

# United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association

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### USETDA 2023 Conference Access and Accessibility: Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship

### **USETDA 2023**

13th Annual Conference on Electronic Theses and Dissertations

### Virtual Conference September 20-21, 2023

Access & Accessibility Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship

The US Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA) will hold its 13th annual conference from September 20 – 21, 2023 as a virtual event. USETDA 2023 will provide

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excellent educational opportunities for graduate school, disability and student services, offices of diversity, equity and inclusion, library, information technology and industry professionals and others who work with electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), institutional repositories, graduate students and scholarly communications. Our goal is to offer relevant, practice-oriented content that supports ETD productivity improvement and ETD professionals. This includes the advancement in ETD operations, the encouragement of the formation of regional ETD associations and networking communities, as well as providing useful and innovative resources, standards, and technology for the development and support of ETD programs. Proposals are welcome from graduate school, disability and student services, offices of diversity, equity and inclusion, library, information technology and industry professionals as well as graduate students, and faculty.

The conference theme "Access and Accessibility: Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship" will delve into accessibility as it impacts various aspects of the creation and dissemination of scholarly work. We will examine the present use and availability of ETDs and related initiatives. We will also explore new and emerging ETD practices, needs, and influences that impact administrative, graduate school, and library professionals.

The USETDA 2023 conference will be an online virtual event hosted via Zoom. The program will include plenary panel presentations, breakout sessions, flash talks, user group meetings, poster presentations and workshops in which participants can join in the live discussions. Additionally we will host networking opportunities offering a variety of social engagement opportunities for participants. Through our Call for Proposals we welcome your experiences as well as how to provide new capacities to re-envision the future, best practices and policies. Presentation materials (slides, papers, posters, videos) will be included in the online proceedings.

### **USETDA 2023 Conference Organizing Committee**

- Ellen Amatangelo (Brigham Young University Library)\*
- Valerie Emerson (George Washington University Libraries)\*^
- Sally Evans (George Mason University Library)\*
- Teri Green (University of Toledo College of Graduate Studies)\*^
- John Hagen (Renaissance Scholarly Communications, USETDA Executive Director)\*^
- Erin Kauffman (University of Iowa Graduate College)\*^
- Teri Robinson (Mississippi State University Libraries)\*
- Stacy Wallace (University of Florida Graduate School)\*
- Emily Wuchner (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate College)\*^
- Aura Young (University of North Carolina Charlotte, The Center for Graduate Life)\*^

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^Program Committee Member

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- Resources for Students

#### **ETD Organizations**

- Florida ETD Group (FLETD) 0
- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) 0
- OhioLINK ETD Center Advisory Council Formerly OETDA 0
- Texas Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (TxETDA) 0

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# United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association

### **Call for Proposals**

Click here to view the USETDA 2023 Conference Call for Proposals information. Abstract registration deadline: April 14, 2023 Submission deadline for presentations and papers: September 1, 2023. The USETDA 2023 Conference will be held September 20 – 21, 2023 as an online virtual event.

**CFP** Resources

- Code of Conduct
- Poster Guidelines
- Selection Rubric
- CFP Link
  - https://easychair.org/cfp/usetda2023

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### **USETDA 2023**

13th Annual Conference on Electronic Theses and Dissertations

### Virtual Conference September 20-21, 2023

Access & Accessibility Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship

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**USETDA 2023** 

**13th Annual Conference on** 

**Electronic Theses and Dissertations** 

Virtual Conference

September 20-21, 2023

Access & Accessibility

Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship

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# United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association

### **Conference Invitation**

The United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA) will hold its 13th annual conference from September 20 - 21, 2023 as a virtual event via Zoom. To register, visit our registration information Web page.

### About USETDA 2023

USETDA 2023 will provide excellent educational opportunities for graduate school, library, disability and student services, offices of diversity, equity and inclusion, information technology and industry professionals and others who work with electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), institutional repositories, graduate students and scholarly communications.

### The conference theme "Access and Accessibility:

Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship" will delve into accessibility as it impacts various aspects of the creation and dissemination of scholarly work. We will examine the present use and availability of ETDs and related initiatives. We will also explore new and emerging ETD practices, needs, and influences that impact administrative, graduate school, and library professionals.

### **Program Highlights**

This year's program includes a variety of engaging panel discussions, presentations, posters, networking sessions and a workshop on accessibility. For complete details, visit our **Program Schedule.** 



Rallying A11Y Stakeholders: Digital Accessibility Project Planning Roundtable Session (Lily Compton and Kristin Terrill, (Iowa State University Graduate College)

**OhioLINK Accessibility Local Implementation Panel** Discussion (Kim Fleshman, Bowling Green State University Graduate College; Emily Flynn, OhioLINK; Teri Green, The University of Toledo College of Graduate Studies; Tim Watson, The Ohio State University Graduate School; Cindy Kristof, Kent State

University Libraries; and Natalie Cowan, Case Western Reserve University School of Graduate Studies)

Piloting an Asynchronous ETD Pre-check: Serving the Off-campus and the Timepoor (Kristin Terrill, Lily Compton and Thomas Elliott, Iowa State University Graduate College)

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**From Correcting Margins to Creating Best Practices: Reconsidering the Role and Responsibilities of the Thesis Office** – (Heidi Arbisi-Kelm, Erin Kaufman, University of Iowa Graduate College; Ashley Messersmith, Purdue University College of Engineering; Valerie Emerson (George Washington University Libraries). Moderator: Emily Wuchner

You Can't Access a Reference that Isn't There: Interventions that Promote the Persistence of Web-Based Evidence in ETDs (Potvin Sarah, Kathy Anders, Tina Budzise-Weaver, Texas A&M University Libraries and Martin Klein, Los Alamos National Laboratory)

**The Thesis Workspace: Creating On-demand Access to Thesis-Writing Resources** (Emily Wuchner, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate College)

### **Networking Opportunities**

You will have the opportunity to participate in a number of networking activities to discuss a variety of ETD topics with colleagues and special interest groups including the ETD Formatting User's Group, ETD Administrator User's Group, OhioLINK User's Group and the Community Engagement Group meetings.



