

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

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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.