

Finding a Software System to Support ETDs



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Guiding Principals

- Multipurpose solution- not just for ETDs
 - Faculty e-repositories
 - Student e-portfolios
 - E-archive for university publications



Guiding Principals

- No Gatekeepers
 - Authors should be able to make and control access to their own deposits
 - Librarians' role
 - Preservation
 - Metadata assistance
 - Maintenance and integrity of the system




Desired & Required Specifications for Software System

■ Interface

- Web-based
- Intuitive, easy to use, ADA compliant
- Customizable

■ Metadata


- OAI compliant
- Dublin Core and locally defined DTDs
- Unicode



Desired & Required Specifications for Software System

■ Deposits

- Accepts wide variety of file formats, but admin can restrict
- Single deposit consists of several digital objects
- Real-time updating and indexing
- Definable preservation methodology



Desired & Required Specifications for Software System

■ Access

- Wide range of depositor-designated access restrictions
- Access restricted at digital object level

■ System Administration

- Create different collections, with different metadata, templates, etc.
- Range of user permissions
- Locally hosted



Potential Software System Solutions

- Digital object management systems
 - Library system vendors
- Electronic publishing systems
- Open source software



Digital Object Management Systems

■ Pros

- Experts with metadata
- Easy to integrate into other library products
- Reliable customer support

■ Cons

- Librarian as gatekeeper
- Proprietary- difficult to customize
- Preservation
- Access controlled at collection level
- Hefty price tag



Electronic Publishing Software

■ Pros

- Author is end-user - no library mediation
- Preservation-oriented

■ Cons

- Tightly modeled on publishing processes
- Local hosting?
- Limited file format options
- Considerable price tag



Open Source Software

■ Pros

- Very customizable
- Free
- Easy to build and support varied collections

■ Cons

- Who do you call when it crashes?
- Requires additional in-house resources to support
- Future upgrades and versions?



Decisions

- Decided to go with Open Source
 - DSpace, EPrints, VT EDT-db, Greenstone
 - Resources behind it
 - Structured on local environment
 - Sustainability
 - Scalability
 - Preservation Strategy



But what we really need...

- Vendor-supported system to support library-driven and user-driven collections
- Simultaneously support numerous collections, each with own look, metadata, administrative parameters, etc.
- Integrate with other library products
 - SFX- Open URL Aware
 - MetaLib & EnCompass- Federated Search Engines
 - MARC records back to the Library Catalog



Additional Information

Comprehensive list of desired & required system specification available at:

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/main/etd/specs.htm>

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