



# The DART-Europe Portal

## What is DART-Europe?

DART-Europe at <http://www.dart-europe.eu> is a partnership of research libraries and library consortia who are working together to improve global access to European research theses. DART-Europe is endorsed by LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche) as part of the work of the LIBER Access Division, and it is the European Working Group of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). DART-Europe is therefore embedded in a global partnership.

## DART-Europe Partners

The DART-Europe partners help to provide researchers with a single European portal for the discovery of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), and they participate in advocacy to influence future European e-theses developments. DART-Europe offers partners a European networking forum on ETD issues, and may provide the opportunity to submit collaborative funding applications to achieve DART-Europe's vision for ETDs.

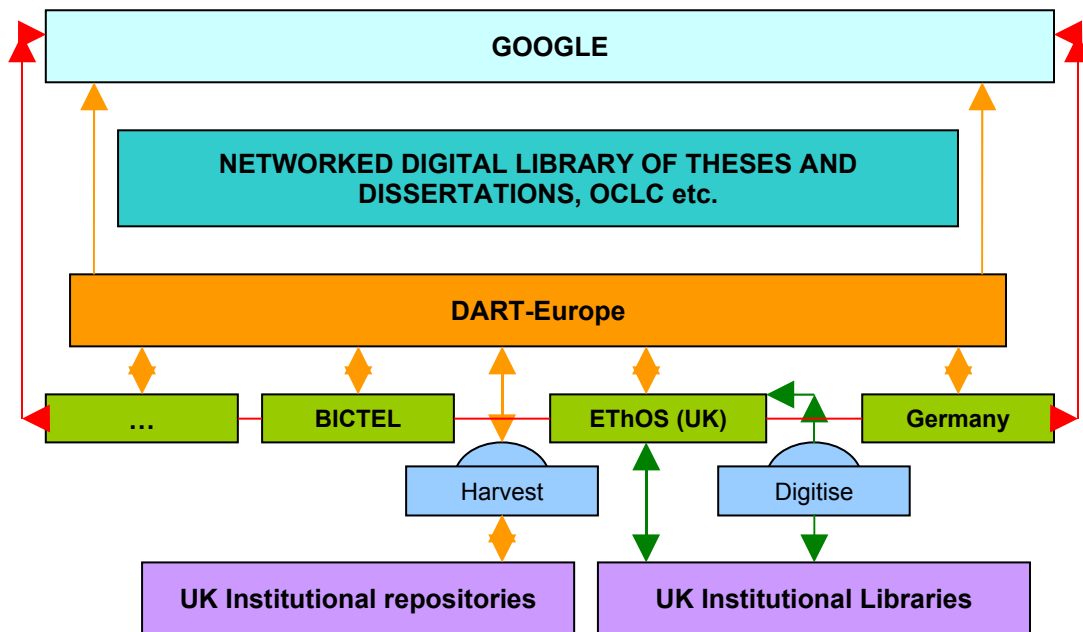


Figure 1: An international landscape for e-thesis discovery and delivery

## DART-Europe: Facts and Figures

As of September 2008, DART-Europe is:

- Working with just under 150 Universities
- Providing access to just under 100,000 European research theses from:
  - Belgium
  - Estonia
  - Finland

- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- UK

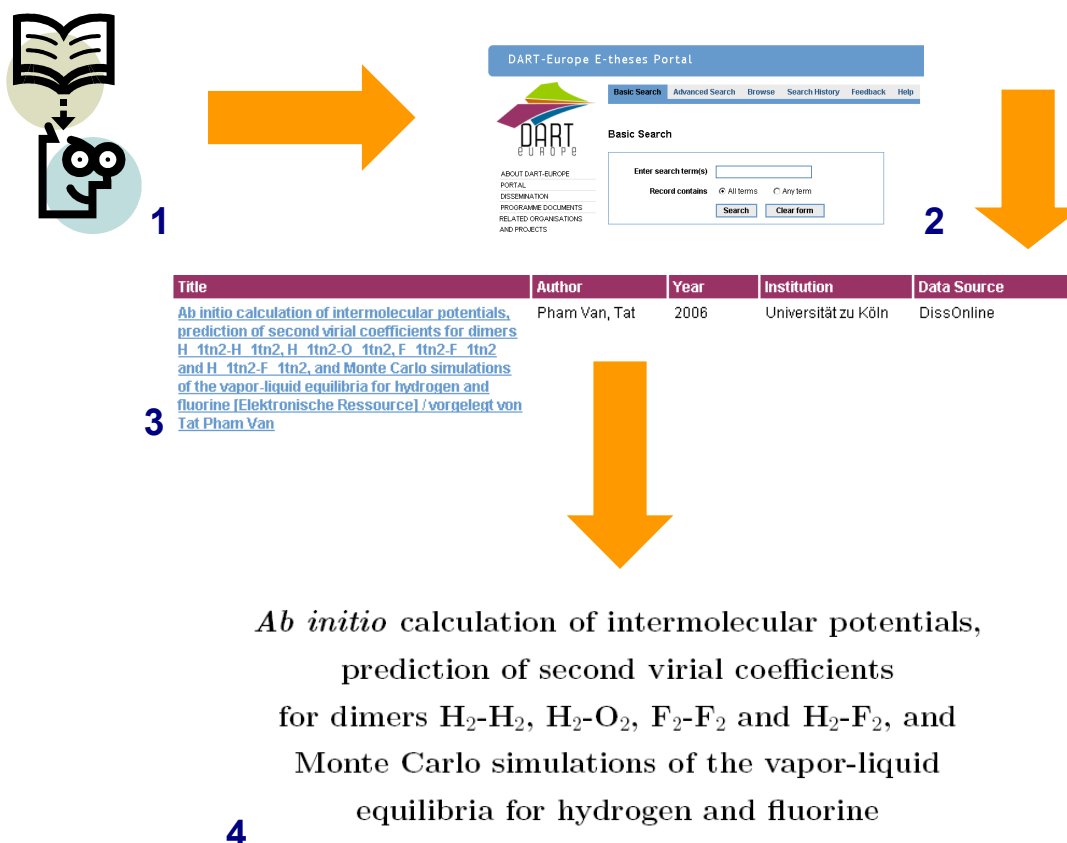


Figure 2: Finding a thesis in DART-Europe

### How does DART-Europe work?

DART-Europe's preferred model is to work with national or large regional consortia across Europe, in order to harvest metadata into the DART-Europe portal.

When a user searches the DART-Europe portal (1), (s)he conducts a search on the DART-Europe platform (2). Keyword searching in the Title and Description (Abstract) fields are probably the best ways to find information.

Relevant theses, which match the user's query, are retrieved (3) and displayed to the user in a list. Clicking on the relevant entry will produce a fuller record for that thesis, which will contain a URL to the full-text of the thesis. Clicking on the URL will transfer the user from the DART-Europe portal to the host repository (4) and the full-text will be downloaded and displayed. Searching the portal is illustrated in Figure 2.

If necessary, searches in the DART-Europe portal can be limited to a particular country, a particular language or to a particular institution.

### Why are electronic theses useful?

Electronic access to research theses makes it much easier for a user to locate the information that he/she wants. In a paper environment, research theses are not so easy to find and the full-text is

often stored away from the main campus. With DART-Europe, European theses can be discovered and delivered very easily. As a result, electronic research theses receive many more consultations than paper theses. This is good for research and good for the researcher, as it gives both much more visibility.

### DART-Europe and BICTEL

This partnership will allow research theses from our Universities to be discovered alongside theses in cognate disciplines from other European countries. It is important that national research is not overlooked in the emerging European Higher Education market.

BICTEL, a project of the **Bibliothèque interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique** provides Universities with the opportunity for their research theses to be discovered and read by anyone interested in research emanating from Frenchspeaking Belgium. DART-Europe will harvest records from BICTEL, from other European consortia, and from selected institutional repositories and make these materials available in one search. The partnership will mirror existing partnerships with other European consortia.

Research theses will be available at the touch of a button, alongside similar theses from the rest of Europe. It is a compelling vision.