

This included: one Web site location for all forms and information regarding how to file a thesis or dissertation; one set of TAD format/layout guidelines; one location for documents to be submitted; one Word template document that can be used by all students to write a thesis or dissertation; Word training for formatting manuscripts in any writing style (APA, MLA, etc.); Thesis and Dissertation (TAD) Process Workshop for all thesis and dissertation students; a more streamlined method of Library cataloging; and future opportunity to standardize all thesis and dissertation forms for all colleges.

In this presentation Angela will discuss the challenges, processes used to resolve conflict, and successes experienced in moving towards a centralization models for formatting manuscripts, streamlining ETD operations and procedures, and working closely with the Library to get document cataloged efficiently.

Going Digital: The Implementation of an Electronic Honors Thesis (eHT) at WVU and its impact

- » Keith Garbutt, The Honors College, West Virginia University
- » Molly Simis, The Honors College, West Virginia University

In 2006 the Honors Program at West Virginia University (WVU) became The Honors College, as part of that change the formally optional Honors Thesis became a requirement for all students who wished to graduate as a University Honors Scholars. To facilitate the collection and storage of these undergraduate thesis WVU Libraries collaborated with the Honors College to provide an Electronic Honors Thesis Repository (eHT).

This presentation will discuss the issues and challenges associated with this implementation, particularly issues associated with undergraduates as users of the system and the effect of a moderator (The Honors Dean) who is not a professional librarian. In addition we will discuss the unintended, but positive, consequence of the move to a digital thesis, the creation by students in the Honors College of an externally funded undergraduate academic journal.

From Paper to Pixels: Rough Spots and Roadblocks on the Way to ETDs

- » Max Read, Faculty of Graduate Studies, The University of British Columbia
- » Bronwen Sprout, UBC Library, The University of British Columbia

This paper will describe the process of developing an ETD program from pilot project to mandatory ETD submission, and will discuss issues and solutions from the perspective of both the Library and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

In December 2005 the UBC Library and Faculty of Graduate Studies initiated a pilot project for ETD submission to the Library's new electronic repository. We will discuss what we did to prepare for the pilot project, issues that arose from it, and subsequent actions.

When ETD submission opened in November 2007 we immediately got 50% of theses submitted electronically, and that percentage has increased. Theses submitted on paper are scanned to PDF and handled the same way as ETDs. The most challenging issue was the question of archiving ETDs. We decided to discontinue the older technology of microfilm/microfiche/paper backups, and to put resources into developing a reliable system for electronic archiving. We will discuss the process that led to this decision.

Some unexpected issues arose; creative arts faculty and students did not want their theses online, and we had an increase in requests to withhold theses on the grounds that journals would not publish previously-online material. We will discuss how we resolved these issues, albeit temporarily, and what is being done to address them further.

Technical support is now available to students through a Library computer lab, and we will be proposing that electronic submission become mandatory. We will discuss the outcome of this proposal, and any procedures we develop to streamline the submission process.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2C

OPEN ACCESS: THE FUTURE OF OPEN ACCESS

- » Moderator: Julia Blixrud, Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- » Thursday, June 11 11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Repository usage statistics – Can you count on them?

- » Simon Bevan, Cranfield University, UK
- » Paul Needham, Cranfield University, UK

Objective: The objective of this paper is to describe work undertaken as part of the Publisher and Institutional Repository Usage Statistics (PIRUS) project to develop COUNTER compliant statistics for material contained in IRs. The initial aim of the project was just to consider journal articles but it became clear that this format limitation was an unnecessary constraint. ETDs were an obvious candidate as the need for reliable statistics pertaining to ETDs has never been greater.

Methods: The project was undertaken via a combination of desk research, survey and practical development testing. The study had some synergy with a parallel funded project entitled Embed (Embedding IR into the institutional research process) for which academic staff were already requesting data on usage statistics.

Results: A methodology for providing COUNTER compliant usage statistics to measure full-text usage in repositories has been developed. PIRUS/Embed synergy resulted in the development of a dashboard style interface to statistics. Usage statistics, stripped of robot usage have resulted in significantly lower figures but are now credible, compatible and consistent.

Conclusions: A bid for funding for the PIRUS2 has been submitted. This will expand on the work undertaken in PIRUS and will include a case study on the recently launched EThOS service.

It is hoped that comparisons with other services can be developed along with a consideration of functionality to aggregate statistics for different copies of the same items within different systems. Currently the COUNTER standard relates to full-text downloads.

Given that item usage may be a significant metric in terms of, for example, conversion rates (item views to full text views), one future consideration should be to consider the measurement of metadata views. Item views may also be important for researchers, institutions and funders.