The United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA) was established in October of 2009 by a group of interested ETD professionals within the United States. The mission of USETDA is to provide information on best practices, develop and disseminate important information on ETD initiatives, support the development of state-wide ETD associations, bring ETD professionals together at the local level to network and improve ETD operations, educate and make others aware of ETD issues, and support the expansion of the NDLTD and other international ETD initiatives.

Vision
The vision of the USETDA is to link ETD professionals to information, each other and the world. The organization seeks to support ETD professionals and initiatives at a local, national and international level by enhancing operations in the workplace, advancing ETD technologies and support, and enriching ETD professions.

Mission
The mission of the USETDA is to support ETD professionals and ETD programs in the U.S. by enabling and encouraging the establishment of state-wide ETD associations, linking individuals and associations, developing and disseminating information of importance, increasing educational services to ETD programs, increasing ETD program productivity and cost savings, and supporting the expansion of the NDLTD and other international ETD initiatives.

Objectives
The organization has several objectives including:
- to facilitate information sharing among ETD professionals
- to improve the overall ETD operations in both Graduate Colleges and libraries, increasing cost savings and enhance productivity
- to establish and disseminate “best practices” for ETD programs and statewide associations operation
- to provide mechanisms and resources that effectively inform students, faculty and ETD professionals about important ETD concepts, issues, and initiatives
- to create a network of ETD professionals to call upon when problem solving
- to assist other states in implementing statewide associations that would support, encourage and assist local ETD professionals in developing and improving ETD programs within their states
- to support and encourage membership in the international ETD consortium, the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)

Inaugural USETDA Conference (TBA)
- Planned for May 18 – 20, 2011 / Orlando, Florida
- Theme: “The Magic of ETDs – Where Creative Minds Meet”
- Purpose: To advance the mission of the US ETD Association by providing a means to support ETD professionals, advance ETD operations, and encourage the formation of state-wide ETD associations.
- Local Planning Committee Chair: Bobby Parker (University of Florida)
- Anticipate 100 attending; open to all North American institutions
- Topics to include IP, workflows, retrospective digitization, preservation, networking, etc.
- Adjacent to MGM and Disney theme parks
- Excellent opportunity to promote ETD 2011 – South Africa
- USETDA Board is requesting $2,000 in sponsorship funding from NDLTD to host the national conference
USETDA Conference Tentative Breakout Topics

- ETDs and Technology
  - New and Innovative tools and practices
  - Use of social media like Facebook? Communication
  - Templates
  - Adobe
  - IR/ETD Workflow Management Software
- ETD Operations (Library and Graduate School)
  - Best practices
  - Efficiencies/Cost Savings/Productivity
  - Cataloging
  - Reviewing
  - Workflows
  - Retrospective Digitization
- Copyright and Open Access
- ETD Initiatives
  - Centralized/decentralized ETD processing
  - Start-up Programs
  - NDLTD and USETDA mentoring
  - Student training
  - USETDA statewide associations
  - Creative Commons Licensing
- Enhancing the ETD Profession
  - Leadership
  - Management
  - Assessment
  - Training
- ETD Education
  - Student Training, Podcasts, Workshops, Programming offered
- ETD Research