Tech's Next Frontier

Transforming Research & Digital Scholarship

United States Electronic Thesis & Dissertation Association

Fourteenth Annual Conference

September 25-27, 2024

Brigham Young University

Provo Utah

Major Sponsors

BYU BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

ProQuest Part of Clarivate

Table of Contents

WELCOME 3

PROGRAM 4

ABSTRACTS 7

SPONSORS 14

For more information, please visit: **www.usetda.org**

#USETDA2024

USETDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Hagen, Executive Director
Emily Wuchner, Vice Chair
Teri Robinson, Secretary
Teri Green, Treasurer
Valerie Emerson, Conference Planning Chair

2024 CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Amatangelo	*Brigham Young University Libraries*
Valerie Emerson	*George Washington University Libraries*
Sally Evans	*George Mason University Library*
Teri Green	*The University of Toledo College of Graduate Studies*
John Hagen	*Renaissance Scholarly Communications, USETDA Executive Director*
Teri Robinson	*Mississippi State University Libraries*
Stacy Wallace	*University of Florida Graduate School*
Emily Wuchner	*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate College*

Welcome

Dear Colleague,

The USETDA Conference Organizing Committee is pleased to welcome you to the 14th Annual USETDA Conference – "Tech's Next Frontier: Transforming Research & Digital Scholarship."

This year's program includes two interactive plenary panel discussions, a workshop, eleven 45-minute in-depth presentations, user group meetings, as well as a variety of networking opportunities. All presentations will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom during the conference and in-person and virtual 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.

Most of our conference functions will take place on the BYU campus – Wilkinson Student Center unless otherwise noted. Join us Wednesday morning for a comprehensive 2-hour workshop on providing guidance for supporting LaTeX ETDs. Wednesday evening join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at our welcome reception at the Provo Marriott Hotel. Thursday morning we'll open with our networking breakfast on campus. Thursday afternoon includes our user group sessions and Thursday evening includes our dine-around excursions to enjoy local cuisine and culture among colleagues. Join us Friday at 11:00 am for our closing session and wrap-up session!

We hope you will 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 also hope that you will continue the conference excitement throughout the year by participating in our group activities.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the registration desk or email us at info@usetda.org.

USETDA 2024 Conference Planning Committee

Cover image: Generated with AI

Program

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

All times Mountain

BYU Wilkinson Student Center, Room 3211

8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration and Vendor Fair - Room 3252
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	**SESSION 1** **WORKSHOP** **Practical Guidance for Supporting LaTeX ETDs** Presentation by Ryan Ross *Moderator: Sally Evans*
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch - Room 3223
1:00 - 1:45 pm	**SESSION 2** **Best Practices for Technologically Transforming the Thesis/Dissertation Retreat** Hybrid presentation by Ruth Lu and Kristin Terrill *Moderator: Teri Robinson*
1:45 - 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 - 3:00 pm	**SESSION 3** **PANEL DISCUSSION** **AI-Facilitated Literature Review: Developing an Instructional Workshop and Leveraging Strategic Partnerships** Presentation by Kristin Terrill and Lily Compton *Moderator: Kim Fleshman*
3:00 - 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 - 4:00 pm	**SESSION 4** **The Essay Is Dead. Long Live the Essay…That Accompanies Alternative ETD Submissions** Virtual presentation by John Fudrow *Moderator: Valerie Emerson*
4:00 - 4:15 pm	Break
4:15 - 5:00 pm	**SESSION 5** **Stop, Remediate, and Listen: Developing Student-Driven Workflows for Creating and Remediating Accessible ETDs** Virtual presentation by Josh Cromwell and Jennifer Vance *Moderator: Kristin Terrill*
5:00 - 5:15 pm	Break
5:15 - 6:00 pm	**SESSION 6** **Preserving Referenced Web Resources in the ETD Process** Presentation by Mark Phillips and Ko Lauren *Moderator: Teri Green*
6:30 - 8:00 pm	Opening Reception: Provo Marriott Hotel - Terrace Lounge

