

ETDs for Beginners – Workshop: USETDA 2026 Conference

Implementing electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD) programs on campus can initially seem daunting, but this primer will help guide you through the process. Led by a team of experts, the free 2.5-hour “ETDs for Beginners” workshop is designed for both newcomers and veterans seeking a refresher on essential ETD concepts and resources. Attending this session will help you maximize the value of the ETD Conference.

Key Topics Covered

- Accessing free resources from the USETDA and NDLTD
- ETD implementation and political strategies
- Comparing homegrown ETD systems with pre-packaged open-source and commercial repository options
- ETD office automation strategies
- The roles of university libraries and graduate schools in program implementation and archiving
- Intellectual property considerations and ETD Lifecycle Management
- Utilizing consortia and networking approaches to build effective ETD programs

When: Wednesday, September 23rd from 9:00 – 11:30 AM Eastern

Where: Toledo Renaissance Hotel, Mosaic Room 1 and Virtual (Webex)

Session Organizer & Moderator: John Hagen, Executive Director – USETDA

Agenda

9:00 – 9:10

Introduction and Brief History of the ETD Movement

Edward Fox, Executive Director – NDLTD

9:10 – 9:40

ETD Implementation Overview

John Hagen, Executive Director – USETDA

- Topics include ETD/IR terminology, program implementation planning, setting time lines, establishing initiatives, campus collaborations with graduate school, libraries and information technology divisions, appointing implementation committees, outreach and advocacy promotions, navigating politics, reviewing / selecting IR systems, providing resources and technical support for students, metadata, archiving/preservation, intellectual property and copyright issues, working with consortia, ETD Lifecycle Management, creating a roadmap to successful implementation and best practices.

9:40 – 10:00

ETD Submission Systems

Austin McLean, Senior Director, Partnerships, Dissertations & Theses, ProQuest

- Topics include ETD Administrator and ETD/IR program services

10:00 – 10:10

John Hagen, Executive Director – USETDA

- Repository systems and services - topics include commercial and open source platforms such as DSpace and statewide networked

systems such as OhioLINK ETD repository and Vireo (Texas Digital Library)

- 10:10 – 10:30** **Preservation Strategies**
Brewster Kahle, (Digital Librarian, Computer Engineer, and Internet Entrepreneur, Internet Archives)
- Topics include cooperative distributed and digital preservation services for ETDs and digital collections, the ETD Lifecycle Management and how institutions can participate.
- 10:30 – 10:40** **Break**
- 10:40 – 10:50** **ETD Metadata / Union Catalog / IR Consortium Networks**
Bill Ingram, (Assistant Dean and Director for IT, Virginia Tech University Libraries)
- Topics include the new ETD Union Catalog, breakdown of ETD metadata fields, its importance in uniform application and usage for distributed collections as well as best practices for integrating multi-institutional IR networks.
- 10:50 – 11:15** **Participation in Community Engagement Group / ETD Formatting User's Group / Regional ETD Associations and Digital Library Consortia**
- 10:50 – 10:55** **Kristin Terrill** (Iowa State University Graduate College), **Ruth Lu** (Ohio University Graduate College)
- Topic: Community Engagement Group / Networking Activities
- 10:55 – 11:00** **Sally Evans (George Mason University Libraries)**
- Topic: ETD Formatting User's Group
- 11:00 – 11:15** **Emily Flynn**, Metadata & ETD Coordinator – OhioLINK
- Topics include information about the OhioLINK consortium, the ETD deposit process, the state-wide ETD institutional repository and management of a multi-university repository system
- 11:15 – 11:30** **Discussion / Wrap Up**
Moderator, Panelists and Audience Discussion