

EThOS is LIVE and is opening access to UK theses!

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Objective: The UK's national Electronic Thesis Online Service (EThOS), launched in January 2009 and has already significantly increased access to UK theses.

The aims of the EThOS project were to:

- Offer a 'single point of access' where researchers the world over can access ALL UK doctoral theses
- Support HEIs through the transition from print to e-theses (enhancing procedural infrastructures and improving national workflows of electronic theses)
- Expand available content by digitising paper theses
- Demonstrate the quality of UK research and help attract students and research investment into UK HE

Methods: A collaborative project between a representative group of UK Higher Education Institutions and The British Library, with financial support from publicly funded bodies including the JISC, Research Libraries UK and the partners.

Results:

- A live, national service to make ALL UK theses available to researchers anywhere in the world
- A support infrastructure including the EThOS Toolkit – an online resource packed with useful information and guidance, plus a help desk and information point
- 92 signed up UK institutions (at Feb 19, 2009 – and growing)
- 11,300 paper theses digitised UK Thesis Digitisation

Conclusions: The presentation will describe the project and demonstrate the service and supporting infrastructure.

We will highlight the lessons learned along the way including:

- How NOT to launch a service
- How to launch a service
- Open Access pros and cons
- IPR issues
- Impact on the Institutions
- Ongoing Advocacy Activities