Thursday, September 26, 2024

All times Mountain — BYU Wilkinson Student Center, Room 3380

8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration and Vendor Fair - Room 3252
8:00 - 9:30 am	Breakfast and Regional ETD Association Networking - Room 3223
9:30 - 9:45 am	Break
9:45 - 11:00 am	**SESSION 7** **PANEL DISCUSSION** **Non-Traditional ETDs: Creating Policies and Guidelines for the Future** Presentation by Ericka Findley and Km Fleshman *Moderator: Kristin Terrill*
11:00 - 11:15 am	Break
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	**SESSION 8** **Using an LMS to Restructure ETD Submission: A Five-Year Review** Presentation by Teri Robinson and Danny Davis *Moderator: Teri Green*
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch - Room 3223
1:00 - 1:45 pm	**SESSION 9** **ETD Formatting Users Group Meeting and Flash Talk** Analyzing the Variety of ETDs Layouts of Central Universities of India: An Analytical Study Based on Shodhganga. Presentation by Manmeet Kaur Presentation by Sally Evans *Moderator: Valerie Emerson*
4:45 - 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 - 2:45 pm	**SESSION 10** **Forecasting the Evolution of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs): A Comprehensive Analysis** Virtual presentation by Manmeet Kaur *Moderator: John Hagen*
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 - 3:45 pm	**SESSION 11** **ETD Administrator User Group Meeting** Hybrid presentation by April Ellsey, Lucas Otto, Austin McLean, Gilia Smith, and Alison Thompson *Moderator: Kathy Ivanov*
3:45 - 4:00 pm	Break

4:00 - 4:45 pm	**SESSION 12** **Community Engagement Group Meeting and Flash Talks** (1) What types of sources provide citations to dissertations and theses? Presentation by Joseph Kraus and Christine Baker (2) AI Assisted in ETD backlog cataloging. Virtual presentation by Boutsaba Janetvilay (3) Contributions of National Databases of Electronic Theses and Dissertations to Reducing Information Asymmetry and Generating Value in an Institution. Virtual presentation by Tainá Batista de Assis. *Moderator: John Hagen*
4:45 - 5:00 pm	Break
5:00 - 5:45 pm	**SESSION 13** **Presentation is Everything: Repackaging Information to Streamline the ETD process** Presentation by Linsey Ford *Moderator: Teri Green*
6:30 pm	Dine Arounds (Off-site: dine on your own in small groups)

Friday, September 27, 2024

All times Mountain

8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast (on your own)	
	Session A - Room 3223	**Session B - Room 3222**
9:00 - 9:45 am	**SESSION 14** **Using Quantitative Data to Justify a Request for Increased ETD Administrative Resources** Presentation by Lily Compton and Kristin Terrill *Moderator: Teri Robinson*	**SESSION 15** **Author Integrity in Dissertations** Hybrid presentation by Alison Thompson and Austin McLean *Moderator: Sally Evans*
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 - 10:45 am	**SESSION 16** **New ProQuest Dissertations now Indexed in Web of Science** Hybrid presentation by Alison Thompson and Austin McLean *Moderator: Ellen Amatangelo*	**SESSION 17** **Finding Your Voice: On Composing Your ETD** Virtual presentation by Joseph Moxley *Moderator: John Hagen*
10:45 - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 - 11:45 am	**SESSION 18 - ROOM 3222** **Wrap Up Discussion** Presented by John Hagen	
12:00 pm	Optional Tours (Off-site)	

Abstracts

WEDNESDAY

SESSION 1 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

WORKSHOP

Practical Guidance for Supporting LaTeX ETDs

Ryan Ross, Overleaf

This hands-on workshop gives LaTeX novices an opportunity to learn LaTeX basics, have hands-on practice, and see examples of electronic theses and dissertations written in LaTeX. There will also be time for open discussion and Q&A.