### **Conference Workshop**

We are pleased to offer intensive learning experiences through our conference workshop series. This year's workshop will focus on accessibility. Presenters include: Teri Green (The University of Toledo College of Graduate Studies, Kim Fleshman (Bowling Green State University Graduate College), Alison Thompson (ProQuest). For a complete description, visit the conference workshops Web page.

### Registration

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to learn more and share your experiences with colleagues at USETDA 2023! Member registration is only \$169 or \$269 at the non-member rate through September 15th.\* To register for the conference, visit our registration information Web page.

We hope to see you online at USETDA 2023!

Warm Regards, USETDA Conference Organizing Committee

\*To qualify for member registration rates, active enrollment in a paid institutional or individual membership subscription plan is required. For details visit our Membership Web page.

USETDA 2023 Conference Hooray!

**USETDA 2023** 

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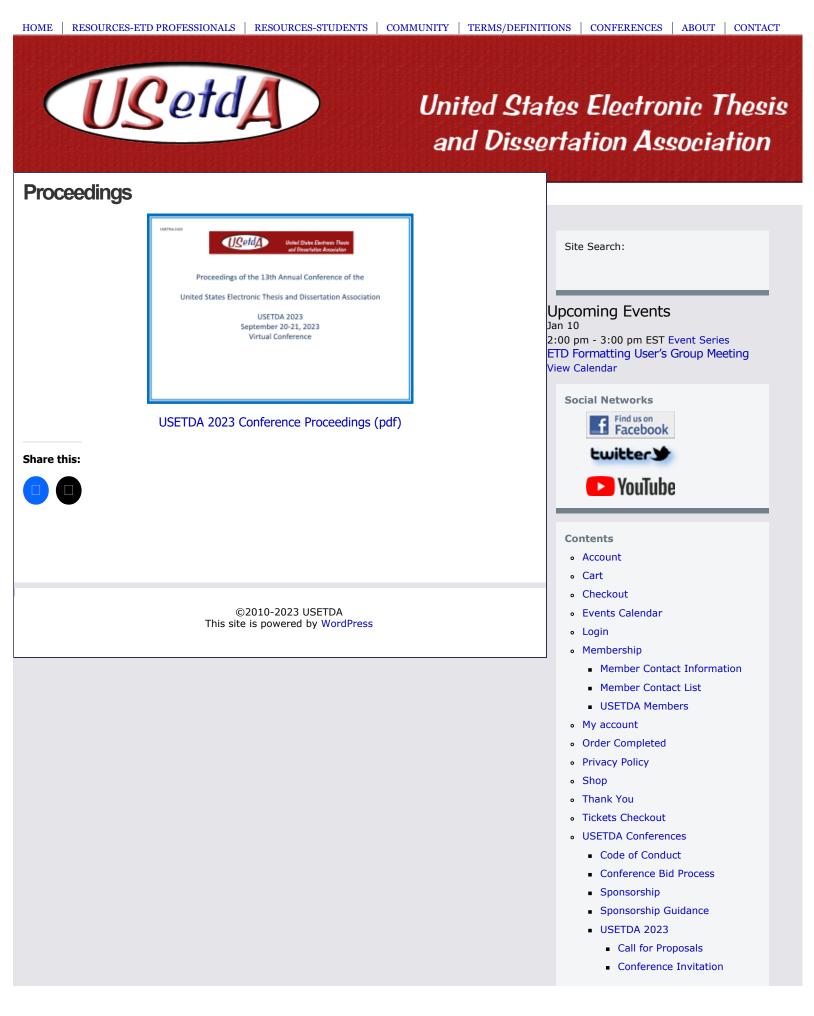


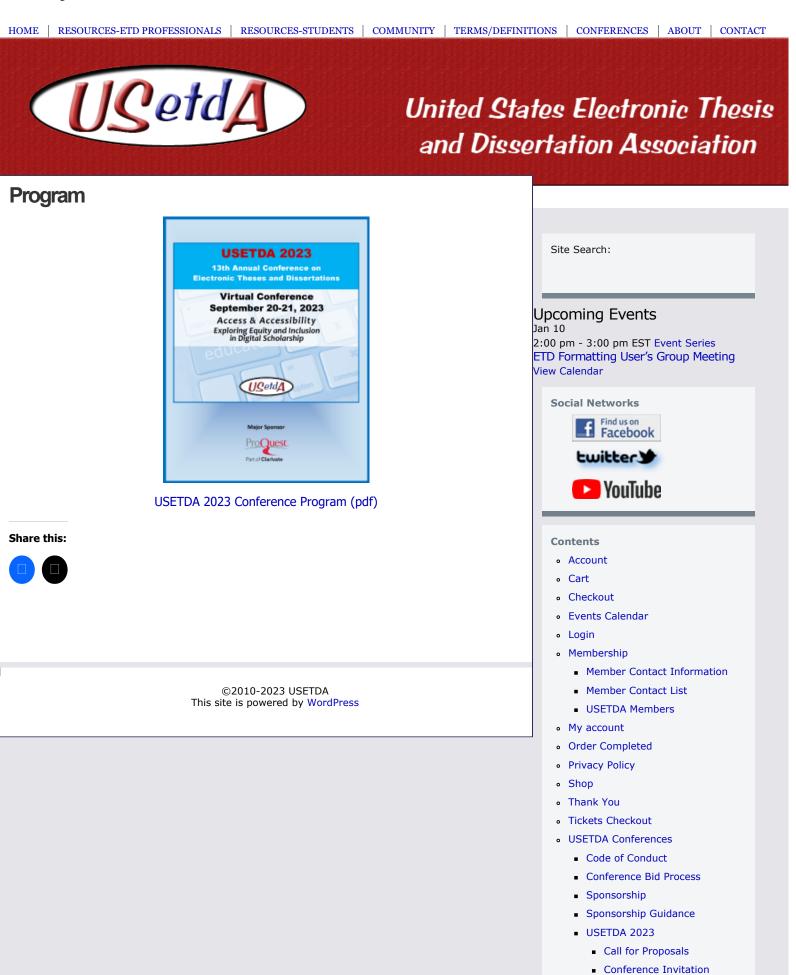
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**USETDA 2023** 

