

skills in producing digital scholarship continues to be a source of resistance and misunderstanding, ultimately requiring more technological training and assessment initiatives for both current and future faculty.

Title: ETD in a Nutshell: Development of the WVU eTD System

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Abstract: I am graduate student in the Computer Science department at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown. It is my pleasure to participate in the ETD 2004 Symposium and I am glad to bring forward our new Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (eTD) system. The WVU eTD database system development is the topic of my Master's project on which I have been working for the past seven months for the WVU Office of Information Systems.

The new eTD database is built on the Oracle platform. It is a "smart" system because it knows who is logged into the system and each person's role on each ETD submission. It allows the users to submit a thesis or dissertation and update document information. After submission, e-mails are sent automatically to the Library Administrator, Committee Chair, Committee Members and the author regarding the submission. The Committee Chair can review the document and can either approve or reject the document. The Library Administrator reviews the document and makes an evaluation of the document and its associated paperwork. E-mails are sent automatically to the respective persons regarding the decision. Visitors and the WVU community can enter the system, browse and search based on their interest and can view the document data and download the files for reference.

Some fancy features of the system include multiple file upload/download, and searching for the committee members by entering the last name or first letter which results in a list of all the related persons. Additionally WVU faculty, students and staff will have remote secured access to campus-restricted documents. Another striking feature is the Advanced Search screen that includes search by college, department, degree program, author's name, title, abstract, committee member etc.

It was a challenging yet enjoyable experience developing the new ETD system with the whole team. The migration procedure, system design, architecture and the front-end layout process was impressive. Everything was done systematically and the goals were reached in a timely fashion. Any suggestions and innovative ideas were appreciated and it encouraged me to come up with new ideas and improve my technical and programming skills.