

and therefore targeted the first day of the semester and surveyed only those faculty who have masters and/or doctoral students as advisees. One must realize the problems of coordinating from an administrative point of view with the diverse disciplines and variety of personality types to implement an innovation from start to fruition. In other words we are not reinventing the wheel since the path and instructions as how to implement ETDs is now easier to follow. Further, we will explore some of the pitfalls and possible solutions to these problems and then discuss advantages for having an ETD on-line global library, marketing your program for faculty, students, and the university."

**Title: ETD Tutorial for Beginners**

**Presenters: TBA**

**Abstract:** Is your university considering an ETD initiative or pilot project? Have you been sent to "scope out" the ETD world but your university doesn't really even have ETDs on its "radar"? Have you started an ETD initiative or pilot project but are experiencing difficulties? The presenters will lead a tutorial designed to address your questions and concerns regarding the early stages of an ETD initiative. How do you go about deciding whether this is for you? What are the pros and cons of ETDs? How to you begin, once you decide to? How will ETDs benefit your students and your university? Where can you go for help? These questions and more will be answered in an interactive setting. Bring your curiosity, your questions, your experiences, your skepticism. You will leave with a thorough understanding of what ETDs are, why more and more universities are allowing - even requiring - their students do them, how to begin an ETD initiative if you do not have one, what issues and problems you will face (and how to solve or overcome them), and where to go for more information.

**Title: The Appalachian Regional ETD Consortium**

**Authors: John H. Hagen (West Virginia University)**

**Abstract:** The formation of the Appalachian Regional ETD Consortium (AR-ETD) is now well underway. I am creating the AR-ETD by networking with the present members of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) consortium in Appalachia, with the goal of building toward NDLTD membership of all major academic institutions in the entire Appalachian region. The thirteen federally defined Appalachian regional states are Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Presently there are 25 academic institutions from this region that are members of the NDLTD consortium.

The first phase involved formation of the core regional consortium membership (current regional NDLTD members). These members have been encouraged to actively participate in helping to build the consortium. Various levels of membership are

available through the NDLTD, ranging from a commitment to consider and study ETD implementation, initiating pilot projects for departments or an entire campus, to adapting required Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) submission policies. Presently 40% of the existing NDLTD members require the electronic submission of theses and dissertations. The second phase involved the identification of those institutions, key contact persons and contact information for each campus that are not currently a member of the NDLTD. The third (current) phase has involved a public relations campaign to increase regional NDLTD membership by contacting over 200 graduate institutions in the region.

The primary goal of this project is to achieve full participation, regardless of level, with the NDLTD in the Appalachian region; this will have important implications regarding the economic and technological development of Appalachia. ETDs play an important part in the effective and free distribution of knowledge, they allow for the creation new means of expression and new ways of thinking, and they drive technological innovation and economic development. Certainly, the experiences borne out of the West Virginia University and Virginia Tech ETD programs have had profound effects on the distribution of graduate research via digital library technologies, with millions of ETDs being distributed worldwide over the past five years. We have seen that information technology development has been transforming state and regional economies, shifting them away from natural resource exploitation and moving towards fostering the growth of the information age, which is so vital to the survival of economically depressed areas such as West Virginia and Appalachia. Our findings will also have broad implications regarding the formation of regional ETD consortia in various parts of the world; this project will serve as a guide to those wishing to launch their own consortia endeavors.

As we stand today, we are in a critical period in the evolution of the NDLTD and the digital frontier. The NDLTD has become an incorporated non-profit organization and is taking on the task of organizing international standards for ETDs as well as continuing the promotion of the adoption of ETD programs and digital libraries. This more formal and independent phase of the NDLTD qualifies the organization for additional UNESCO and other funding to promote ETD programs in developing nations, and will be increasingly perceived much more readily in the academic, corporate and government sectors and communities which NDLTD serves. It is therefore imperative that NDLTD membership increases dramatically during this transition. Academic institutions need to prepare themselves for this information revolution, particularly in Appalachia and places just like it across the globe. Building the Appalachian Regional ETD Consortium will help ensure the survival of these regions as well as that of the NDLTD. The information age is already here, the question is, are we prepared for it yet?