Virtual Conference

September 20-21, 2023

Access & Accessibility Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship

(USetdA)

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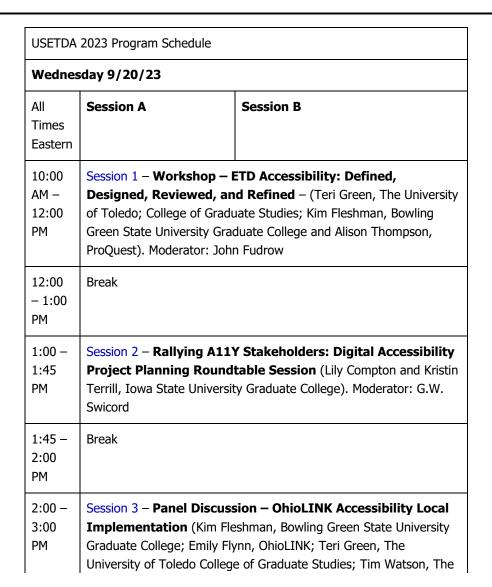
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## **USETDA 2023 Conference**

The USETDA 2023 Conference program includes a workshop, panel discussions, individual presentations, user group meetings and poster presentations.

- To view abstracts of session descriptions, click on each session number below.
- Conference Program (pdf)



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	Ohio State University Graduate School; Cindy Kristof, Kent State University Libraries; and Natalie Cowan, Case Western Reserve University School of Graduate Studies). Moderator: Emily Flynn				
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Break				
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Session 4 – <b>Piloting an Asynchronous ETD Pre-check: Serving</b> <b>the Off-campus and the Time-poor</b> (Kristin Terrill, Lily Compton and Thomas Elliott, Iowa State University Graduate College). Moderator: Teri Robinson				
4:00 – 4:15 PM	Break				
4:15 - 5:00 PM	Session 5 – The Thesis Workspace: Creating On-demand Access to Thesis-Writing Resources (Emily Wuchner, University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign Graduate College). Moderator: Katherine Johnson	Session 6 – You Can't Access a Reference that Isn't There: Interventions that Promote the Persistence of Web-Based Evidence in ETDs (Sarah Potvin, Kathy Anders, and Tina Budzise- Weaver, Texas A&M University Libraries; and Martin Klein, Los Alamos National Laboratory). Moderator: Ellen Amatangelo			
Thursd	ay 9/21/2023				
	Session A	Session B			
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Session 7 – Panel Discussion – From Correcting Margins to Creating Best Practices: Reconsidering the Role and Responsibilities of the Thesis Office – (Heidi Arbisi-Kelm and Erin Kaufman, University of Iowa Graduate College; Ashley Messersmith, Purdue University College of Engineering; Valerie Emerson, The George Washington University Libraries). Moderator: Emily Wuchner				
11:00 - 11:15 AM	Break				
11:15 - 12:00 PM	Conundrum of Senior T Institutional Repository Claremont Colleges Library Collaborating to Improv Nimer and Rebecca A. Wie Library); (11:45 AM) Use of	ntations – (11:15 AM) The hesis in the Library's Open Access ( Jennifer Beamer and Ken Cotich, r); (11:30 AM) Archivists and ETDs: ve Access and Preservation (Cory L. derhold, Brigham Young University of AI-based Tools like ChatGPT in very Process: A Threat or a Blessing?			

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	(Md. Zillur Rahman, Ahsanullah Uni Technology Library). Moderator: Te	•	
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Break		
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Session 9 – <b>ETD Formatting User's Group Meeting</b> (Sally Evans, George Mason University Libraries). Moderator: Ruth Lu		
1:45 – 2:00 PM	Break		
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Administrator User Users	n 11 – <b>OhioLINK ETD Center</b> <b>Group Meeting</b> (Emily Flynn, NK). Moderator: Teri Green	
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Break		
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Session 12 – Community Engagement Group Meeting (Emily Wuchner, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate College). Moderators: Emily Wuchner, Valerie Emerson. Flash Talks: Switching New URLS for Old in Library Catalog Records / A Stable ID as an Anchor (Elizabeth McDonald – The University of Memphis Libraries) The Journal of Electronic Theses and Dissertations Charlie Greenberg, Managing Editor, J-ETD) Microsoft Copilot: Artificial Intelligence for ETD Formatting (Kristin Terrill, Iowa State University) Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Programs Around the World (Behrooz Rasuli, Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology) Dissertation Writing Retreat (Ruth Lu, Ohio University) Community Engagement Opportunities (John Hagen, USETDA)		
4:00 – 4:15 PM	Break		
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Wrap Up Discussion / Virtual Co Vice Chair, John Hagen, Executive I		

USETDA 2023



# United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association

Abstracts

# **USETDA 2023 Conference**

**Program Schedule** 

Conference Program (pdf)

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### Wednesday, September 20, 2023

### 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (all times are Eastern)

*Workshop – ETD Accessibility: Defined, Designed, Reviewed, and Refined.* Teri Green (The University of Toledo, College of Graduate Studies), Kim Fleshman (Bowling Green State University Graduate College) and Alison Thompson (ProQuest part of Clarivate). Moderator: John Fudrow.

**Abstract.** An accessible document is created to be easily navigated, read, used, and understood by a wide audience, including people with disabilities and those who use a variety of adaptive technology, devices, software, and hardware to achieve equal access. While many universities have focused on accessible websites, course instruction, library content and events/physical spaces, student-authored ETDs only recently are being recognized as an output of and therefore representative of, the institution. As an ETD practitioner, you may be asked to instruct on, design, review, remediate, approve, or publish an accessible ETD. This workshop will address the basic principles and best practices of document accessibility, including source document design, accessibility wizards and checkers, and resources to further refine the process at your own institution. Interactive exercises will give you a hands-on opportunity to create, review, and fix common accessibility issues in documents, focusing on Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF formats. ProQuest/Clarivate will join us to share their work with thought leaders on establishing best practices, building robust resources, and their vision for an accessible future in the world of ETDs.

