermore, expert validation supported by Aiken's V analysis (mean V = 0.88) confirmed that the flipbook meets content validity and media feasibility standards. Thus, the Digital Dissertation Research Flipbook of the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta is considered suitable for institutional implementation. Overall, the flipbook serves not only as a documentation tool but also as a research-mapping platform, assisting students, lecturers, and academic administrators in understanding research trends, identifying research gaps, and supporting academic decision-making. The product aligns with user needs and supports the Graduate School of Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta's digital transformation agenda.

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