ETD’s at the University of South Florida

Monica Metz-Wiseman
Coordinator of Electronic Collections
Background

• Early interest from USF in ETD’s with then Graduate Dean, Dr. Donna Dickerson
• Pilot Project, 2001: Beginning ETD’s were primarily created in HTML
• Mandatory submission, incoming students, Fall, 2002, two formats: PDF and HTML
• Developed Digital Media Institute
Background

- Requested and received funding for one full time staff member, Graduate Studies
- Requested and received $100,000 for start-up: servers, hardware, Adobe licenses, SiteSearch, Library
- For submission used Virginia Tech software
More Background

• Had four access options:
  – Release entire work for world-wide access
  – Release the entire work for campus access only
  – Secure the entire work for patent and proprietary purposes
  – Release the entire work for campus access only, while releasing parts of the work for world-wide access. Parts of the work may also be completely withheld from access
More Background

• As of 2006 have two options:
  – Release entire work for world-wide access
  – Release entire work for world-wide access within one year

Restricted ETD’s: little change, from 25% to 20% restricted
More Background

• Sponsored International ETD Conference, Fall 2001

• Due to archival considerations, dropped HTML as a format, met FCLA format requirements, allowing USF to archive ETD’s through FCLA

• Stopped local hosting of ETD’s in favor of FCLA providing public access through WebLUIS/Aleph
Who Does What Now

• Graduate School
  – Format Check
  – Technology Support
  – Working with UMI
  – Final check on submitted files, invalid characters, file names
  – Submission and tracking software, My SQL with PHP front-end
Who Does What Now

- Academic Computing
  - Instruction in use of software
    - Word
    - Multi-media software
    - Working with Adobe
  - Online tutorials
  - In-person sessions
Who Does What Now

• Library
  – Cataloging for inclusion in Aleph and OCLC
  – Access issues
  – Archiving
  – Submission software through DigiTool
    • (NEW: Spring, 2007)
    • Access to ETD’s: WorldCat, ProQuest, Aleph, Institutional Repository, NDLTD, Google
What we Learned: The Bad

• Switching systems can delay the most important aspect of ETD’s: ACCESS
  – Run parallel systems if at all possible until the switch is made
• A successful program can become invisible
  – Loss of technical support position in Graduate School
• We never seemed to get a handle on use statistics.
• Without a catalyst or due to nature of PDF, students create ETD’s like paper version
What we Learned: Good

• Cooperation among Library, Graduate School, Academic Computing is first and foremost
• Communication to all the stakeholders in the decision to go mandatory is worth the extra effort
• Timing is critical
• Advocates from around the campus can make all the difference in a successful program.
• Money helps, but all of the above are more important.
We have over 1500 ETD’s online
– Students are very positive regarding ETD’s. They are pleasantly surprised how painless the process is and are very appreciative of the help they receive.
– Access to ETD’s: WorldCat, ProQuest, Aleph, Institutional Repository, NDLTD, Google