

**Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations**  
or  
**Electronic Theses and Dissertations**  
or  
**Whither Graduate Scholarly Publishing?**

**Project Briefing for Spring 1998 CNI Meeting**

Edward A. Fox, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA  
<http://www.ndltd.org> [etd@vt.edu](mailto:etd@vt.edu)

**Key Facts Related to Session**

- Funding is provided by U.S. Department of Education (FIPSE)
- Support is provided by ACM, Adobe, Arbortext, CGS, CNI, CSGS, IBM, Microsoft, OCLC, SOLINET; new grants have been awarded / applied for / will be applied for in Australia / Russia / Hungary ...
- 50K/yr. works (mostly dissertations) go to UMI
- 400K/yr. students get masters or doctorate in US
- Virginia Tech requires electronic theses & dissertations (ETDs); a total of 23 universities worldwide will eventually also require submission
- ETDs seem to be accessed 10-100 or more times as much as paper versions; the most popular ETDs had over 9K / over 7K downloads of the PDF version!
- Students learn about electronic publishing and digital libraries through ETDs
- Preparing an ETD using PDF is easy and less expensive for students

**Why You Should Attend This Session**

- Everyone:
  - Since this is a classic CNI-type-project, with all the challenges
  - Since this will build an important national (international) resource
  - Since this will prepare future scholars and researchers for the Electronic Age
  - Since this will become an important vehicle for knowledge sharing
- University Personnel:
  - Since in the long term this can save you and your students money
  - Since this will make your research much more accessible world-wide
  - Since this should lead to higher quality and more expressive publications
  - Since this is a model project to see how “going digital” can aid your institution
- Publishers:
  - Since this will prepare your future authors to submit electronically
  - Since this will help your future authors understand copyright issues
  - Since this will supplement your publications with longer, multimedia works

**Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations**  
or  
**Electronic Theses and Dissertations**  
or  
**Whither Graduate Scholarly Publishing?**

**Project Briefing for Spring 1998 CNI Meeting - Page 2 of 2**

### **Discussion Questions Relating to Access and Archiving**

- Options for Access
  - Through card catalogs
  - Through WWW search engines
  - Through a federated search system (see <http://www.theses.org>) or a distributed digital library (e.g., Dienst as in NCSTRL: <http://www.ncstrl.org>) with components based on local, state, regional, national, ... preferences
  - Through UMI's centralized services with *Dissertation Abstracts*
- Options for Archiving
  - By university
  - By state or regional organization (e.g., Monticello Electronic Library, CIC)
  - By national libraries or other government agencies
  - By for-profit organizations (e.g., UMI)
  - By not-for-profit organizations (e.g., OCLC)
- Technical Issues
  - Paper vs. Microfilm vs. Electronic
  - Costs, Economic Models
  - Migration of Media
  - Role of Standards vs. Rich Hypermedia / (Inter)Active Programs
- Economic: Students, Universities, Access Providers, Archivers

### **Discussion Questions Relating to Publishing**

- Copyright
  - What rights belong to students, journal publishers, book publishers?
- Right of First Publication
  - How are derivative works defined in this context?
- Electronic Rights Management
  - How can new tools/policies maximize a range of options from open sharing to various types of restrictions, in a sustainable situation?
- A New Genre for ETDs?