

retrieving. An open digital library extension is added so the searching and user interfaces can be decoupled.

Section 4: As the Internet evolves, the next step we planned is to modularize the digital library as web services. A plan to promote searching as a web service is discussed.

**Title:ETD: A Fresh Opportunity to Create Value and Shape the Future of Ethiopian Universities**

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**Abstract:** Albert Einstein recognized that searching for solutions to new problems required breaking free from old thought patterns (Mackall, 1998).

Indeed, creative thinking has a great role in addressing the age drawn problems of the least developed countries, like Ethiopian, Universities. No doubt, as a typical out come of creative thinking, ETD will have ample solutions for the age – old academic and scholarly problems of Ethiopian Universities.

Of course, Ethiopian Universities are some how far from the ETD revolution. Actually, one can mention a handful reasons for not utilizing the fruits of ETD. Equally, they can tell you how and what to do to exploit this fresh opportunity to create value for the University and shape the future of its scholarly communities

Across the world, University Libraries are widely known as the heart of the parent institution. They are the pillars for the overall academic achievement of the parent university in particular, and for the sustainable development of a nation, in general. In order to achieve these noble objectives, Ethiopian Universities besides conventional ways of doing things, they should also put ETD as a tool to create value and shape the future of their Universities and Communities.

Thus, the paper will elaborate, from different perspectives, the role of ETD in creating value and shaping the future of Ethiopia Universities and their scholars. In line with this, it will also outline its actual and potential contribution to the Universities and its Communities. Equally, the paper will glimpse at the factors that hindered us not to benefit maximally from the ETD. Finally, it suggests the ways of realizing optimal benefit out of the ETD.