



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 WebLUIIS/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.



Today

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