



Factsheet

Electronic Theses and Dissertations Preservation Archive

The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (<http://www.ndltd.org>) and the MetaArchive Cooperative (<http://www.metaarchive.org>) share the goal of enabling higher education institutions to provide long-term, open access to electronic theses and dissertations (ETD). In support of this goal, they are engaged in a pilot project to co-host a secure, geographically distributed dark preservation archive for ETDs as part of the MetaArchive Cooperative's LOCKSS-based network.

Current Participants in the ETD Archive

Boston College+
PUC Rio+

Emory University+
Rice University+

Florida State
Virginia Tech+

Georgia Tech

Imminent Participants

Auburn University
University of North Texas+

Indiana State University+
University of South Carolina

University of Louisville+

Goals and Deliverables

The pilot program (June 2008-May 2010) seeks to accomplish two major goals: first, to investigate a key series of research questions concerning collaborative preservation efforts for digitized and born-digital ETDs; and second, to establish and populate an ETD Archive within the MetaArchive Preservation Network.

The program's objectives include:

1. Study via surveys and case studies the digital preservation readiness of ETD collections with regards to such issues as metadata practices, formats, file structures, and repository structures.
2. Develop standardized exchange mechanisms between leading ETD repository structures (such as CONTENTdm, ETD-db, DSpace, and Fedora) and LOCKSS.
3. Document best practices for ETD preservation readiness (e.g., NDLTD Preservation Strategy: <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/NDLTD/Preservation/NDLTDPreservationPlan20090606.pdf>)
4. Establish and populate an ETD Archive within the MetaArchive Preservation Network.

Initial findings have been published and presented, including:

Martin Halbert, Gail McMillan, and Katherine Skinner. "Avoiding the Calf-Path: Digital Preservation Readiness for Growing Collections and Distributed Preservation Networks," *Archiving 2009 Proceedings*, pp. 86-91.

Gail McMillan. "ETD Preservation Survey Results," 11th International Symposium on ETDs, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland. June 2008.
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/presentations/Drafts4Aberdeen/ETDpreservPaper20080520c.doc>

Katherine Skinner and Gail McMillan. "Surveys of Digital Preservation Practices and Priorities: Findings of the MetaArchive Cooperative," NDIIPP Annual Partners Meeting, June 24, 2009.

For more information about the ETD Archive, please contact the project lead, Gail McMillan (gailmac@vt.edu), and/or the MetaArchive Program Manager, Katherine Skinner (katherine.skinner@metaarchive.org).