Keywords: accessible document, electronic thesis, dissertation, workshop

### 1:00 - 1:45 PM

*Rallying A11Y Stakeholders: Digital Accessibility Project Planning Roundtable Session.* Lily Compton and Kristin Terrill (Iowa State University Graduate College). Moderator: G.W. Swicord.

**Abstract.** Recently many of us have voiced concerns about updating our Electronic Thesis Dissertation Administrator (ETDA) practices to support digital accessibility mandates. Responding to a need for more clarity, planning, and direction, this virtual roundtable session aims to combine our collective knowledge and ingenuity towards practical guidance for our community. Iowa State University is a publicly funded land-grant university responsible for



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making its research available and accessible to the public. Its digital accessibility policy will be in full effect by July 1, 2026. This policy has implications for the Thesis and Dissertation Writing Program (TDWP) run by the Center for Communication Excellence (CCE), housed within the Graduate College. To ensure that our TDWP will be prepared for the policy, we have begun documenting our journey in an Open Educational Resource (OER) that will document our thought process about holistic and systemic change to the TDWP and the ETDA process. In this session, we will share a list of questions related to resources, auditing, stakeholders, and other issues. We will also share strategies and resources in place as well as tentative ones. We invite our USETDA partners to join our discussion to add to our list and focus on strategies for small, medium, and large universities and divisions of responsibility. We recognize that the process of implementing an institutional change of this size can be daunting for many ETDAs, especially those who work independently or have limited resources. Therefore, our goal is to create and share an OER that can provide ETDAs with a tool kit of strategies for marshalling expertise and determining needs and responsibilities for relevant stakeholders. The shared vision and ideas from this session will make the OER into a versatile roadmap to digital accessibility for theses and dissertations.

Lily Compton is the Assistant Director for Programming in the CCE, Graduate College for Iowa State University. She oversees the Graduate College's guidelines and policies for theses and dissertations

Kristin Terrill is a Graduate Student Services Specialist in the CCE, Graduate College for Iowa State University. She reviews ETDs and oversees ETD templates and resources.

**Keywords:** digital accessibility, stakeholders, project planning, collective knowledge, open educational resource, institutional change

### 2:00 - 3:00 PM

*OhioLINK Accessibility Local Implementation Panel.* Kim Fleshman (Bowling Green State University Graduate College), Emily Flynn (OhioLINK), Teresa Green (The University of Toledo College of Graduate Studies), Tim Watson (The Ohio State University Graduate School), Cindy Kristof (Kent State University Libraries) and Natalie Cowan (Case Western Reserve University School of Graduate Studies). Moderator: Emily Flynn.

**Abstract.** Our panel will discuss implementation of accessibility at each of our schools. Issues with Word, PDF, and LaTeX. The policy at OhioLINK vs our respective school's policy. Exceptions for the ones that cannot be made 100% accessible. What is allowed, what wording is used, etc.? Also, we would like to talk about the community aspect of the Ohio schools and how we are helping one another through Zoom and with our OhioLINK quarterly meetings.

- 1) implementation
- 2) issues
- 3) exceptions
- 4) policy
- 5) community

Keywords: accessibility, PDF, LaTeX, school policy, exceptions to policy, community

### 3:15 - 4:00 PM

*Piloting an Asynchronous ETD Pre-check: Serving the Off-campus and the Time-poor.* Kristin Terrill, Lily Compton and Thomas Elliott (Iowa State University Graduate College). Moderator:

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#### Teri Robinson.

Abstract. For some graduate students, the week or so after they defend their thesis or dissertation can be more stressful than the defense. Those who did not, or were not able to, attend formatting information seminars and boot camps, didn't know about the available Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) templates, or are novices with digital editing technologies confront a major task of reformatting their long-form documents in the lead-up to graduation. Many are already out of state, working full-time at post-graduation jobs and may even be in a different hemisphere. To serve these students, the Center for Communication Excellence (CCE) piloted an asynchronous format check in the Fall of 2022. We used Canvas as our choice of learning management system to create a hub containing graduation resources, and we enrolled students who had filed for graduation, i.e., were in their final semester. Students could submit their PDFs as an "assignment" through Canvas, allowing them to receive format corrections before submitting to ProQuest for the official review. This pilot program complements the existing, synchronous ETD pre-check program at Iowa State University. It promises to mitigate bottlenecks in the ETD review process, which does not start until after the student completes all the other requirements of their program, including the thesis/dissertation defense. This existing workflow has led to a glut of ETD reviews in the last month of the semester, when delays in reviewing can be extremely stressful for graduate students, if not actually detrimental to their plans after graduation.

By shifting much of the formatting work to earlier in the semester, this asynchronous format check gives students more time to format their ETDs and reduces stress for the ETD reviewers. In this single session presentation, we summarize the process of planning and putting together the ETD resource hub on Canvas, demonstrate the process of submitting, pre-checking, and providing feedback to students, and discuss ongoing improvements. Attendees will get ideas for how to enhance outreach and provide individualized feedback to students with an ETD resource hub in a learning management system.

The authors work at the CCE, Graduate College for Iowa State University.

**Keywords:** asynchronous, learning management system, pilot program, streamlining ETD processing

### 4:15 - 5:00 PM (Breakout A)

*The Thesis Workspace: Creating On-demand Access to Thesis-Writing Resources.* Emily Wuchner (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate College). Moderator: Katherine Johnson.

**Abstract.** Traditionally, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Thesis Office has mostly supported students in the final stages of degree completion and thesis deposit. But in interactions with students, they have expressed the need for support earlier in the thesis-writing process.

In brainstorming our strategy to fill this gap, several factors came into play. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we found that students wanted to engage with our services differently. We found that attendance at workshops and office hours was very low but online traffic to our web resources was higher. In evaluating our audience, we found that many of our students were working full-time jobs, in fully online programs, or working remotely (sometimes out of the state or country), and they were unable to interact with some of our services during the 9-5 window. These challenges were not exclusive to the Graduate College, as we found that our campus partners were struggling to build connections, too.

