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