

Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) Update and User Discussion



"When print emerged, universities failed to recognize its importance and almost managed to marginalize themselves into oblivion. With a new major transition upon us, such benign neglect simply will not do. Yet the challenges universities face in responding to an increasingly digitized and networked world are staggering. Universities need a vision allowing them to express their dearest values in new forms, rather than protect their present form at the expense of their most fundamental values." (Jean-Claude Guedon, Conseiller, Publications Électroniques, Presses de l'Université de Montréal 1998)

Status of the NDLTD at Virginia Tech

Graduate School Procedures

Submission of ETDs became a Graduate School requirement effective Spring 1997

Student training workshops have been ongoing since Spring 1996

A special ETD approval form has been developed for use by the student, advisor and advisory committee

A Graduate School staff member reviews all ETDs for format

The Graduate School can help the student correct errors detected before cataloging

Over 1500 ETDs will have been submitted by the end of Fall Semester 1998

Less than 2% of TDs are now submitted as paper copies

Library Procedures

ETDs are submitted by students using a Netscape browser

They are deposited in a directory of ETDs awaiting Graduate School approval

If the ETD is secured for patent or proprietary reasons it is held after approval in a secure directory

If the ETD is available for VT or world wide access it is transferred to a directory for cataloging

ETDs are cataloged within X-X weeks and made available as designated by the student and advisor

Available ETDs may be searched by author name, or by Open Text

How has usage changed at VT?

Usage of Paper Theses and Dissertations

Virginia Tech theses submitted 1990 - 1994, combined average circulation per copy is 2.24/yr

Virginia Tech dissertations submitted 1990 - 1994, combined average circulation per copy is 3.2/yr

Usage of ETDs in VT Collection Jan - May Totals

Requests	1996	1997	1998
	37,171	247,537	225,622
Requests/Day	102	685	1,416
Requests for EDTs	4,600	72,854	120,408
Requests for Abst.	25,829	112,633	82,655
Host Served	9,015	22,725	16,525

Costs/Savings at VT

Graduate School no longer processes, stores and ships to the library 3000 copies of paper TDs/year

Library no longer processes, binds and shelves 3000 copies of TDs/year

166 ft of shelf space saved/year by the library (Based on 2000 1 inch TDs/year)

VT used existing equipment in the Scholarly Communications project to support the ETD project

Library start up costs for staff, hardware and software from a zero base estimated at \$65,000 <<http://www.theses.org/>>

Status of the NDLTD at Other Institutions

Over 40 Universities worldwide have joined the NDLTD. 21 are U.S. and 4 are Canadian institutions

NCSU, Michigan, UT Memphis, UVA, WVA, Waterloo, Rhodes (SA), Humbolt (Berlin) have ETD collections

Many institutions have discussions underway in their governance systems concerning starting ETD projects

Many institutions have visited Virginia Tech

Members of the VT ETD team have visited many institutions

Australia has a national ETD initiative underway

Challenges to Creating and Sustaining ETD collections (and Digital Libraries)

Making information literacy an expectation of graduate (and undergraduate) education

Informing graduate students and faculty of their responsibilities associated with use of copyrighted work in ETDs

Informing students and faculty of their rights as holders of copyright to ETDs and

other original work

Changing university P&T systems to make it possible to reclaim research and scholarship produced by students and faculty

Changing the attitudes of publishers about publishing manuscripts derived from ETDs

Developing an archiving system for electronic documents which is as dependable as paper or microfilm