Participants need no prior knowledge or experience with LaTeX, and sample documents for hands-on practice are provided. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the basic principles behind LaTeX
- Create a new LaTeX document from a template in Overleaf
- Edit a document with basic formatting elements
- Insert tables and figures
- Cite references and create a bibliography
- Export their work to a PDF
- Find LaTeX and Overleaf help

SESSION 2 1:00–1:45 PM

Best Practices for Technologically Transforming the Thesis/Dissertation Retreat

Ruth Lu, Ohio University Graduate College
Kristin Terrill, Iowa State University Graduate College

Thesis/Dissertation writing retreat events have proven to be popular and appreciated perks for graduate students approaching graduation. These events provide students an opportunity to dedicate time to writing or formatting their thesis/dissertation manuscript. They can also function as a micro-symposium where graduate students and thesis/dissertation administrators and support staff can interact and address matters of shared concern. Organizing these events well requires time, imagination, and ingenuity. In this presentation, we will explore the affordances of digital technologies for thesis/dissertation retreat events. The talk will describe two case studies: the first, a weekend retreat for Ohio University thesis/dissertation writers that included in-person participants as well as virtual attendees. The second, a half-day retreat held at Iowa State University. The organizers of these retreats used various digital technologies for event planning, advertising, networking, registering participants, facilitating participation, and collecting feedback from attendees. Some technologies that were used include social media, video conferencing, AI design assistance, and QR codes. We will review these technologies in the context of thesis/dissertation writing retreats and provide suggestions for using them in ways that optimize for event accessibility and effectiveness. We will also consider how the use of digital technologies in the context of thesis/dissertation events can both extend the reach of the events, but also present barriers to certain participants.

SESSION 3 2:00–3:00 PM

PANEL

AI-Facilitated Literature Review: Developing an Instructional Workshop and Leveraging Strategic Partnerships

Kristin Terrill and Lily Compton, Iowa State University Graduate College

How should graduate students' use of AI tools be administered when it comes to theses and dissertations? In this breakout session, we will describe how the Center for Communication Excellence (CCE) has taken a leading stance at our institution in establishing recommendations for the use of generative AI in graduate student scholarship. We propose a framework of best practices called AI-facilitated literature review (AI-FLR) intended to provide both high-level guidance and detailed procedures for effective, efficient, and ethical thesis and dissertation literature reviews. In this presentation, we will describe a grant-funded workshop development project that gives graduate students hands-on experience using closed- and open-source generative AI tools as scaffolds for their thesis or dissertation literature review. In this workshop, students will gain competence in three stages required for a thorough thesis/dissertation literature review, starting with finding relevant literature and ending with editing the literature review write-

up. They will practice critically applying AI tools to mechanical tasks while maintaining responsibility for accuracy and reliability. Finally, they will evaluate the outputs generated by AI tools to reinforce their knowledge of research conduct and writing quality.

The AI-FLR initiative aims to optimize the trustworthiness of scholarship produced by Iowa State University's graduate students by tapping strategic relationships with institutional leaders in the three tactical areas: compliance, education, and governance (Deloitte AI Institute, 2023). In this presentation we will outline how the AI-FLR framework initiative has taken shape through collaborations with Iowa State University units: the University Library, the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and the Office of the Vice President for Research. What the CCE brings to these partnerships is a sophisticated understanding of theses and dissertations as a genre of academic writing. With over a decade of experience providing individualized, responsive instruction to graduate student writers, the CCE is uniquely positioned to advocate for graduate education stakeholders in the broader context of the university and university governance. In addition to seeking audience feedback on ways to improve the AI-FLR workshop, we will provide recommendations for ETD administrators aiming to broaden their institutional impact through strategic collaborations.

SESSION 4 3:15 – 4:00 PM

The Essay Is Dead. Long Live the Essay…That Accompanies Alternative ETD Submissions

John Fudrow, University of Pittsburgh Libraries

At the University of Pittsburgh, and elsewhere, a traditional ETD was in an essay format that mimicked the format of print manuscripts from days of yore. But as degrees provided students with more opportunities to create non-essay materials for their capstone projects, our ETD process didn't adapt alongside these changes. Through the efforts of a collaborative team including administrators, faculty, and librarians, a discussion loosely termed "Beyond the PDF" aimed to envision how the university could support and preserve graduate works that push the borders of what many would call an ETD.