Our solution was The Thesis Workspace: an interactive, asynchronous resource to guide students through the early stages of writing their thesis, empower them to take charge of the

process, and help them build community. The Workspace is built in Canvas (our campus' course management system) and contains seven modules that correspond to different phases of the process (see this link: grad.illinois.edu/thesis/development). The content included in The Thesis Workspace was built in collaboration with campus units including the writing center, the copyright librarian, library subject specialists, the IRB Office, the patent office, and the university press. The resources at our university are siloed, and this allows students to have access the information they need to be successful.

This presentation will discuss the impetus in creating The Thesis Workspace and lessons learned. Next, we'll share the communication strategy used to advertise this resource, plans for adding and updating content, and advice on moderating discussion boards. Finally, we will help attendees map out a plan for introducing a similar resource at their own institutions.

Keywords: graduate school, access, thesis deposit, Canvas

### 4:15 – 5:00 PM (Breakout B)

You Can't Access a Reference that Isn't There: Interventions that Promote the Persistence of Web-Based Evidence in ETDs. Sarah Potvin, Kathy Anders, Tina Budzise-Weaver (Texas A&M University Libraries) and Martin Klein (Los Alamos National Laboratory). Moderator: Ellen Amatangelo.

**Abstract.** Like many other scholarly publications, Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) suffer from reference rot, a phenomenon in which web-based resources cited in the work change, cease to function, or disappear; unlike many other scholarly publications, ETDs are created and published by students and administered by faculty, and staff working within a single university.[1] ETD's positioning within the university allows for a greater breadth of intervention and involvement, through targeted tools and support, in ETD processing, management, dissemination, and preservation.

In this presentation, a team of researchers from Texas A&M University and Los Alamos National Laboratories will provide an overview of their work to mitigate reference rot in ETDs through sociotechnical interventions, melding technical solutions (robust links, permalinks, web archiving, and, ideally, Vireo integration) with human awareness (workshops and other forms of instruction to ETD authors). This work, which focuses on active data curation, preserving, and web archiving as a collaboration between graduate authors and ETD administrators, thematically aligns with USETDA's interest in both graduate research practices and ETD processing. Not assuming any previous technical knowledge among attendees, this presentation will introduce the problem of reference rot in ETDs and report on findings from surveys and workshops conducted in Spring 2023. In keeping with USETDA's theme of Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship, the presentation will also discuss disparities in web-archiving and persistence across scholarly communication, emphasizing the particular vulnerability of references to "web-at-large" materials, which are typically not preserved and archived to the same degree as scholarly journal articles.[2]

[1] Mia Massicotte and Kathleen Botter, "Reference Rot in the Repository: A Case Study of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in an Academic Library," Information Technology and Libraries 36, no. 1 (2017): 11–28, https://doi.org/10.6017/ital.v36i1.9598.

[2]Martin Klein, Herbert Van de Sompel, Robert Sanderson, Harihar Shankar, Lyudmila Balakireva, Ke Zhou, Richard Tobin, "Scholarly Context Not Found: One in Five Articles Suffers from Reference Rot," PLoS ONE 9, no. 12 (2014), https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0115253.

**Keywords:** ETD, reference rot, web archiving, sociotechnical intervention

### Thursday, September 21, 2023

### 10:00 - 11:00 AM

*From Correcting Margins to Creating Best Practices: Reconsidering the Role and Responsibilities of the Thesis Office.* Heidi Arbisi-Kelm (University of Iowa Graduate College), Erin Kaufman (University of Iowa Graduate College), Ashlee Messersmith (Purdue University College of Engineering) and Valerie Emerson (The George Washington University Libraries). Moderator: Emily Wuchner.

**Abstract.** For many decades, thesis examiner work was characterized by carefully measuring margins with the proverbial ruler, stamping-off on signature sheets, and collecting bound, paper copy theses for distribution. While this creates an antiquated picture of the profession, too often we experience that this depiction is still applied to the work. We see the role of the thesis examiner moving from exclusively managing backend manuscript examination and clearance to also providing frontend support for the development of publication, data management, and preservation best practices. Some universities have begun to rethink the responsibilities of the thesis office, especially with the emergence of new-form student scholarship.

During this panel, we will explore changes to the portfolio of the thesis office on our campuses through two lens. First, we'll explore the role the thesis office plays in the development and preservation of student work. As student work becomes more complex, the thesis office may be called upon to help students create work that can be preserved and accessed for years to come. We see this sort of support as making a positive—and professional—contribution not only to broader university life, but also to the public good. Second, we'll discuss strategies to advocate for ourselves and our role at institutions. Presenters will discuss some of the changes they have made (or hope to make), conversations they have shared, questions they have, and/or challenges they see moving forward. This session will be interactive, so we encourage attendees to share their thoughts and questions.

This panel was originally proposed by the University of Iowa thesis office and accepted for the 2021 Midwest Association of Graduate Schools conference, but this event did not take place due to the pandemic. The panelists have not yet been determined.

Keywords: professionalization, new-form scholarship, reconsidering the thesis office

11:15 – 12:00 PM (Poster Presentations) Moderator: Teri Robinson

### 11:15 AM

*The Conundrum of Senior Thesis in the Library's Open Access Institutional Repository.* Jennifer Beamer and Ken Cotich (Claremont Colleges Library).

**Abstract.** Scholarship@Claremont (S@C) is the official institutional repository for the Claremont Colleges Consortium (a group of seven library arts colleges in Southern California) and is managed by The Claremont Colleges Library. For more than ten years, library staff has been assisting Seniors with posting their undergraduate theses as a part of the ETD program, and they are some of the most downloaded items numbering in the 300,000-plus range. These are accessible via Open access and on the Campuses only. This poster will share some challenges in hosting and posting workflows for students, policies, and procedures for library staff and our campus partners. We will also share our pre-deposit support to students and faculty through education and advocacy. Finally, we would like to share and discuss pathways for moving forward with Senior Thesis.

Keywords: Baccalaureate Senior Thesis, Library Repository, Open Access, Campus Only,

Undergraduate Works

### 11:30 AM

*Archivists and ETDs: Collaborating to Improve Access and Preservation.*Cory L. Nimer and Rebecca A. Wiederhold (Brigham Young University Library).

