ETD 2013: Electronic Theses and Dissertations for Life

A bid to host the 16th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations by the University of Leicester Library

Wednesday 24th – Friday 26th July 2013

www.le.ac.uk/library
1. RATIONALE

Theses have been one of the unsung treasures of University research. With the expansion of electronic theses and dissertation (ETD) programmes, they have been transformed into a rich resource underpinning research and development for the global research community. As the world’s ETD repositories move from project to mainstream service, there is a need to consider the longer term role and activities that will surround ETDs for the next 5-10 years, the proposed theme for ETD 2013.

2. LEICESTER’S COMMITMENT TO ETDs

The University of Leicester has provided support and investment in ETDs at the highest level. The institution was among the first in the UK to mandate the deposit of full-text electronic theses from 2008 onwards. To date the University’s open access repository, Leicester Research Archive (LRA) contains almost 750 PhD theses in full text, and is described by Theses UK as a “Rapidly expanding collection of ETDs.”¹ Leicester’s theses are aggregated in other key collections including DART-Europe and the British Library EThOS service.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sir Robert Burgess and Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kevin Schurer are both members of the British Library Board, shaping the national ETD agenda. Prof Schurer is also leading the panel currently reviewing the UK’s national EThOS e-thesis service. They are supportive of this bid to host ETD 2013.

The University Library’s institutional repository team, housed in the multi-award winning David Wilson Library, manage the ingest of e-theses. They also support research students and supervisors with a training programme including e-copyright and the benefits of open access research in the modern researcher’s life. The Library is active in ETD and open access advocacy; to celebrate Open Access Week 2010 we offered ‘Repository in Your Office’. The team would capitalise on the conference with allied local training and advocacy. In addition the conference proceeds would be made available from Leicester Research Archive.

The University of Leicester Library has strong regional and professional connections to the UK’s open access and repository community; for example, hosting the annual UKCoRR² workshop in 2009. It has also benefitted from formal and informal links with Nottingham’s Centre for Research Communication (CRC)³ and the JISC funded Repositories Support Project.

3. PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE THEME

The proposed central theme of the conference is ETDs for Life; that is the role that ETDs play throughout the life time professional activities of the modern researcher, and the life cycle of the ETD documents and repositories themselves. Subthemes could include, but not be limited to digital preservation and curation challenges, text and data mining, ETDs and research data, through the emerging services and mashed service layer applications being built.

4. DATES:

The proposed dates are Wednesday 24 July to Friday 26 July 2013. The University term is over and graduation ceremonies have finished. University venue facilities and student accommodation are all available at this time.

¹ http://www.theses.com/idx/registered_users/etd/75.asp
² UK Council of Research Repositories, www.ukcorr.org
³ Formerly know as SHERPA prior to 2010
5. VENUE:

The University of Leicester is located at the heart of England, in the UK’s tenth largest and most culturally diverse city. The conference will be held on the University’s main campus, which includes a variety of cafes, a bookshop, gym and bank. Of architectural interest is the Stirling & Gowan Engineering Building, the most iconic British building of the mid-20th Century, and the award winning David Wilson Library. The campus is sited next to a 69 acre public park, and Leicester city centre is a short walk along New Walk, a late 18th Century tree-lined boulevard.

The School of Management’s Ken Edwards Building and the adjacent, newly refurbished, Percy Gee Building will be the prime locations for the conference. All venues have disabled access and facilities including hard of hearing loops in all rooms. The venues will be available from 8.30am to 5.00pm.

Registration will take place in the Percy Gee Building. The large 500 seat capacity Queen’s Hall in the same building will accommodate posters, exhibitors and be the venue for morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch.

The conference plenary session will take place in Ken Edwards, which houses three lecture theatres accommodating up to 250 delegates in a single theatre. In addition there are two seminar rooms in Ken Edwards accommodating 50 people each for parallel sessions. Should the conference attract more than 250 delegates an alternative, larger lecture theatre seating up to 500 is available, as are additional seminar rooms. Lecture theatres and seminar rooms are fully equipped with audio visual equipment including networked data projection for presentations. On campus wireless internet access is available to delegates for the duration of the conference for free. Wireless accounts can be applied for in advance of the conference and given to delegates on arrival.

Catering includes two servings of tea and coffee daily with biscuits in the morning and a cake selection in the afternoon. Lunch will be a finger buffet served with tea, coffee, water and orange juice. Vegetarian options are available and special dietary requirements can be catered for.

6. CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION:

The University Library will lead on conference organization and will form a local organising committee drawing on its own staff and volunteers from nearby universities. Dr Susan Copeland who led ETD 2008 in Aberdeen has already agreed to help. We anticipate working closely with NDLTD.
The award-winning Leicester Conferences, the University’s in-house team will provide event management. This includes

- Dedicated co-coordinator
- Booking of venues and University accommodation
- Liaising with external suppliers i.e. marquees, entertainment
- Booking of transport
- Delegate Registration System, enabling delegates to register and pay for conferences, online.
- Telephone bookings a
- Optional invoice payment
- Refunds and cancellation
- Management of delegate enquiries by telephone and email
- Early arrival/late departure bed and breakfast accommodation bookings
- Regular reports detailing all delegates
- Access to delegates database following event for future marketing
- Development and distribution of joining instructions
- Event signage
- Event catering
- Management of delegate needs during the event to ensure their stay is enjoyable and trouble free

Technical Support: The University’s Audio Visual Services set up all equipment for programme start times. We have costed in two AV technicians for each day.

Additional free support is available from Leicestershire Promotion, who will host a web site and arrange hotel accommodation for delegates (see below)

7. SPONSORSHIP

Although the economic climate is tough we would endeavour to find a range of conference sponsors. A tiered sponsorship programme (Platinum-Gold-Silver-Bronze) would be made available to allow sponsors to buy in to levels of presence and involvement in the programme. For the high level sponsors it would be anticipated that time would be made available in the programme in return for their support., and space is available for exhibits.

Potential sponsors for this event would likely include the JISC, ProQuest, The British Library, SCONUL, and UKCoRR

8. TRAVEL

Leicester lies at the heart of England in the East Midlands. With excellent road, rail and air links, it is easy to reach from all parts of the UK.

By Air: The city is service by East Midlands Airport, Birmingham and London Luton.

By Train: Leicester is on the direct line from St. Pancras International, London. Direct trains from London take 75 minutes and run hourly. Eurostar from Paris and Brussels arrives at St. Pancras International making Leicester very accessible to European delegates.

By car: Leicester is 2 hours by car from London, 1 hour from Birmingham and 2 hours from Manchester. The M1 passes through Leicestershire, with Junction 21 providing good access to the city.

The University is within walking distance of Leicester City Railway Station (15 minutes), and is well served by public transport. See Maps & Directions for more information.
9. ACCOMMODATION

We can offer a variety of accommodation to suit a variety of budgets.

University accommodation is available at Opal Court. 419 bedrooms are available, double en-suite for single occupancy. Bedrooms are inclusive of tea/coffee in bedrooms, bath towel and hand towel provided changed every two days, servicing daily, access to a shared kitchen/lounge area plus Internet access. Opal Court is within a 5 minute walk to the University campus. Car parking is located at a public car park 10 minutes walk.

In addition Leicester has quality, graded hotel accommodation all within 10-20 minutes walk of the campus. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

10. PROPOSED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We would offer a reception on the first night with drinks and canapés. Delegates would then be free to eat out if they wished at any of the numerous Indian restaurants locally. As a venue we are exploring New Walk Museum & Art Gallery, a short stroll from the University campus. An alternative venue is the National Space Centre, a 15 minutes coach ride from the University.

The Conference Dinner would be held on the second night, and would be included in the cost of the conference. We suggest that it is held in Leicester’s new, award winning theatre, Curve, which can accommodate over 300 delegates. There would also be entertainment after the dinner, possibly bhangra dancing to reflect Leicester’s cultural diversity, or more traditional dancing with Morris men led by one of the University’s eminent space scientists!

We would be delighted to offer delegates a tour of the award winning David Wilson Library during a lunch hour.

On the Saturday Leicestershire Promotions are prepared to organize a half day trip to a local tourist spot, possibly the traditional market town of Melton Mowbray, Rural Capital of Food 7 Drink, to taste local Leicestershire produce such as its world famous pork pie, Stilton and Red Leicester cheeses, culminating with lunch on the Great Central Railway. Voted number 12 on the list of the 50 greatest railway journeys in the world the Great Central Railway is the UK’s only double track, main line heritage railway.
An alternative full day trip can be arranged to either historic Warwick Castle or Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

11. TOURIST INFORMATION

Restaurants

Leicester and Leicestershire have a scrumptious food and drink offering - with Michelin starred restaurants, award-winning chefs, rural country pubs, contemporary restaurants and country tea rooms there’s plenty to enjoy. Leicester is known as the Curry Capital of Britain with good reason. Take your tastebuds on journey and visit contemporary restaurants serving a fusion of indo-chinese delicacies or head to a more traditional curry house serving the best in Indian cuisine...