In this presentation, I will discuss:

- the challenges we discovered in this process,
- the subsequent inquiries into what might be possible to be considered an ETD,
- how our decentralized approval process would need to be changed,
- possible roadblocks for preservation in our institutional repository, and
- how to assist advisors and students in planning for formatting during their research and drafting stages.

SESSION 5 4:15 – 5:00 PM

Stop, Remediate, and Listen: Developing Student-Driven Workflows for Creating and Remediating Accessible ETDs

Josh Cromwell and Jennifer Vance, University of Southern Mississippi Libraries

The University of Southern Mississippi has included electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) in its institutional repository, Aquila, since 2012. Graduate theses and dissertations are submitted directly by students and approved by the Graduate School before being posted to the repository. While this workflow has worked well for the most part, it has resulted in some accessibility concerns as most graduate students do not have training or experience in creating accessible documents.

This presentation will provide an overview of the two-pronged strategy that we have used to make our ETDs accessible. First, we will discuss how we have utilized student workers and graduate assistants to conduct accessibility checks and remediate errors in previously uploaded ETDs. Then, we will discuss our collaboration efforts with the Graduate School to provide current graduate students with resources they can use to create accessible documents when submitting their ETDs to the repository. We will conclude by discussing what has worked well, what improvements are needed, and our goals and next steps.

SESSION 6 5:15 – 6:00 PM

Preserving Referenced Web Resources in the ETD Process

Mark Phillips and Ko Lauren, University of North Texas Libraries

Web resources play important roles in electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), representing cited scholarly literature, government publications, websites, social media posts, and other resources upon which students build their ETDs. URLs

in the text, footnotes, and references or bibliography sections of ETDs connect readers to the referenced web resources. Preserving these referenced web resources is an important piece of the scholarly communication landscape and is a topic calling for additional attention by the community.

There are two periods when web resources can be archived in the ETD process. The first is pre-submission and relies on the author to proactively archive the web resources referenced in their document. This can be carried out with web-based self-archiving interfaces in existing web archives like the Internet Archive's Save Page Now feature. Once in a public web archive, these web resources can be linked to with Robust Links that provide references to the live web resource and the specific web resource in the archive. The second period is post-submission and typically involves the library or repository responsible for the long-term preservation of the ETD to archive referenced web resources. This generally involves parsing the submitted ETD for URLs then collecting the referenced resources with a web crawler. These archived URLs are either included in a larger web archive or packaged and included with the ETD in the repository.

This paper will focus on a pilot project that the University of North Texas Libraries implemented to test a post-submission workflow for identifying and archiving web resources referenced in the 400 ETDs our students submitted in 2023. We will focus on the tools that were chosen for this work including locally developed PDF link extraction scripts and web archiving tools like Browsertrix Crawler. We will also discuss the packaging of the resulting per-ETD web archives using the WACZ specification and interfaces developed for displaying these archived resources within the repository platform. We hope this paper generates discussion of how different approaches to preserving web resources referenced in ETDs might become commonplace in our institutions.

THURSDAY

SESSION 7 9:45 – 11:00 AM

PANEL

Non-Traditional ETDs: Creating Policies and Guidelines for the Future

Ericka Findley, University of Utah Graduate School
Kim Fleshman, Bowling Green State University Graduate College

As schools are more frequently encountering a variety of ETD submissions that challenge the structure of the traditional five-chapter manuscript, many schools are beginning to reconsider what exactly a thesis or a dissertation really is. While we have previously discussed some of the submissions we've processed as well as some of the more famous examples of non-traditional ETDs, we seek to extend the discussion to the policy surrounding their acceptance. This presentation looks at a variety of policies we've discovered at a number of schools that address the changing landscape. These schools go beyond providing a list of acceptable formats for supplementary materials: they provide supporting guidelines for the acceptance of alternatively formatted material as the final product itself.