**Abstract.** While discourse surrounding ETDs in academic libraries often focuses on scholarly communications issues, many repositories are also required to preserve theses and dissertations as part of the institution's official record. However, this dual mandate for preservation and access can be complicated by organizational structures or policies that separate archivists from institutional repositories. This poster will review two surveys of archives at ARL libraries in the United States and their reported involvement with ETD and institutional repository programs. It will also consider the role of the archivists in the retrospective digitization of legacy archival copies of theses and dissertations, and current best practices regarding retention of these scholarly works.

**Keywords:** theses, dissertations, ETDs, archivists, records, preservation, collaboration, retrospective digitization

### 11:45 AM

*Use of AI-based Tools like ChatGPT in Research and/or Discovery Process: A Threat or a Blessing?* Md. Zillur Rahman (Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology Library).

### Abstract.

This article outlines the implications of the utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for research and discovery processes. Recently, the controversy surrounding the deployment of OpenAI's Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) Chatbot has been widely discussed in the academic community, leading to heated debates about the future of academic research practices. OpenAI's ChatGPT, a public tool, is based on GPT's language model technology and is capable of understanding and interpreting user requests, resulting in the generation of appropriate responses in near-natural human language. Despite its positive implications, there are a number of ethical and privacy concerns that must be taken into account when utilizing ChatGPT. Without going into technical detail, the author will outline the most significant issues and provide recommendations for addressing them regularly.

AI-based ChatGPT emerged in November 2022 as a powerful tool for processing and discovering intellectual property. Since then, many analysts have remarked that ChatGPT will create pressure on many things, including the job market. Some analysts mentioned that ChatGPT will not only reduce job opportunities but also create new jobs for many people. At present, many companies are doing market analysis and intellectual write-ups using ChatGPT. In the research field, use of ChatGPT is growing rapidly. AI is becoming more and more popular in research because more and more scientists are realizing how useful it is to use AI to analyze data and review literature, like in studies like systematic literature reviews (SLR). AI supports academic research by all means, methodically and productively. Though AI is in the early stages of its invention, its impact has already sparked interest in all fields, especially qualitative and quantitative research. Various studies show that AI enhances research where no technical knowledge is required for the use of AI. This article provides an overview of the implications of the utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research and discovery. This article also assesses the implications of ChatGPT on ETDs and the impact of ChatGPT to librarians and graduate school administrators, in ETD processing workflows. To gain a better understanding of the facts, the study utilized systematic literature reviews to provide guidance for the use of AI in the research process. The aim of this article is to

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explain how a researcher can use GPT and similar model to progress research especially in scientific research besides its discussion on pros and cons.

Keywords: ChatGPT, OpenAI, Artificial Intelligence, Research and Discovery Process

### 1:00 - 1:45 PM

*ETD Formatting Users' Group Meeting.* Sally Evans (George Mason University Libraries). Moderator: Ruth Lu.

**Abstract.** The United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA) founded the ETD Formatting User's Group in 2021 to give a platform and a source of support and advice to reviewers of theses and dissertations. At each yearly conference, the group will meet to discuss the past year's challenges, issues and successes in the field, and to share knowledge and resources with colleagues. Furthermore, we will consider the future of formatting and format reviews: how is our field changing? How should our field change? Please join us as we present issues, share solutions, and learn from one another.

Keywords: formatting, format review, users' group

### 2:00 - 3:00 PM (Breakout A)

*ETD Administrator User Group.* Austin McLean, April Ellsey, Gilia Smith and Alison Thompson (ProQuest part of Clarivate). Moderator: John Hagen.

**Abstract.** We invite new and prospective users to participate in an interactive discussion of the free to authors and universities ProQuest ETD Administrator workflow and management system. Find out about new development and improvements and get an update on the ETD Administrator system. Share best practices and learn how to get the most from the system, including populating your institutional repository.

Keywords: ETD, ETD Administrator, System, Workflow, Management

### 2:00 – 3:00 PM (Breakout B)

OhioLINK ETD Center Users Group Meeting. Emily Flynn (OhioLINK). Moderator: Teri Green.

**Abstract.** The OhioLINK Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Center includes 36 institutions and their students in Ohio with over 100,000 open access ETDs. This session will begin with a brief system update then become a discussion with current institutional users of the OhioLINK ETD Center, with a focus on digital accessibility of ETDs. Others who are interested in learning more about the OhioLINK ETD Center are welcome to attend as well. OhioLINK staff will provide a brief update, facilitate discussion, and answer questions about the OhioLINK ETD Center.

**Keywords:** ETD, electronic theses and dissertations, open access, consortium, digital accessibility

### 3:15 – 4:00 PM

*Community Engagement Group Meeting.* Emily Wuchner (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate College). Moderators: Emily Wuchner, Valerie Emerson.

**Abstract.** The USETDA Community Engagement Group was formed in 2021 and focuses on identifying opportunities for members to learn more about important topics in the everchanging thesis landscape, promoting professional development among members, and creating a space for networking. At this conference, we'll host five-minute flash talks so that our members can share some of their innovative ideas, topics they are exploring, and new discoveries.

Keywords: ETD, engagement, community					
4:15 – 5:00 PM					
Wrap Up Discussion / Virtual Cocktail Party. Emily Wuchner, Vice Chair, John Hagen, Executive Director (USETDA)					
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**USETDA 2023** 

**13th Annual Conference on** 

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Virtual Conference

September 20-21, 2023

Access & Accessibility

**Exploring Equity and Inclusion** 

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# United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association

### **Registration Information**

The US Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA) will hold their 13th annual conference, "USETDA 2023" from September 20 - 21, 2023 as a virtual event via Zoom virtual conference system. To learn more about the event, visit our conference invitation Web page.

Please review the following information before registering. You will find our Registration Checklist and Rates Chart listed below.

**Registration** will be available May 15, 2023 through September 15, 2023 at the rate of \$169 for members or \$269 for non-members. Presenter rates are available at \$69 for members and \$169 for non-members. To receive member rates, you must be enrolled in an active paid institutional or individual membership subscription plan. To register follow the registration checklist below.

