These barriers are formidable challenges for Science, Technology and Medicine in LDC. Open Access (OA) provides a means of reducing the impact of these barriers.

OA facilitates accessing and communicating information beyond journal subscriptions. Despite many opportunities available to facilitate OA in LDC, participation remains low. NDLTD membership from Asia, Latin America and Africa is less than 4%, while IR on Dspace account for 29%. Although LDC can benefit from tools freely available for OA to improve research communication, these benefits are not fully realized.

Clearly, some issues cannot be resolved within communities such as NDLTD. However, sharing expert knowledge, guidance, and technical support and mentorship programs can strengthen the capacity of LDC to utilize free resources. Ultimately, this will result in reduction of the research information barriers in these areas for LDC.

The ETD Journey of University of the Western Cape in South Africa: Benefits, workflow, navigation processes and alignment to institutional repositories

» Pateka Matshaya, University of the Western Cape , South Africa

The University of the Western Cape established its electronic thesis and dissertation project in 2004. A lot of progress took place ever since the project inception especially with reference to project marketing, governance and navigation of the database by university community and the world-wide communities.

Much as the project was established immediately after the national visit of Virginia polytechnic Professor, the University of the Western Cape unlike other universities in the country, it developed its own in-house software that shares similar specifications with NDLTD software.

Currently the Library has over than 500 Electronic Thesis and Dissertations on the catalogue with navigation exploited by researchers and scholars from more than 15 countries a day with about 10 000 downloading a month.

To evaluate the database performance each ETD title has a built-in counter to determine records usage statistics. The poster session will outline the ETD workflow of the University of the Western Cape with special reference to governance issues (policies, copyright, record uploading, navigation options and portal maintenance.) A brief outline of the ETD project in South Africa with issues such as software in use, funding, national trainings, and project alignment to institutional repositories will be discussed.

In conclusion as the project is facilitated through the Library but hosted in the university computer centre it is of utmost importance for the library to have guaranteed assurance of database back-up in case of emergencies. The poster will therefore give accounts on how this matter could be handled by use of service level agreements between two departments namely (library and computer services).

Introduction to ETD Project at IIU

» Yaqub Ali, International Islamic University, Central Library

The foundation of the University was laid on November 11, 1980. The University was upgraded, restructured and reconstituted by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in March 1985.Currently with nine (9) faculties and six (6) autonomous academies, institutes and centers, the University is conducting around ninety (90) academic programs with an enrollment of over 17,000 students that includes around 7000 female students. In addition around 2,000 are enrolled in the Iqra Technical Centre, a constituent unit of the University.

The ETD project was conceived in 2007 by inspiration from Pakistan Research Repository launched by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and simultaneously West Virginia University (WVU). A proposal was made keeping in view the experiences of HEC and WVU. The proposal defines the project in three phases. The first phase was aimed at to cover the digitization of approximately 6000 theses of Graduate programs in Arabic and English. In the second phase, electronic submission of theses and publishing these documents on the web for open access.

Support and technical training is being provided to students, staff, and faculty in how to create documents as PDF (Portable Document Format) files, accepting ETDs and some technical training in how to identify problems in a PDF document.

Currently we the number of digitized theses has crossed 850 mark at the approximate rate of 9 theses per day. We have also received 43 soft copies directly by students' submission.

The project is going on smoothly hence there are challenges as reservation about copyright, threats of plagiarism, power breakdown in the country, storage of digital data & backups and hesitation to work in electronic environment.