

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) into the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations

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What are We Doing?

- Using computer-based technology to help improve the content and availability of theses and dissertations
- Educating future scholars so they can publish electronically and effectively use digital libraries

Why are we doing it?

- So students can be more creative and expressive in their scholarship
- So the knowledge contained in TDs can be easily and widely accessed
- So students can become information literate and be prepared for a future in the Information Age

How are ETDs being done at Virginia Tech?

- Produced using standard word processing packages as PDF files
- Reviewed by the Graduate School
- Cataloged and archived by the library
- Downloaded by UMI from the library

What are the benefits?

- Save the student money without a significant increase in effort
- Save shelf space in the library
- Build the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations
- Make access to ETDs more rapid and less expensive

How has usage changed?

- For Virginia Tech theses submitted 1990-94, the combined avg circulation per copy is 2.24/yr
- For Virginia Tech dissertations submitted 1990-94 the combined avg circulation per copy is 3.2/yr
- For July-August 1996, there were 1190 inquiries to the 50 ETD abstracts and 324 to fulltext



Universities Participating in the Project

- Auburn University
- Clemson University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- University of Georgia
- Mississippi State University
- North Carolina State University
- Univ. North Carolina Charlotte
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University



Status of the Project

- Approved by university governance for implementation in Spring 1997
- Submission software now in place
- Submission workshops for students and faculty occur often
- Over 50 ETDs have been submitted
- The project is being expanded to involve other universities

Who are the sponsors and cooperators?

- Virginia Tech
- SURA
- CSGS/CGS
- DoEd FIPSE
- University Microfilms
- IBM
- Adobe Systems

What is the future?

- North Carolina State University is implementing a start-up plan.
- The SURA/SOLINET Monticello Electronic Library will include theses and dissertations.
- This concept will be extended to the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations.

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 others get built

ETD Contributors

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