

Title: ETD Programs as Building Blocks for Institutional Repositories: Laying the Foundation one Graduate Student at a Time

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Abstract: Digital institutional repositories (IR) are not a new topic within research libraries having received much attention in venues such as the ARL/SPARC/CNI Institutional Repositories Workshop in October 2002 and several recent CNI Task Force Meetings. Institutional repository programs serve as a foundation, an infrastructure, for new models of scholarly communication and in particular, they serve as vehicles for fostering collaboration between faculty and the library and in some instances among faculty, library, and campus information technology (IT) departments.

This paper will focus on two diverse institutions, Florida State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology, where ETD programs have become the foundations for larger and more inclusive institutional repository programs.

Florida State University, in a cross-campus collaborative framework (Graduate Studies-Library-Campus IT), launched their mandatory ETD Program in a 12-month time period. A central consideration was creating a metadata structure for this program interoperable with their ongoing institutional repository program, d-Scholarship (<http://www.dscholarship.org>).

The Georgia Institute of Technology Library and Information Center has created a Digital Initiatives Department within their library to work with IR technical issues for the whole campus. Georgia Tech is using their ETD Program to test and develop several IR management tools. (http://www.library.gatech.edu/about_us/digital/docs/instituerepositfacts.pdf).

At the heart of both of these programs are the strategies for creating extensible architectures for IR programs that will soon encompass a much wider array of digital objects than typical ETD programs. However, the planning and implementation of the ETD programs played a large part in the launch of the IR initiatives, thus enabling a modular flow from planning, marketing, and implementing both the ETD repository and the larger organizational repositories.

ETD programs help to inform the campus community concerning open access initiatives for scholarly publishing, create awareness regarding interoperability needs, and encourage an atmosphere of collaboration campus-wide. In essence, ETD programs can serve as a training ground for implementing IR programs one graduate student at a time.