**ETD-Questionnaire 2010**

### 1. Additional Comments

The Group was established by the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations [NDLTD] with the specific aim of advising the NDLTD Board on how best to promote its activities through initiatives such as the ETD Symposia series & associated awards.

The Board wishes to improve the impact of the NDLTD and it is interested in a broader international view. One way to achieve this could be through the organization of regional or language based conferences.

The task for the working group is to investigate and analyze the present situation in the different continents, regions and countries and report back to the Board. In order to gain an insight into the status of worldwide ETD programs and overall awareness of the NDLTD, the Working Group designed a dual language questionnaire as a starting point. The plan is to use this questionnaire [with necessary refinements] to target ongoing delegates to ETD symposia as well as other forums in order to help guide NDLTD activities to become more relevant across the international ETD community.

The questionnaire is both in English and Portuguese and we used the NDLTD homepage (thank you to Hussein) to provide access to both versions. The Working Group also believes using the NDLTD homepage to access the questionnaire will also help promote awareness of the NDLTD movement in general. We specifically targeted delegates to the ETD2008 & ETD2009 Symposia, the general ETD list, and also asked Board Members to distribute to any other appropriate lists.

### 2. Responses

All in all we got 89 answers from 22 different countries.

- **USA** 29
- **Canada** 15
- **United Kingdom** 8
- **Australia** 7
- **Germany** 3
- **South Africa** 3
- **Malaysia** 3
- **India** 3
- **Brazil** 2
- **Pakistan** 2
- **New Zealand** 2
- **Greece** 2
- **Portugal** 1
- **Italy** 1
- **Belgium** 1
- **Sri Lanka** 1
- **Kenya** 1
- **Netherlands** 1
- **Jordan** 1
- **China** 1
- **Kyrgyzstan** 1
- **Mali** 1
3. ETD-Programs

80% of respondents have an ETD-program with 72% of these having mandatory programs in place. This table shows the years of existence of ETD-programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than one year</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than three</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than five</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than two</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>years</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In the third part of this question we asked for the main difficulties or problems encountered in implementing an ETD-program. The followings answers were typical:

- Lack of software knowledge
- Lack of knowledge in copyright issues
- Lack of Budget
- Lack of people to implement a program

Other answers were:

- Marketing and communication
- Understanding what it is and benefits
- Administrative buy-in
- Copyright issues
- Complexity of transposing traditional workflow into ETD workflow
- Requiring and obtaining quality pdf (embedded fonts) from students
- Equipment (scanners mainly)
- Training (use of software to create a digital library)
- Funding of the project (collection of materials when this materials are not in the collections of the national library)
- Time consuming to promote the pilot project
- Time consuming to revise the standard DSpace submission process to suit our needs
- Dealing with competing projects that took time away from staff with the required technical expertise
- Lack of professional staff to support the electronic repository
- Not enough knowledge and information about the ETD participation
- Language problem - most of Universities here not use and not familiar with English. (Russian and Kyrgyz are the main languages)
- Students need training in creating electronic documents that are compliant with our formatting requirements
- Students and faculty need education on what an etd is and how it affects future publication in journals and books
- More education on copyright rights and responsibilities of authors.
- Trying to decide whether to "let go" of the bound library copy
- Finding time to garner statistics
- Cataloging the record for the opac as we upload them to our digital repository first.
Of those without an ETD program, only a few responded as to why this was the case:

- Lack of communication between Graduate Department and Library
- No clear mandate that one is required
- Organizational resistance to change
- IT resources
- Other priorities
- Policies issues
- Lack of technical and expert HR
- Financial barrier
- Proper training
- Low demand
- Lack of publicity of ETD program
- Budget

4. Participation at ETD-Symposia

Have you ever attended an ETD-Symposium?

- Yes: 64%
- No: 36%

How often have you attended an ETD-Symposium?

- 1: 64%
- 2: 14%
- 3: 5%
- 4: 5%
- 5: 2%
- More: 10%

What were the three most useful things you learned in attending the Symposium?

- Only 60% of respondents answered this question. The following three points formed the answer given by one participant— and are typical of the responses received:
  1) Networking with others around the world. (Organization of collaboration)
  2) We are not alone in our challenges. (Common discussion of common problems)
  3) Finding interesting solutions to the way others have tackled challenges. (Information about interesting solutions)
Other answers provided the following details:

- Confirmation of like issues at my institution
- Building on an understanding of U.S. copyright
- Updates on NDLTD
- Open access philosophy
- Creative commons details
- Clarification of process of ETD management, and the recognition that we're on the right track
- Technical tips
- Marketing (dealing with people who believe it is not a good idea and the various reasons they put forward)
- Future developments worth watching
- Ideas for promoting ETDs
- Relationship between ETD policies and open access policies
- How my institution might improve its workflow
- Meeting international colleagues
- Appreciating that we share common problems and can learn from each other how to address those problems
- So many:
  - Policy
  - Workflow
  - Promotion and buy in
  - Technical help
  - Networking with colleagues with the same problems
  - ETD towards IR
  - Copyright
- The first and foremost was the excellent opportunity to share concepts with the participants from different countries and institutions which help promote the understanding among the stakeholders.
- Opportunity to get knowledge from Very useful presentations, papers and workshops
- An understanding of ETD developments and progress at international level.
- Specific projects and the opportunity to meet the individuals involved.
- The range of opportunities available to students producing ETDs.
- It was a useful occasion to develop contacts and make homework for social networking
- PDF use issues
- Documentation flow issues & need to coordinate, coordinate, coordinate
- Assuring that the final definitive copy has been posted to a repository.