Local Attractions

From the heart of the newly regenerated city with its world class theatre, arts and culture, aspirational shopping at High Cross, contemporary cuisine and award-winning family attractions, to the peace and tranquility of rolling countryside home to 100 square miles of the unique National Forest, Leicester is a vibrant and diverse destination in the heart of the country.

Leicester is well known as an important Roman settlement, and evidence of this can be seen at the Jewry Wall Museum in the city. Take a guided walk around Castle Park, Leicester’s old town and see the medieval Guildhall and the Great Hall of Leicester Castle.

Close to Leicester is Bradgate Park, an historic Mediaeval deer park in the heart of the ancient Charnwood Forest. An important part of the history of the Park are the ruins of Bradgate House, home to Lady Jane Grey, who was Queen for nine days before being beheaded in 1554.

In the west of Leicestershire, visit the Battle of Bosworth Visitor Centre, and find out all about the battle that claimed the life of King Richard III. Battle re-enactments and other historic events regularly take place here.

The county boasts many splendid stately homes including the 17th century Stanford Hall, the majestic Belvoir Castle and the unique Calke Abbey. Medieval jousting festivals are often held at Belvoir, and also at Rockingham Castle near Market Harborough.

Leicestershire is also home to Foxton Locks, a remarkable piece of Victorian engineering, where you can walk along the inclined plane of locks, enjoy a day of orienteering or hire a narrowboat and enjoy the scenery from the water.

Beyond Leicestershire other major tourist attractions are Nottingham and Sherwood Forest, home to Robin Hood, Warwick Castle, Stratford-upon-Avon and the Derbyshire Peak District.
12. PROVISIONAL COSTS

The provisional costs below are based where possible on 2013 prices.

Conference Registration (including Conference Dinner, excluding accommodation).

Assuming 100 delegates £450
Assuming 150 delegates £350

University Accommodation at Opal Court
Room only £34 + VAT per night
Bed and full English Breakfast £39 + VAT per night
Hotels (single occupancy plus breakfast) ranging from £52.99 - £119

We are exploring the issue of VAT to see if we can claim exemption.
We are happy to discuss early bird discounts, NDLTD discounts etc.

13. CONTACT DETAILS

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me:
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>No. of Bedrooms</th>
<th>Exclusive ETD Rates</th>
<th>Single occupancy bed and breakfast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belmont Hotel</td>
<td>The hotel is closest to Leicester University city campus and is a family run town-house hotel. * DDA room has larger doorways, wetroom with shower inside, lower mirrors and grip bars. Pull cords for emergencies and a kit available with vibrating pillow and hearing loop etc.</td>
<td>75 rooms in total, 2 suites, 8 executive rooms, 65 standard rooms, 1 accessible room*.</td>
<td>£90.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn</td>
<td>Based on the edge of Leicester's retail quarter, this 3 star hotel offers all you would expect from a Holiday Inn. * DDA Compliant Rooms – with accessible bathrooms and lowered sinks and baths.</td>
<td>50 rooms are executive suites. 4 DDA Rooms*</td>
<td>£90.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td></td>
<td>135 rooms. Incl. 9 DDA rooms*.</td>
<td>£52.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Inn</td>
<td>This budget hotel is situated next to Leicester Railway Station.</td>
<td>135 rooms. Incl. 9 DDA rooms*.</td>
<td>£52.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td></td>
<td>104 rooms in total 16 executive rooms/sky studios 3 DDA rooms* 85 standard rooms</td>
<td>£100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramada Encore</td>
<td>This hotel, which opens in Spring 2011, is situated within the Cultural Quarter.</td>
<td>115 rooms</td>
<td>Awaiting details.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belmont Hotel</td>
<td>This hotel is closest to Leicester University city campus and is a family run town-house hotel. * DDA room has larger doorways, wetroom with shower inside, lower mirrors and grip bars. Pull cords for emergencies and a kit available with vibrating pillow and hearing loop etc.</td>
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