We present these findings as a glimpse towards how our own schools (and yours, too!) may better plan for the future. While we are outstanding proponents of welcoming change, we must seek to reconcile these changes within a profession that largely requires a highly structured set of rules. Allowing for exceptions to the existing formats must necessarily entail the creation of new rules that adapt to the unique creations we will see in the future. Not only must we decide what we should accept and what it should look like, we must also determine policies surrounding how to make the material accessible. This presentation adds to the conversation on how schools can begin (or continue) to shift their own parameters.

SESSION 8 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Using an LMS to Restructure ETD Submission: A Five-Year Review

Teri Robinson and Danny Davis, Mississippi State University Libraries

At Mississippi State University, theses and dissertations are reviewed and approved by the Office of Thesis and Dissertation Format Review (OTD). OTD is a part of the University's Library and works closely with the Graduate School to set submission standards. In 2019 OTD began using Canvas, the University's learning management system (LMS), for all thesis and dissertation submissions. Students are expected to enroll in a required course during their final semester to gain access to the submission modules in Canvas. All forms and documents are submitted in Canvas, making the process entirely electronic.

While the Canvas course has proved to be easy for students to navigate, it has not been everything the OTD expected or hoped for when creating the course. There are administrative tasks that were not anticipated, reporting tools not working as

intended, and difficulty getting all of campus to understand and come on board with the new procedures. This presentation will cover how the process has evolved over the last five years using Canvas and cover some of the benefits and disadvantages discovered along the way.

SESSION 9 1:00 – 1:45 PM

ETD Formatting Users' Group Meeting

Sally Evans, George Mason University Libraries

The United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA) founded the ETD Formatting Users' 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.

FLASH TALK

(1) Analyzing the variety of ETD layouts of Central Universities of India: An analytical study based on Shodhganga

Manmeet Kaur, Uttarakhand Sanskrit University Library, Haridwar

This analytical study investigates the differences in Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) design among Central Universities of India using data from Shodhganga. The major objectives of the proposed research are to analyze the range of layouts utilized, assess how well they show academic information, and draw conclusions about how layout modifications affect accessibility and user experience.

The study concentrates on the content analysis of a sample of Central University ETDs and employs a qualitative technique. Chapters organization, overall readability, the use of graphic elements, and formatting styles are among the attributes that are examined. Additionally, the data in each ETD is examined to see if layout choices and consistency or completeness of metadata are connected. Data analysis reveals a large variation in ETD layouts.

The study concludes by emphasizing how crucial it is to see layout design as a significant component of ETD distribution. The accessibility and usefulness of ETDs for researchers, educators, and other stakeholders may be improved by Central Universities by implementing consistent formatting methods and improving metadata completeness. Furthermore, the analysis's conclusions can help develop best practices and recommendations for structuring ETDs, which will improve scholarly communication and the sharing of information within the academic community.

SESSION 10 2:00 – 2:45 PM

Forecasting the Evolution of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs): A Comprehensive Analysis

Manmeet Kaur, Uttarakhand Sanskrit University Library, Haridwar

This study explores the many paths that electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) may take, recognizing and assessing novel trends, challenges, and opportunities. It looks at institutional practices, technological advancements, and literature to forecast how ETDs will develop in higher education. Important study areas include copyright concerns, accessibility, preservation, distribution, and the impact of cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and block chains. This study also discusses the impact of ETDs on academic libraries, scholarly communication, and institutional repositories.

The use of AI techniques in ETDs is becoming more and more essential. They include a number of features that can greatly improve the writing and research processes, including:

1. AI Writing Assistants: These technologies may assist with style, grammar, and maintaining academic integrity, which will speed up the thesis writing process.
2. Data Analysis Software: AI can swiftly process and examine enormous datasets, finding trends and revelations that might strengthen a thesis.
3. Automated Literature Review: AI-powered technologies can identify pertinent studies, condense large volumes of literature, and save researchers time while doing literature reviews.
4. Citation and Reference Managers: AI may help with citation and reference management, guaranteeing correctness and compliance with formatting requirements.

