

- \* An Introduction to repository software
  - o How to choose your software
  - o DSpace and EPrints repositories - The RGU model
  - o Combined ETD and E-print service at Edinburgh University Library
- \* Common Technical Issues
  - o Installation, Configuration and Maintenance
  - o An overview of some common problems:
    - + Tomcat/ Apache/ Linux/ Solaris
    - + Setting up the CNRI Handle Server
    - + Supporting multiple languages and character sets
- \* The Recommended UK ETD Metadata set
  - o The selection process and chosen fields/qualifiers
  - o How it fits in with DSpace
- \* Developing with DSpace
  - o Challenges, advantages and implications of developing for DSpace
  - o An overview of the customisation of the software, with examples
  - o ETD Software developments for DSpace at Edinburgh University Library

The paper concludes with a look back at what the projects hoped to achieve and how far along this course they have got. It then looks to the future with suggestions on how to overcome challenges still faced and what additional developments might add desirable functionality to the systems.

**Title: Deployment of a digital theses environment: Enabling versus imposing workflow**

**Authors: Lourdes Fernández Ramírez, Alfredo Sánchez and Alberto García García, (Universidad de las Americas Puebla)**

**Abstract:** "Tales" is a collaborative environment designed to support all the stages of the life cycle of the theses collection maintained by the Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico (UDLA). This cycle spans from entering documents into the collection to reviewing, annotating, publishing, navigating and searching. Tales was conceived as a technology-enabled workflow among participants in the process of producing and publishing digital theses: authors, thesis directors, academic department administrators and library staff.

Our initial goal was to design a specially crafted tool in which the participants could be identified and act according to their particular roles and functions. Nowadays, 10 months after making digital thesis a requirement for the 26 departments of the university, the participation level has varied from department to department even though it is a requirement for all. Personnel from the library have offered courses for the participants with excellent results in promoting the use of the available collaborative

environment from the participants' offices, computer rooms or homes. Unfortunately, feedback mechanisms have been implemented only through electronic mail. A more formal and complete feedback mechanism is one of the priorities to be implemented in the project.

We describe our work aimed at identifying the factors that influence participants' differing levels of participation and how the workflow facilitates or creates barriers to get the work done. Our initial results show that the acceptance and ultimately the success of a digital theses environment such as Tales depend on factors such as the quality and intuitiveness of the user interface, the perceived responsiveness of the systems, the completeness of its functionality and the engagement level of all the involved participants.

**Title: Venezuelan Digital Library of Thesis and Dissertation**

**Authors: Nilda F Rosales and Marlene T Bauste (University of Los Andes)**

**Abstract:** Recently, electronic publications of theses and dissertations have reached worldwide relevance. In Venezuela, a group of universities and research institutions, aware of the importance of electronic publishing of academic production, created the National Network of Digital Libraries for Electronic Theses. This agreement was initiated in October 2003 grouping five universities and one research institution. Later, in November 2003 eleven (11) academic institutions finally signed the agreement during a special meeting organized for that purpose. During this event, different tasks were assigned by the Venezuelan Association of Public and Academic Libraries (ANABISAI) to each signing member. In the first stage of joint work we completed the following objectives:

1. General definition of the metadata's national model (RNM), and the publication's model for local, national, and international integration.
2. Evaluation and selection of software and hardware.
3. Standards for human resources training.
4. Official request of financial support.
5. Up to date information about the status of each member for the implementation of the project.
6. Analysis and Discussion of the author's rights law.

Currently, the National Digital Library for Electronic Theses (the publication's model for local, national, and international integration) is being adapted and incorporated in each one of the universities and research institutes that signed the national agreement. The incorporation of the metadata's national model and actual data is projected to begin in July 2004, and moreover, it is projected that all members have the entire incorporation of the RNM by March 2005.