ETDs in Brazil: 2001 – 2009

» Ana Pavani, Departamento de Engenharia Elétrica,
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Brazil is a very large country that spreads from the North of the Equator to the South of the Tropic of Capricorn; it has many landscapes and climates. The population concentration and the Human Development Index vary from region to region. The South and South East have the highest population density and the highest development levels. The majority of oldest and most traditional graduate programs in the country are in these regions too.

ETDs in Brazil started in the late 1990s. In 2001 a project of the Ministry of Science and Technology created the Brazilian national consortium of ETDs. At that moment, there were only 3 universities with ETD programs – 2 were in the South East and the third in the South.

The national consortium is named BDTD – Biblioteca Digital de Teses e Dissertações (bdtd.ibict.br) and it is operated and managed by IBICT – Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia (www.ibict.br/). BDTD developed free and open software for the universities to use. Training sessions were held all over the country in order to support the local institutions.

At the moment there are 78 institutions with ETD programs and the National Consortium holds over 83,000 metadata records. All institutions operate digital libraries that are OAI-PMH–Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting data providers. This poster shows the evolution of ETDs programs – mapping geographical regions and sizes of collections, currently present in all regions of Brazil.

Aligning Academic Research Agendas With Economic Development Agendas

» Denise Bedford, Kent State, World Bank

Organizations like the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank work with country governments, non-governmental organizations and knowledge domain experts to develop Country Assistance Strategies for client countries.

The purpose of this research is to explore the extent to which those Country Assistance Strategies are aligned with the academic research produced by or about those countries.

Methodology: A sample set of developing and middle-income Country Assistance Strategies will be used to determine the base of need for research and development for each country. Semantic analysis methods will be used to characterize the knowledge domain of the R&D need.

Theses and dissertations targeted to the country or generated from within the country will be used to define the R&D agenda on a practical level. Research agendas or foci discussed by professional associations, academic institutions or academies in the country also will be used to define the R&D base. Semantic analysis methods will be used to characterize the R&D focus. Comparisons of need and focus will be drawn, gaps will be highlighted, and opportunities for alignment will be identified.

Total Quality Management (TQM) for ETDs

» Dinesh Chandra, Ministry of Defense, India

» Kamani Perera, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

ETDs facilitate more timely exchange of information among scholars and improve distance learning without any geographical barrier. It supports teaching, learning and research while reaching unreachable without walls through digital libraries.

Greater revolution has occurred in the libraries recent past converting paper-based libraries to electronic based ones.

With the emergence of WWW and availability of national and global networks, universities and libraries have turned their attention to ETDs rather than building printed-based TD collection. In this way, librarian's role dramatically changed and is responsible for what ETDs available for their users and how users can access to the available information within the physical walls of the library or elsewhere for scholarly communication.

ETDs can be defined as theses and dissertations which are submitted in electronic format and facilitate use of multimedia, reference linking while accessing electronically. TQM methods can be applied to build up these ETD collections. It promotes quality management of ETD collections widely.

Edward Deming and J.M. Juan are the two people who gave birth to TQM. According to them, TQM strongly focused on clients while helping them to know their needs and meeting those needs exceeding their expectations. And also TQM facilitates commitment to quality and continuous improvement, adopting systematic and scientific approach to operations (Viljoen and Underwood, 1997).

ETDs are playing an important role in the university community. TQM methods are using widely in western countries to develop ETDs rather than developing countries.

TQM can be defined as -

Total – staff, suppliers, customers
Quality – quality of work, products
Management – quality of leadership

Main TQM Principles –
Plan (P)
Do (D)
Check (C)
Action (A)

When applying TQM methods for ETD collection, it can be divided into three categories as follows-

1. Exploring and planning
2. Processing and operating
3. Evaluating and improving

Using TQM methods for ETD development, library professionals can understand user's expectations and they meet their expectations. It lowers cost of operation while improving the quality of ETD collection to attract and retain more university scholars.

"TQM is defined as a management method relying on the cooperation of all the members of an organization. A management method that centers on quality and on the long-term success of the organization through the satisfaction of the customers, as well as the benefit of all its members and society" (Information Resources Guide on TQM 2000-2005).

Extended Learning Initiatives with Institutional Repositories: Rising Tide Raises all the Boats

» Kamani Perera, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

» Dinesh Chandra, Ministry of Defense, India

In this Internet era, modern libraries have taken initiation to extend their services through open access. Open access helps to distribute available resources freely.

This facility is a greater benefit to the developing country sector where scholars/students couldn't access available information due to financial constraints. Open access system facilitates free access of information globally without any geographical barrier.

Digital institutional repositories improve the ability to use and reuse of its stored data eventually. Explosive growth of e-generated information can be accessed instantly via institutional repositories for extended learning. Modern information communication technologies (ICTs) facilitate to discover information automatically and establish links between related documents to form of value chain of scholarly communication.