5. Automatic Content Generation: Using natural language processing (NLP), certain AI systems may produce material. This can be helpful for drafting thesis parts or drafts.
6. Research Paper Organizers: By organizing research papers and PDFs, these programs facilitate access to and study of important materials.
7. Semantic Search Engines: AI systems are able to search databases semantically, eliminating the need for keywords to locate pertinent articles and resources.

These technologies are intended to assist researchers by enhancing academic writing quality, automating repetitive processes, and offering insights. We can anticipate these tools becoming much more advanced as AI technology develops, providing researchers and students with even more support.

SESSION 11 3:00 – 3:45 PM

ETD Administrator User Group

Austin McLean, April Ellsey, Gilia Smith, and Alison Thompson, ProQuest part of Clarivate

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 developments 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.

SESSION 12 4:00 – 4:45 PM

Community Engagement Group Meeting

The USETDA Community Engagement Group was formed in 2021 and focuses on identifying opportunities for members to learn more about important topics in the ever-changing 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. This session will include the following flash talks:

FLASH TALKS

(1) What types of sources provide citations to dissertations and theses?

Joseph Kraus and Christine Baker, Colorado School of Mines Library

In order to determine the reach and usage of a specific set of about 65 doctoral dissertations and master's theses that were produced at the Colorado School of Mines from 2007 to 2023, the authors used Google Scholar to determine how many times each of those dissertations and theses had been cited. They also determined what types of sources (such as journal articles, books, conference papers, technical reports, and government documents) cite those publications. Donner (2021) had found that "there are few publications on citation analysis of Ph.D. theses as the cited documents, as opposed to studies of the documents cited in theses, of which there are plenty." Thus, this short talk aims to briefly expand what is known about how researchers cite dissertations and theses.

(2) AI Assisted in ETD backlog cataloging

Boutsaba Janetvilay, California State University of Fresno Libraries

Frustrated with the ongoing backlog of electronic theses and dissertations, the author decided to use ChatGPT to help with the process of cataloging. In ScholarWorks, cataloging is about properly describing or creating metadata for an item and adding it to the institutional repository. The purpose is so that we can retrieve the appropriate data on a subject that we are searching for. The primary purpose of the author was to use ChatGPT to assist with assigning the Library of Congress Subject Headings. After seeing a library's presentation on how we can use AI to create a bibliographic MARC record, the author was inspired to test out ChatGPT. The result was positive with regard to how quickly ChatGPT was able to generate accuracy in assigning Library of Congress Subject Headings.

(3) Contributions of national databases of electronic theses and dissertations to reducing information asymmetry and generating value in an institution

Tainá Batista de Assis, Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (Ibict) Library / Université de Toulon

Universities are the main locus for the production of scientific information, and the products generated in their postgraduate courses are essential for promoting the country's scientific and technological development. The digital environments that

manage and provide access to these scientific productions have become fundamental components, contributing directly to the generation of new knowledge. In 1959, Mikhailov stated that the advancement of science and technology is only possible with well-organized information systems, and that sharing research results is an essential activity for the progress of a country's Science and Technology (S&T). Nevertheless, the development and consolidation of national databases and networks of electronic theses and dissertations are driving the dissemination of knowledge as a common good throughout the world, under the pillars of transparency and democratization of access to information and knowledge. In this sense, this paper aims to discuss the contributions of these spaces as instruments to mitigate information asymmetry and their impact on value generation/measurement. To this end, the scientific methodology chosen is exploratory research, with the aim of broadening the discussion around the value of national electronic databases of theses and dissertations, by demonstrating the contributions of the Brazilian database called the Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDTD). The research concludes that there is concrete evidence of the contributions of national electronic databases of theses and dissertations, especially the BDTD, to reducing information asymmetries in science, as well as generating new knowledge and value for their institutions.

