Prior Publications Working Group: Status Report for NDLTD Board
December 13, 2010
Gail McMillan

Members: Joan Dalton, Max Read, Marisa Ramirez, Gail McMillan, Nan Seamans (convener)

Charge
To investigate the expansion and update of the previous publisher surveys that were first conducted 1999-2002 to determine publishers’ attitudes towards ETDs and their perception of ETDs as prior publications. Of particular interest is the ability to understand discipline-specific concerns.

Activities
• Preliminary discussions took place at NDLTD 2010 conference in Austin, TX, in June among Read, Ramirez, McMillan and Seamans with Dalton agreeing to join the group following the meeting.
• Conference calls monthly since August 2010.
• Survey has been drafted.
• Investigating how to identify appropriate publishers with current focus on impact factor from Journal Citation Reports (ISI).
• Agreement to initially focus on arts and humanities disciplines and scholarly presses, and perhaps later expanding to include science and social science disciplines.
• Investigating whether institutional permission (IRB) from one of the task force member’s institutions will be necessary.
• SHERPA/RoMEO has been approached about possible collaboration and there appears to be some limited interest on the part of Bill Hubbard, Head of Centre for Research Communications, University of Nottingham.
• Peter Suber and Michael Jensen (National Academies Press) have both agreed to write new support letters for the NDLTD website (to replace Colin Day’s 1997 letter).

Planned
• Survey distribution, collection and analysis of results in time for a preliminary report to be presented at the 14th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations to be held in Cape Town, South Africa at the University of Cape Town, October 2011.