It will help to provide more dynamic extended learning service to the scholars/students worldwide. Institutional repositories provide vital academic background for extended learning. Scholars/students can access data from remote locations. Institutional repositories support all scholarly users uniformly cutting boundaries to meet their scholarly needs.

Distant learners can be part time scholars who use repositories during their free time. Modern e-repositories provide these scholars with quality, timely and relevant information electronically. This way institutional repository can reduce costs of material acquisitions and administration. Development of open access systems in institutional repositories cut serious scarcity of current research information. Open access provide full text journals and e-books for extended learning which is a greater service to the developing nation scholars/students.

Institutional Repositories and University Communities: Observations from Developing Countries

» Kamani Perera, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

» Dinesh Chandra, Ministry of Defence, India

Institutional repositories have become lifeblood of university communities, thus improving and accelerating their scholarly work. When compare with traditional physical libraries, digital institutional repositories produce various types of information, which never met with traditional walls. Institutional repositories are facilitating more timely exchange of information among scholars and improve distance learning without any geographical barrier.

It supports teaching, learning and research while reaching unreachable without walls. Greater revolution has occurred in the university libraries recent past converting paper-based libraries to electronic based ones.

With the emergence of the World Wide Web and availability of national and global networks, university libraries have turned their attention to digital collections rather than building printed-based collection. In this way, librarian's role dramatically changed and is responsible for what e-repositories available for their users and how users can access to the available information within the physical walls of the library or elsewhere.

Institutional digital repositories will ultimately lead to paperless society, which were earlier dominated by paper. The information super highway is today thought of as a revolutionary platform intended to form a network connecting computers globally.

The institutional repository is an information storage in which all the information resources are available in computer processable form and the functions of acquisition, storage, preservation, retrieval, access and display are carried out through the use of digital technologies.

The resources in institutional repositories can be divided in to those that are originally created in digital format such as e-journals, e-books, online databases and those originally non-digital resources such as manuscripts and prints that subsequently digitized. A repository can disseminate its information across a network and users can retrieve information in the same way.

The age-old concept of ownership of the traditional physical repositories now has been changed with access to digital repositories through the Internet connectivity.

Internet has now provided access to huge repositories that can be considered as a paperless, wall-less, distributed multi-access, digital libraries/repositories. Institutional repositories have become life blood of the university community without any geographical barrier.

Unexpected benefits of campus ETD implementation

» Marisa Ramirez, Robert E. Kennedy Library, California Polytechnic State University

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Robert E. Kennedy Library at California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo) led the campus transition from paper to electronic thesis implementation. In facilitating this transition, the Digital Repository Librarian was charged with identifying and consulting relevant campus and library staff to determine the impact on resources and procedures and to produce a road map with specific campus implementation recommendations.

A pilot was conducted to collect master's thesis materials, to examine the existing information workflows and to conduct contextual inquiry interviews with system stakeholders. Several anticipated benefits resulting from this analysis included increased access and availability of graduate scholarship. More surprisingly, however, were unexpected benefits once implemented.

Our paper will reveal the unexpected benefits we discovered, including decreased workloads, increased institutional efficiencies and new opportunities for collaboration and updating of existing information workflows for the Library, the Research and Graduate Programs Office and various administrative campus entities.

As the ETD implementation celebrates its one year anniversary at Cal Poly, user feedback and additional new insights will be incorporated into the existing ETD structure. Successes from the ETD implementation will be applied towards the implementation of senior projects, a focus of our largely undergraduate institution.

etd @ Mason: A Collaborative Approach Using Dspace

» Sarah Patton, George Mason University

In Fall 2007 George Mason University began an optional ETD program. This venture involves librarians from three different areas within the library. The University Dissertation and Thesis (UDTS) Coordinator who is part of Special Collections and Archives, the Digital Repository Services Librarian who is part of the Systems Office, and a Special Formats Cataloger who is part of Technical Services.

Our institutional repository known as MARS (Mason Archival Repository Service) which uses DSpace was already in existence when this project began. The Digital Repository Services Librarian worked in conjunction with the UDTS Coordinator to determine the aesthetics of the etd @ Mason collection and what information would need to be gathered from students. The UDTS Coordinator submits all dissertations and theses to MARS along with all of the metadata.

Once completed the link to the MARS record is placed on the shared drive for the Special Formats Cataloger to harvest the Dublin Core record from the DSpace repository using OAI-PMH protocols. There are several steps before the record is uploaded to OCLC and exported to our local catalog. Together these three different units have worked to build the optional ETD program and we now have 61% of students opting to have their dissertation or thesis open access instead of on the library shelf.