

Title: Electronic Dissertations at West Virginia University: Resources for Effective Promotion

Authors: John H. Hagen (West Virginia University)

Abstract: Implementation of the West Virginia University (WVU) Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) program has proven to be one of our most effective marketing tools to promote the graduate research of our students, faculty and programs. A multimedia demo will be presented which highlights notable multimedia submissions of actual WVU ETDs, including video clips, still shots, and informational slides accompanied by musical background themes. The merits of adopting ETD and other digital document publication programs will be emphasized in terms of positive exposure for the student and institution, new modes of communication, facilitation of research via Web distribution, and cost efficiency. More importantly, the successes of digital library programs have contributed to a process that is transforming West Virginia's economy by shifting its base towards technology and diversification by providing academic research access to the world. During the past year WVU has also completed a major migration project, having successfully moved to an Oracle based environment. Highlights of this project will be included as well.

A copy of the WVU ETD multimedia presentation is available at:

http://www.wvu.edu/~thesis/Presentations/WVU_ETD_Demo.exe (Windows projector file format) or
http://www.wvu.edu/~thesis/Presentations/WVU_ETD_Demo.swf (Flash file format)

Title: ETD Implementation in Six Months: Five Principles

Authors: Dianne Harrison, Judith Devine, Althea Jenkins, David Johnson, Robert McDonald (Florida State University)

Abstract: How was Florida State University able to implement an ETD initiative that had most students submitting their theses or dissertations electronically within six months and all students submitting electronically within one year, with an online digital library for disseminating that information? This paper proposes that the five principles guiding FSU's ETD project can be used by other institutions to successfully implement a similar program.

Leadership flows from the top down. Although the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) created resources that lay the groundwork for initiating the ETD project, an FSU senior administrator (Provost) was first identified and sold on the ideas behind an ETD project. The ETD leadership flowed from the top down, providing the commitment needed to initiate and energize the ETD project as it moved toward the Fall 2002 pilot, then campus-wide for all graduate students Fall 2003.

Problem Solving comes from the ground up. Synonymous with the top down framework for management and the institutional "buy-in" was the "bottom-up"

creative problem solving by a core group which laid the technical groundwork for enabling such rapid implementation.

Leadership means finding the right people. The FSU ETD Initiative included the right people at the leadership table, with the Office of Graduate Studies, the University Libraries, the Office of Distributed and Distance Learning, Computer Services, the University's Graduate Policy Council, and a graduate student representative collaborating as equal partners.

Conduct flexible negotiations. Collaborative, flexible negotiations were key to a smooth transition to ETDs at FSU. The ETD leadership team worked with each of the three initial pilot groups' faculty and graduate students, providing an overview of the ETD project, training opportunities and individualized assistance, and a forum for questions.

Keep graduate student interests at the forefront. From the first discussions of ETDs, to the beginning of the Fall 2002 pilot phase, the ETD leadership team kept the interests of graduate students at the forefront of discussion. For example, the Office of Graduate Studies burned two personalized CD Rom copies of the ETD for each student (one copy for the student and one copy for the major professor).

This presentation will include a discussion of the five guiding principles, obstacles encountered and strategies used for the successful and rapid implementation of an ETD initiative in a large public university.

Title: Improving the ETD submission process through automated author self contribution using DSpace

Authors: Bradley M Hemminger, Jackson Fox, Mao Ni (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Abstract: We are developing support for ETDs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) as the first step in supporting electronic scholarly publishing in general. In this paper we discuss the decision making process undertaken at UNC to evaluate ways to support ETDs and electronic scholarly publishing, and how we have chosen a path that begins with ETDs and leads to general electronic scholarly publishing for the university. We believe this is an important developmental phase that many universities will go through, and we give our analysis of the choices available, our decisions, and work we have done to enhance the process.

Because we found that existing ETD and scholarly electronic publishing applications did not fully meet our needs, we developed extensions to what we felt was the most promising public domain digital library software application for our needs (DSpace) to provide enhanced support for ETD publishing, and electronic scholarly publishing. We have developed enhancements to DSpace that allow single click submission of ETDs