Background for discussion of themes (from 2009 board retreat)

**What does NDLTD define as success?**
- Increased acceptance of ETDs internationally
- Financial stability through membership
- Making it easier to start an ETD program
- Opening universal access to ETDs
- Increased visibility/use of ETDs
- Having a broadbase and be a trusted partner with international participation
- Having branded practical outputs of NDLTD

**Ranked list of item in priority order (most important on top):**
- Strategic planning for sustainability for the next five years
- Engaging user communities
- Growing the membership
- Audit of current environment
- Continued improvement of the website

**Group discussions**
- Group A: How can the NDLTD structure be improved to enhance productivity and sustainability?
- Group B: What does NDLTD need to do to assure success over the next three years?
- Group C: How can NDLTD do a better job of engaging the community, growing memberships?
- Group D: What services can NDLTD provide to members and to the larger community?

**Themes for discussion at 2010 retreat**

The following is a list of themes, in no specific order, that emerged from the Board retreat in June 2009. The intention at the June 14, 2010 retreat is to prioritize them and come up with some concrete actions the Board and its committees can implement.

**Marketing**
- Addresses increased acceptance, visibility, use of ETDs internationally, universal access to ETDs, making it easier to start an ETD program (from What does NDLTD define as success?)
Mentorship program
• Addresses making it easier to start an ETD program (from What does NDLTD define as success?)
• Addresses What services can NDLTD provide to members and to the larger community (Group D discussion)

NDLTD Structure
• Addresses How can the NDLTD structure be improved to enhance productivity/sustainability? (Group A discussion)

Outstanding from last year:
• Timing of board/committee meetings (the idea was to hold committee meetings during symposia in order to attract participation of non-Board members)
• Have committee chairs present annual workplans at December board meeting

International Activities
• Addresses having a broad base and be a trusted partner with international participation (from What does NDLTD define as success?)

Environmental scan
• Addresses audit of current environment (from ranked list of items)
• Addresses description of present situation (from Group B discussion of What does NDLTD need to do to assure success in the next three years?)

Strategies for multilingual services, e.g. website, symposia
• Addresses increased acceptance of ETDs internationally, having a broad base and be a trusted partner with international participation (from What does NDLTD define as success?)

Membership
• Addresses having branded practical outputs of NDLTD (from What does NDLTD define as success?)
• Addresses growing the membership (from ranked list of items)
• Addresses financial viability (from Group B discussion of What does NDLTD need to do to assure success in the next three years?)