Shibboleth Federation
Enabling scholarly collaboration across the State of Texas

Six universities currently active in the federation:

TDL member schools preparing to join:

The Federation

The mission of the Texas Digital Library (TDL) is to create a
digital infrastructure for scholarly communication in the state
of Texas. Encompassed in this goal is the facilitation of inter-
university collaboration through an array of services; these
include institutional repositories, peer-reviewed journaling,
and other forms of scholarly communication. The Shibboleth
authentication framework underlies all of these services and
provides a mechanism for secure collaboration between the
various universities in the state and beyond.

Since no such state-wide federation existed in Texas, TDL cre-
ated the infrastructure to support a multi-institution
Shibboleth federation. Researchers from different universities
can now access common resources while authenticating with
local identities. Presently, six schools spanning separate uni-
versity systems are active in the federation, and more are cur-
rently in the process of joining the federation.

Philip Mattingly
Systems & Technical Coordinator
phil@austin.utexas.edu

Scott Phillips
Research & Development Coordinator
scott@library.tamu.edu

Mark McFarland
TDL Co-Director
m.mcfarland@austin.utexas.edu

John Leggett
TDL Co-Director
leggett@library.tamu.edu
How does it Work?

Shibboleth is a set of network services that provides federated authentication and metadata exchange. The federation uses these services to provide a three stage processes for users attempting to access restricted library resources.

1. Request
First the user will request access to a resource provided by one of TDL’s services. If authenticated access is required, the user will be automatically redirected to the "where are you from" (WAYF) service.

2. Source
Once at the WAYF, the user selects their home institution from the list of participating institutions. They will then be directed to their institutions authentication website where they will enter their user name and password using their local identity.

3. Delivery
Finally, after the user has successfully authenticated with her home institution, she is returned to the service provider. They have now been authenticated using Shibboleth and are able to use the resource provided by TDL. When many researchers from multiple institutions are able to use Shibboleth to access the TDL services, they are able to collaborate on building and preserving their scholarly collections.

For more information about the project, visit:

http://www.tdl.org/shibboleth/