Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD): A Worldwide Initiative to Advance Scholarship

Notes by Ed Fox for Session:
Progress on Digital Dissertation Initiatives
Chair, Joan K. Lippincott
CNI Fall Meeting
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Objectives:
- Aid universities to revitalize graduate education., scholarly publishing and library innovation;
- Educate ALL future scholars so they can prepare electronic documents, effectively use digital libraries, and understand about intellectual property rights (i.e., are Information Literate);
- Encourage students to be more expressive and complete in their theses and dissertations;
- Build a large and important international digital library that promotes knowledge transfer.

History:
- Ann Arbor workshop held Fall 1987.
- CNI workshop 1992, ongoing meetings since then with CGS, CNI, SURA/SOLINET, UMI, VT,...
- Funded by SURA since Jan. 1996, by U.S. Dept. of Education (FIPSE) since Sept. 1996.
- January 1997 Virginia Tech began requiring electronic submission of all theses, dissertations.

Members and Interested Parties:
- Over 20 member universities, including in Southeast, Big 10, Hawaii, Africa, Australia, and Europe
- Over 25 others visited and many others discussing joining, including in Canada, Portugal, UK, ...

Statistics at Virginia Tech:
- 30-40K accesses to WWW site per week
- Over 500 works in the collection and archive
- Median size 1 M byte, mean 2 M, 45% with images, 5% with video
- Approximately 300 works for worldwide access; many downloads: > 100K HTML, > 30K PDF
- Most popular ones have many accesses: 7642, 1428, 1367, 1141.

Working with Publishers:
- ACM Publications Board encouraging ETDs, only asks authors to give ACM credit on publications.
- See "Request for Widespread Access to Electronic Theses and Dissertations" to publishers.
- See "Approval Form" that gives students, committees choice on timing and degree of access.

Invitation to Join: (see http://www.ndltd.org/join/)

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For more information see http://www.ndltd.org or send email to etd@vt.edu