85% of delegates of an ETD-symposium indicate they will attend the next one as well.

The ETD Symposia are held each year. What do you think about this frequency?

![Pie chart showing responses]

How important would it be to have the ETD Symposium in local/regional languages?
For the question: What country would you suggest for a future ETD symposium there were 61 answers:

North America 18  
South America 2  
Latin America 2  
Europe 3  
Eastern Europe 2  
South Europe 2  
   Netherlands / Belgium 3  
   France 2  
   UK 2  
   Greece 1  
   Denmark 1  
   Germany 1  
Africa 2  
   South Africa 2  
   Kenya 1  
Australia 4  
Asia 5  
   Korea 2  
   India 3  
   China 2  
   Malaysia 4  
   Pakistan 1  
   Japan 1

5. NDLTD

15 % of respondents said that they had never heard of the NDLTD while 38 % of respondents are members of the NDLTD.

In most cases the answer to the question: What is the main reason for not joining? was:

- Membership fee
- Save money
- Already a member of a regional organization (Texas, Ethos, German Activities, Australia, Canada)

- Lack of awareness of its importance
- Lack of clarity about the benefits this would bring
- Cost and some uncertainty regarding the benefits of belonging/participating.
- Membership in NDLTD has not been discussed on campus.
How can NDLTD assist in promoting and implementing ETD programs?

The variety of answers is very broad:

- Workshops
- Online-tutorials
- State-of-the-art reviews
- Creation of a wiki with links to different programs, policies, workflows, etc.
- Develop a more user-friendly interface for the ETD "union catalog." It's very hard to figure out how to use it.
- Provide example flow diagrams from institutions showing the e-submission process
- NDLTD can play a role in ensuring that national initiatives are not limited to front runners.
- By having a highly visible portal for all e-theses, supplanting ProQuest as the "go to" place for theses
- Encouraging and supporting regional and national level events.
- Providing assistance and information on the Web site.
- Hold "nuts and bolts" webinars or workshops with very specific advice on how to implement an ETD program -- and include folks who have directly done the work
- Spotlight exceptional programs in short news type articles.
- Develop a Facebook page of experts that newbies could contact.
- Develop a Twitter account where newbies and experienced people can share information.
- Would a blog be helpful?
- Creating standards functional requirements so that it is possible to benchmark how the ETD programs are doing.
- Organize a training session for librarians on creation and management of digital documents,
- Assist in equipments
- Support those who want to participate in NDLTD activities

What would the NDLTD need to provide you/your institution in order for you to join?

Only four answers were received and not all are clearly expressed:

- Nothing, we just didn't know about it!
- Benefits to our organization that we don't already have by being a member of the Australasian Digital Theses (ADT) Program.
- Please provide the information in details or you can email it by using my email address.
- Digital Theses and Dissertations

Any other comments you may have?

- Perhaps consider an annual symposium in North America and one in Europe/Asia?
- I've always felt the NDLTD home page was a little ineffective although it has improved in the last year or so. Somebody wanting to get straight into searching gets a full page of text and a need to decide what tools to use (Scirus or VTLs). I think it would be much better to just choose one that they went straight in to so that they could start searching. By all means have the rest of the information present for those who might take the time to read it, but also make it easy for the impatient youth of today to get searching.
- Perhaps the NDLTD should start a travel fund to send experts to participate in international activities that have some sort of connection to ETD initiatives.
- Keep up the good work! Etds are not just one of the types on a repository: ensure that this niche is full developed.
- It would be useful translate in other languages guidelines and tutorials produced in NDLTD Program, maybe by setting an international network of experts (such as Digital preservation Europe is working)
- Conference always well organized and much appreciated. Preprogram perhaps need to be include far more overseas delegates presenting.
- It is very useful job. Especially the idea of "open access" is a great attraction for the academic community in the developing and underdeveloped world. To provide free and easy access to such a valuable resource is a great opportunity and it would be liked by all such communities.
- Please feel free to contact me at james.ryley@sumobrain.com. I would be happy to talk to someone about our efforts at www.OpenThesis.org and how we might work together to promote ETDs.
• Where possible include representatives from less developed countries, like Kenya in the running of affairs of NDLTD
• If enough interest and depending on the global economy, NDLTD may want to consider going with every other year format for the international symposia and facilitating hosting of regional conferences in between. We may also want to explore options for Web casting and other social networking tools for the international symposia.
• There could potentially be a place for the ETD and/or NDLTD here now the Australian Digital thesis Program has ended. The people to talk to would be CAIRSS.
• The survey is too simplistic when asking for university identity and mandatory aspect. My grad school has mandatory, but my whole university does not.
• ETDs and promotion of ETDs is a great initiative and enterprise. NDLTD should continue and strengthen its activities.
• I'm working now on a digital library of dissertations defended abroad. I'm using a CD of IMARK on how to make that library with Greenstone (a digital library software). The main problem is that nobody among Malian librarians really knows how to exploit that software. I hope.
• Thanks so much for the NDLTD awards! It is a wonderful way of giving recognition to deserving candidates! We have had a few winners in the past and this year.