Report of the NDLTD Conference Standing Committee
NDLTD Board Meeting, June 15, 2010
Submitted by Sharon Reeves

Conference Committee Members:

Suzie Allard
Tony Cargnelutti
Susan Copeland
Scott Eldredge
John Hagen
Angela McCutcheon
Sharon Reeves (Chair)
Peter Schirmbacher

ETD 2011

Preparations for the ETD2011 conference are on track:
• The conference will be hosted by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF), the major government research funding agency. The president of the NRF has provided formal approval for this activity.
• As the conference will be hosted in Cape Town, 2 local universities (University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University) were contacted to act as local host institutions. Both agreed formally early in 2010 and are now co-sponsors of the event - both have agreed to contribute staff and other resources to a local organising committee.
• A core conference committee has been set up, with the conference chair being Dr Daisy Selematsela (Executive Director: Knowledge Management and Evaluation) from NRF. Daisy will present the conference at the closure of ETD2010.
• Marketing material for the conference has been developed, to be distributed at ETD2010 and future local events. The conference will be held in September 2011 - a definite date will be set soon, after consulting various calendars of events and local host institutions.
• At least 4 members of the conference organising committee will attend ETD 2010 to help promote attendance at ETD2011.

ETD 2012

The only bid for ETD 2012 came from Liliana Elespuru Briceno and Libio Huaroto, Lima, Peru. Although the original bid was missing some information, specifically with respect to accommodation costs and international travel to Peru, this was supplied on request. The bid and the addendum will be sent by email along with this report.
The Conference Committee unanimously endorses this bid, believing that it is important to hold a symposium in South America, thus broadening the scope and relevance of the NDLTD in that region of the world.

**ETD 2013**

The NDLTD is eager to hold an international symposium in southeast Asia. The Conference Committee is investigating Singapore as a possible site for the symposium. The Committee will follow up on contacts identified by Ed Fox and Tony Cargnelutti and will possibly work with Suntec, a professional conference organizer located in Singapore, to identify a potential host institution. If this fails the Committee will consider other countries identified in the survey of the WG on International Activities.

**Future of the ETD symposium**

The conference committee discussed some issues which have surfaced over the past year.

*Frequency of event*

A suggestion was made to hold the international symposium every two years instead of annually. The survey of the WG on International Activities indicates that 80% of respondents favour holding at least one symposium a year. Accordingly the NDLTD will continue to hold annual symposia for the next three to five years (host institutions have already been identified for the next two years). This question should be evaluated again in four or five years.

*How to maintain/grow the current level of attendance?*

When attendance figures were reviewed they indicate an average of 150 attendees for the past several years, which is not bad. Various suggestions have been on how to maintain/increase attendance, e.g., piggy backing on conferences with similar themes, broadening scope to include research/scholarly outputs (in IRs).

The Conference Committee will undertake to come up with a list of related international conferences held in May-June and September-October by the December NDLTD Board meeting (time permitting).

The Conference Committee will encourage host institutions to broaden the scope of the symposia to include issues related to IRs, open access, etc.

*How to locate future conference venues?*

It is clear to the Conference Committee that inviting institutions to submit bids to
host the annual symposium has not been a particularly successful strategy. As a result the Committee is trying a different approach for ETD 2013 (see above), that of soliciting a host institution in a desired location and perhaps using a professional conference organizer in that location to assist in the process.

For discussion: the Committee and the Board as a whole need to consider whether more incentives are required to encourage more and better bids, e.g. monetary incentives, more assistance from Conference Committee, etc.

*Hold more regional conferences in languages other than English*

The Conference Committee, perhaps in conjunction with the WG on International Activities, could identify and engage individuals at specific institutions who would be willing to host a regional symposium.

**Canadian ETD and Open Repository Workshop: an NDLTD Regional Symposium**

A [Canadian ETD and Open Repository Workshop](#) was held at Carleton University, Ottawa, on May 10 to 11, 2010. The Workshop was an incredible success, bringing together over 100 participants from 48 Canadian anglophone and francophone universities. It provided a welcome opportunity for Canadian professionals working in the area of ETDs and IRs to discuss common issues and share best practices.

At the Workshop Library and Archives announced its intention to move to a totally digital model of theses acquisition by 2014. Canadian universities are supportive of this new direction.

NDLTD has been acknowledged as a sponsor under the heading Organizers and Partners. The NDLTD logo was included in the conference program as well as an ad for ETD 2011.

**Conference Committee Work Plan for 2010-2011**

Come up with a list of international conferences related to ETDs held in May-June and September-October.

Develop a (short) policy/procedures for regional conferences associated with the NDLTD.