BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3A–3C

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 11:15 A.M.- 12:45P.M.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3A

GLOBAL OUTREACH: IMPACT OF OPEN ACCESS AND THE RESEARCH CYCLE

» Moderator: Edward Fox, NDLTD Director, Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech

» Friday, June 12   11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Graduate Student's Need Assessment and Impact on ETD Programs: Results from a Large-Scale Study

» David Mendez, Director, UMI Dissertation Publishing

Objectives: This presentation will summarize key findings of a survey among doctoral students – PhD candidates and PhDs – about the challenges associated with this level of higher education. The survey has sought to grasp the personal, academic and administrative issues than confront doctoral students as they move through doctoral programs, and how they deal with them. By understanding issues that graduate students face, librarians and administrators can create programs, including ETD programs that take into account this group's unique needs.

Methods: Over 600 doctoral students took part in the survey. The survey followed the process of embarking on a doctoral program through its completion.

Results: Where appropriate, the report indicates distinctions between categories of doctoral student, in particular international students versus their domestic peers, and by field of study.

Conclusions: Findings showed Candidates' substantial concerns when embarking on doctoral programs reflect the anxiety of moving into unknown territory – both on a personal dimension and academically. Faculty and professors play the most important part in influencing student decisions on which doctoral programs to apply for.

Graduate school Web sites and rating sources are also significant in the choice. Time management and lack of structure, support and guidance present higher challenges than other factors in carrying out doctoral studies."

Using SRU to Create Dissertation Mashups

» Michael Witt, Purdue University Libraries

» Vijendra Purohit, Department of Computer Science, Purdue University

Most, if not all, academic libraries collect the doctoral dissertations and master's theses that are written by their institutions' students, and these comprise some of their most unique and scholarly collections.

With the emergence of digital libraries in the last fifteen years, it is no surprise that many librarians have viewed their collections of theses as "low-hanging fruit" to be picked for digitization and inclusion in online institutional repositories.

Standardization in the thesis submission and production processes has resulted in uniformity in description and format across the body of work. Exposing structured, high-quality metadata from electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD) repositories provides an opportunity to create new points of access to these collections.

In this paper, the development and application of a Search/Retrieve-via-URL (SRU) interface by the Purdue University Libraries is described that provides the capability for users and applications to remotely search and "mash-up" dissertation metadata.

Provisioning the metadata as XML records allows it to be manipulated using XML Transformations (XSLT) and their presentation to be customized by the client. The results can be dynamic data-feeds that are machine-processed or XHTML Web pages that are displayed to a end-user.

We provide three example mash-ups that demonstrate how the SRU interface has increased the visibility and value of the collection by exposing our ETDs to be used outside of a library context for:

(1) recruiting new students
(2) helping faculty maintain their vitae, and
(3) facilitating new research collaborations.