**Membership**: USETDA members receive a considerable conference registration discount over non-member rates to attend the annual conference. *The Institutional* membership option provides the discount registration rate to all persons at the member institution or organization. The *Individual* membership option is intended for individuals independent of organizations or for use where your institution may not yet offer or support an ETD program. Complete information is available on our membership Web page.



### **Registration Checklist**

**1.** Check the status of your USETDA membership to confirm registration discount eligibility. To receive a discount, we require an active paid institutional or individual membership plan enrollment with USETDA. Associate memberships do not qualify.

- 2. Review the USETDA Conference Rates Chart (below) to confirm applicable fees
- 3. Pay membership fee (if applicable) via our Membership Web page

**4.** Purchase conference registration tickets and complete the online registration form via our Events Web page

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### USETDA Conference Registration and Membership Rates Chart

Membership Enrollment Fee (Annual)		Membership fees must be paid separately from registration via our Membership Web page.
Institutional	\$100	Discount member registration rate applies to all staff at the organization
Individual	\$50	Intended for individuals independent of organizations or for use where your institution may not yet offer or support an ETD program
Registration Options		Purchase conference registration tickets and complete the online registration form via our Events Web page
Member registration	\$169	Requires valid institutional or individual membership
Non-member registration	\$269	
Presenter (Member) registration	\$69	Presentation must be accepted by the Program Committee. Requires valid institutional or individual membership
Presenter (Non-member) registration	\$169	Presentation must be accepted by the Program Committee
Related Conference Event Fee (if applicable)		
Workshops	\$0	Workshop Descriptions
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### **Payment Terms:**

Payment is expected at the time of registration. We recommend that membership payments be completed prior to purchasing registration tickets via our membership Web page. Discounted member registrations received without valid memberships will be invoiced at the institutional rate and billed to the conference registrant. We accept all major credit cards and PayPal for payment. Instructions for wire transfer and invoices are available upon request at info@usetda.org.

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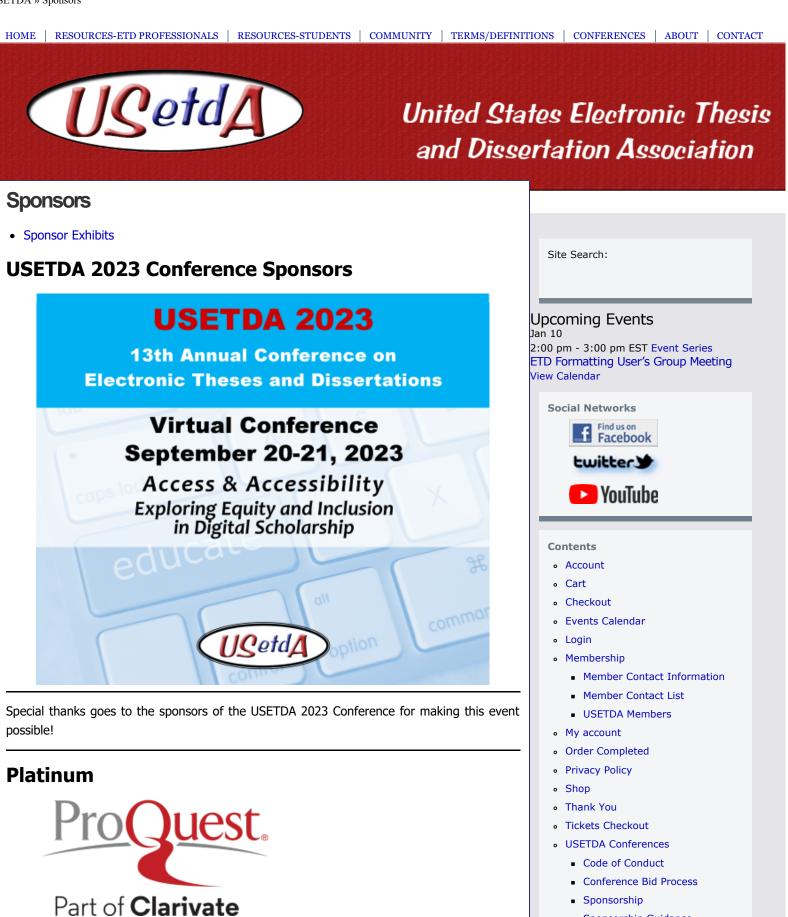
You must notify the Conference Organizing Committee in advance of the conference date at info@usetda.org. Cancellations will be subject to a 25% service fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellation requests received after September 19, 2023. Cancellations will be processed within 60 days after the end of the event.

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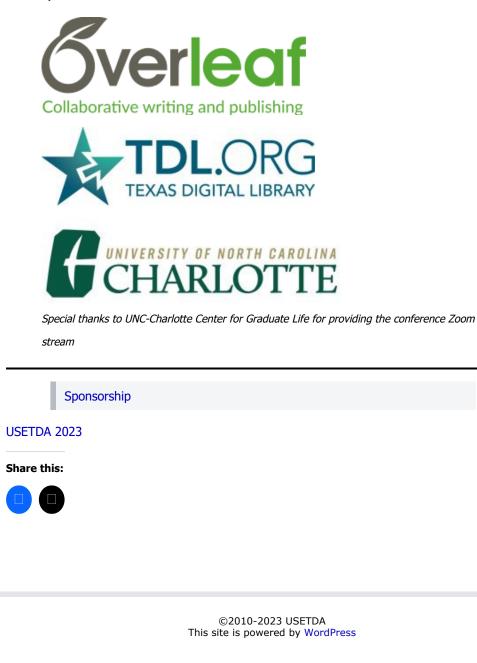
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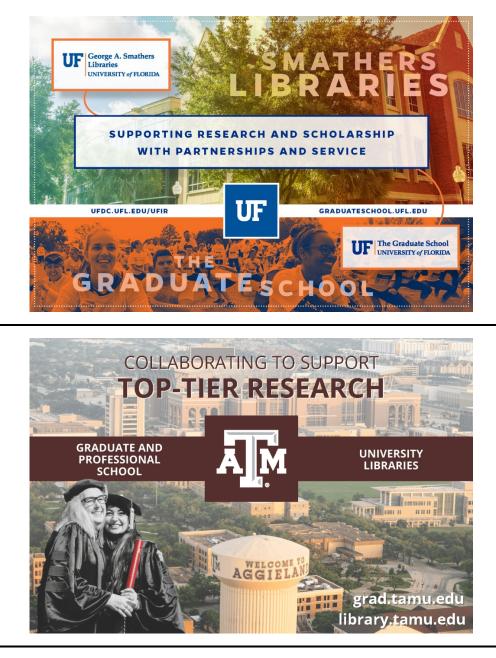


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# United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association

### Sponsorship

The US Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA) will hold their 13th annual conference, "USETDA 2023" from September 20 - 21, 2023 as an online virtual event.

