Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Eliminating Borders

Gail McMillan
Scholarly Communications Project
University Libraries
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
This is not your mother’s dissertation.

Contemporary Turkish Coffeehouse Design Based on Historic Traditions

Timur Oral
MS, Interior Design

April 1997
This is not your father’s dissertation.

All the King’s Horses:
Delta Wing Leading-Edge Vortex System Undergoing Vortex Breakdown:
A Contribution to its Characterization and Control under Dynamic Conditions

Norman Schaeffler
Phd, Engineering Mechanics

April 1998
ETDs at Virginia Tech

» 1,859 online theses/dissertations
  • 1494 available to the public
    > 879 unlimited access
    > 579 VT only access
    > 36 mixed access options
    > 365 inaccessible
1,859 ETDs: How did we get here?

» Goals
  • Graduate School
  • Library goals
» From authors to users
» Issues that surfaced
» NDLTD: 62 member institutions
Why have ETDs?

» Students can learn to use digital libraries and publish electronically

» Students can be more creative in their scholarship
  • gain skills that enhance marketability
  • prepare future academics and scholars

» Knowledge demonstrated is easily and widely available
ETDs: Library Goals

» Improve library services
  • Better turn-around time
  • Always available

» Reduce work
  • catalog from etext
  • eliminate handling: binding, labeling, check-out, check-in, reshelving, etc.

» Save space
ETDs: from authors to users

» Produced using standard word processors
» Delivered as portable document format (PDF) files
» Approved by the Graduate School
» Available to users
» Cataloged and archived by the library
» Downloaded by UMI from the library
ETDs Stimulated Discussion!

» Goals: OK
» Copyright
» Publishers
» Archiving
Copyright and Authors

» Retain their rights
» Permit library to store and to provide access
» Give publishers similar permissions
Copyright and Publishers

» Early controversies waning slowly
  • American Chemical Society
  • Association of Computing Machinery
  • Elsevier

» Want authors to transfer all their rights

» Many will share if you ask
Archiving

- Digital format only
- Frequent back-ups
- Copies on multiple servers at multiple sites
- Collaborate to mirror sites
This could be your dissertation.

an end to the ‘other’ in landscape architecture:
poststructural theory and universal design

David Orens

Master of Landscape Architecture
April 1997
NDLTD: Networked Digital Library of Theses & Dissertations

» Join 56 other universities also learning about electronic publishing and digital libraries, enhancing graduate education, discussing the issues, etc.

» No cost!

http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses

gailmac@vt.edu
## NDLTD members

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Why might your university want to be involved?

» To improve graduate education
» To unlock university information
» To save money for students and for the university
» To build an important digital library that will help other digital libraries get built
Electronic Theses and Dissertations

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