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.

Many areas of this project still need improvement. One of which is the continuing education of both students and faculty in regards to the pros of open access. Additional policies and procedures need to be finalized in regards to embargoes.

There should also be more conversations regarding a controlled vocabulary for use in MARS to exclude vague or general words that already appear in their title or abstract. In the future, we hope to allow students to deposit their dissertation or thesis into MARS and input all of the metadata with the UDTS Coordinator approving the submissions.

Theses Digitization:
Institutional Repository Start-Up

» Malgorzata Rozniakowska-Klosinska, IT and Digitization Department of the Technical University of Lodz Library

» Blazej Feret, Chief Librarian of the Technical University of Lodz Library

The Technical University of Lodz Library (Poland) has started the digitization project of theses dated from the beginning of its mother university existence till the nineties. Converting old, sometimes even not legible, mostly typewriter-typed documents into digital fully searchable version was a real challenge.

Doing printed copies electronically accessible to the users as a result of digitization and using the advanced optical character recognition techniques, were the priority objectives of the project.

The next very crucial goal was to explore available repositories software packages platforms like ePrints, DSpace, Fedora and others in terms of their usability. The decision was made to implement DSpace in Linux environment.

The paper discusses a lot of topics: what is the best way to present such digitized information, how should be preserved the digitized information from paper theses, which metadata scheme should be chosen, what lessons were learnt and experience picked up during the project and finally what are the implications for the further institutional repository development.

ETDs, IRs, Collaborations, and Access at Florida State University

» Plato Smith, Florida State University

Objective: The poster presentation will use text and images to describe the electronic theses and dissertations (ETD), institutional repositories (IR), collaborations, and access at Florida State University (FSU). The ETDs include current and retrospective digitized FSU theses and dissertations; institutional repositories include etd-db and DigiTool platforms; collaborations include the FSU Graduate School, FSU Undergraduate Honors in the Major Department, and Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA); access includes open access (etd-db), campus-community only (etd-db), and restricted (DigiTool).

Recent FSU ETD policies and guideline changes, copyright issues, and staff changes have impacted open access ETDs at FSU thus resulting in introducing campus-community only access option for FSU ETDs using the etd-db platform in Fall 2008 and Internet Protocol (IP) for retrospective digitized theses and dissertations using the DigiTool platform.

Methods: The poster presentation will document the history of ETDs at FSU from introduction in Fall 2003 to growth of retrospective digitized ETDs from 2005-2008 to campus-community only access option for FSU ETDs in Fall 2008 and IP restriction for retrospective digitized theses and dissertations collections in 2009 to future plans for ETD preservation via Florida Digital Archive (FDA) and MetaArchive (LOCKSS) in 2009 with text, images, and screen shots.

Results: The FSU Graduate School requested campus-community and ETD PDF document security options for FSU ETDs starting in Fall 2008. The FSU ETD policies and guidelines that introduced these options were developed by the FSU Graduate School and FSU Libraries Digital Library Center and then approved by the FSU Graduate Policy Committee for Fall 2008 implementation. Since retrospective digitized theses and dissertations did not include retrospective digitized access agreement forms, senior leadership recommended IP restriction for all FSU retrospective digitized theses and dissertations in 2009.

Conclusions: Open access concerns from the FSU Creative Writing department prompted the FSU Graduate School to request the campus-community option for FSU ETDs starting in Fall 2008 and copyright concerns from new senior leadership in FSU Libraries prompted IP restriction for retrospective digitized FSU theses and dissertations.

The etd-db platform server was upgraded from 60 GB to over 130 GB and the DigiTool platform was migrated from a single implementation to a FCLA consortia implementation. Communication between major stakeholders, managerial oversight from graduate policy committee, FSU Libraries, and institutional support contributed to the development, revisions, and current FSU ETD policies and guidelines.

Status and Challenges of Developing ETDs in Ethiopia: the case of Addis Ababa University

» Netsanet Animut Nigussie, University Librarian, Addis Ababa University

Addis Ababa University (AAU) is the oldest and largest University in Ethiopia with more than 50,000 students (both graduate and undergraduate). The University is currently engaged in an ambitious plan of expanding graduate programs at Masters and PhD levels in different disciplines.

The University has started a pilot African ETD program in collaboration with the University of Witwatersrand. As part of this program, AAU runs a training workshop for librarians and researchers coming from all higher learning institutions in Ethiopia.

Following the workshop, Addis Ababa University has implemented Dspace and currently populating full-text thesis and dissertation (around 3000 full-text thesis and dissertation has already been entered into the database). A server and scanner have also been secured through donation for the National ETD Repository, which is initiated by Addis Ababa University.

This paper will cover the current status, opportunities, challenges, and future direction of Etds in Ethiopia.

The establishment of an ETD in Azerbaijan @ Khazar University

» Tatyana Zayseva, Library and Information Center, Khazar University

» Lala Hayibayova, School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University in Bloomington

About the development of OA to electronic thesis and dissertations in the former Soviet Union developing countries little is known. This paper presents an exploratory overview of the situation in Azerbaijan. Institutional repositories provide universities in developing countries with a good avenue to disseminate their intellectual output to the outside world.

The OA movement has not yet permeated the academic research environment. Azerbaijani University libraries have not begun to practice or promote institutional repository or are at a very