USETDA 2023 is for graduate school, disability and student services, offices of diversity, equity and inclusion, library, information technology and industry professionals and others who work with electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), institutional repositories, graduate students



and scholarly communications. Our goal is to offer relevant, practice-oriented content to support ETD professionals, advance ETD operations and efficiency, and encourage the formation of state-wide ETD associations in the United States.

The conference theme "Access and Accessibility: Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship" will delve into accessibility as it impacts various aspects of the creation and dissemination of scholarly work. We will examine the present use and availability of ETDs and related initiatives. We will also explore new and emerging ETD practices, needs, and influences that impact administrative, graduate school, and library professionals.

### **Sponsorship Options**

The USETDA offers a variety of conference sponsorship options to help support our mission as well as to promote your brands, products and services. You will find the USETDA Conference sponsorship options listed below. Please take a few moments to consider which level of support you could offer and the benefits we provide. Sponsors are welcome to submit a research-based program for consideration in the Call for Proposals (not intended for product demonstrations).

Responses to this sponsorship invitation should be sent no later than August 10, 2023.

### About USETDA 2023

USETDA 2023 is the national conference for ETD professionals from all areas: graduate schools, libraries, and information technology specialists. Our focus is on relevant and current issues with an emphasis on sharing practice-based resources from around the U.S. We anticipate over 200 people will attend, with most constituents being from the United States. In past years we have averaged hundreds of participants attending and had numerous corporate and non-profit sponsors, including colleges and universities, institutional repository and archival system providers, digital technology applications companies, bookbinders and other library and graduate school related services. Part of the conference

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includes an ETD technology fair, where vendors can set up exhibits and interact with our audience. Additionally, there are opportunities to participate in the conference during plenary and breakout sessions as well as through advertising and distribution of your promotional materials at the venue and online. We offer a variety of accommodations to suit your promotional needs.

USETDA conferences are a fantastic venue for you to reach out to your constituents. Please consider showing your support by sponsoring this important event.

### **USETDA 2023 Sponsorship Options**

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Logo graphics should be submitted at the time of sponsorship confirmation (TIF or EPS for print display and png or jpg for online display). Advertisements must be submitted no later than August 10, 2022 (camera ready PDF with or without bleed marks).

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### **Contact Person:**

John H. Hagen Executive Director, USETDA johnhagen@usetda.org

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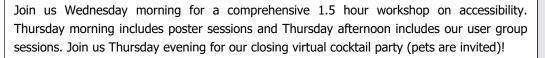
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### Welcome to USETDA 2023

The USETDA Conference Organizing Committee is delighted to welcome you to the 13th Annual USETDA Conference – "Access and Accessibility: Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship."

This year's program includes two interactive plenary panel discussions, a workshop, eight 50-minute in-depth presentations, three poster presentations, user group meetings, as well as a variety All of networking opportunities. presentations will be streamed live and recorded via the Zoom virtual conference system during the conference. Participants will be able to interact with each other throughout the event. You can view the entire conference session line up in our program schedule.



We hope you take some time to explore the variety of presentations we're offering as well as to engage with colleagues in the USETDA community. We are all about learning and sharing with each other in a congenial atmosphere. We hope that you will continue the conference excitement throughout the year by participating in our group activities and exploring for like-minded colleagues in our members directory. Below you will find a list of resources to help you navigate the conference program online.

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- USETDA 2023
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Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at info@usetda.org.

USETDA 2023 Conference Organizing Committee

**USETDA 2023** 

**13th Annual Conference on** 

**Electronic Theses and Dissertations** 

Virtual Conference September 20-21, 2023

Access & Accessibility

Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Digital Scholarship

[]Cetd/

Upcoming Events Jan 10 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST Event Series ETD Formatting User's Group Meeting View Calendar



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#### **ETD Organizations**

- Florida ETD Group (FLETD) 0
- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) 0
- OhioLINK ETD Center Advisory Council Formerly OETDA 0
- Texas Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (TxETDA) 0

Support USETDA



# United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association

### Workshops

The USETDA is pleased to offer intensive learning experiences through our conference workshop series. The workshop is 2 hours in length, to be held online via Zoom. Workshop descriptions and presenter information are listed below. All workshops are offered free of charge to conference registrants.

Wednesday, September 20th (10 AM – 12 Noon Eastern)

### ETD Accessibility: Defined, Designed, Reviewed, and Refined

Presented by Teri Green (The University of Toledo, College of Graduate Studies), Kim Fleshman (Bowling Green State University Graduate College) and Alison Thompson (ProQuest).

An accessible document is created to be easily navigated, read, used, and understood by a wide audience, including people with disabilities and those who use a variety of adaptive technology, devices, software, and hardware to achieve equal access. While many universities have focused on accessible websites, course instruction, library content and events/physical spaces, student-authored ETDs only recently are being recognized as an output of and therefore representative of, the institution. As an ETD practitioner, you may be asked to instruct on, design, review, remediate, approve, or publish an accessible ETD. This workshop will address the basic principles and best practices of document accessibility, including source document design, accessibility wizards and checkers, and resources to further refine the process at your own institution. Interactive exercises will give you a hands-on opportunity to create, review, and fix common accessibility issues in documents, focusing on Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF formats. ProQuest/Clarivate will join us to share their work with thought leaders on establishing best practices, building robust resources, and their vision for an accessible future in the world of ETDs.

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