SESSION 13 5:00 – 5:45 PM

Presentation is Everything: Repackaging Information to Streamline the ETD Process

Linsey Ford, University of Houston-Clear Lake Library

From the time our library began accepting ETDs, all resources related to them – templates, format guidelines, submission information, and help videos – have been housed in a LibGuide to which all students are directed. While this put everything in a convenient location, students were not taking the time to view the material. As a result, all but a small percentage of students came to the required formatting appointment with no clue what they were doing. As the sole librarian who oversees the submission of ETDs for the university, working with students who don't take advantage of the information provided to them can be both frustrating and time-consuming.

After several semesters of dealing with this problem, I began to consider how to get students to actually engage with the myriad resources available, to streamline the process and prevent unnecessary stress. I ultimately decided to create a tutorial to present the same information in a different format, breaking it into steps and using videos, images, quizzes, and interactive activities to clarify the process and make the information more memorable.

I plan to share my experience designing and implementing a mandatory tutorial created in Articulate for use by graduate students prior to ETD formatting appointments, which has led to a significant increase in student preparedness and overall efficiency in the formatting and submission process. The presentation will include an explanation of the various types of information included in the tutorial and how it was presented to students, discussion of some of the most noteworthy findings, both data-driven and anecdotal, and mention of lessons learned so others might benefit when conducting similar projects.

FRIDAY

SESSION 14 9:00 – 9:45 AM

Using Quantitative Data to Justify a Request for Increased ETD Administrative Resources

Kristin Terrill and Lily Compton, Iowa State University Graduate College

Time, training, buy-in: these were some of the most prominent themes that emerged from a roundtable session on digital accessibility that we facilitated at last year's USETDA. So, what does it take to convince leadership and gatekeepers to provide ETD administrators with essential resources? In this presentation, we will explain how we used quantitative data from ProQuest ETD Administrator, our institutional repository (IR), and our appointment records to build a case for increasing thesis/dissertation administration funding.

Our analysis was motivated by the problem of creative components—non-thesis master's capstone projects. These documents are stored in the IR and, thus, are covered under the institution's digital accessibility mandate. However, currently, these files are not reviewed prior to IR release, so there is no way of ensuring that they are digitally accessible. By contrast, the Graduate College has established a robust and functional review process for theses and dissertations. Having enacted a plan for incorporating digital accessibility review into this existing process, our next challenge is to develop a parallel workflow for creative components.

Intuitively, we know that current resources are not enough to a) review creative components for digital accessibility, and b) educate student authors to make their documents accessible. To

make a convincing case for increasing staffing, we used available data to quantify how existing resources are used in thesis/dissertation administration. Our analysis shows that reviewing creative components would necessitate at least 167 additional hours (approximately four 40-hour work weeks) per semester. It also showed that the sole factor that significantly decreased reviewing time was pre-submission format consultations with trained graduate assistants. These results indicate a clear need for additional staffing; they also justify the allocation of existing funds to our thesis/dissertation consulting program by showing that consultations reduce re-work for both reviewers and students. We will report on the outcomes of this analysis, as well as some interesting insights that we gained, such as proportions of students using different template platforms. We will discuss implications for how we can best support students' learning needs when it comes to digital accessibility.

SESSION 15 9:00 – 9:45 AM

Author Integrity in Dissertations

Alison Thompson and Austin McLean, ProQuest, part of Clarivate

The session will provide background and context on plagiarism in the media and the ramifications for authors and institutions. University panelists will share strategies for plagiarism prevention and author integrity checks. We will discuss the originality of AI-generated content and find out how universities are creating policy around this emerging technology. A Clarivate representative will share information about author integrity best practices and resources for academic partners.

SESSION 16 10:00 – 10:45 AM

New: ProQuest Dissertations now Indexed in Web of Science

Alison Thompson and Austin McLean, ProQuest, part of Clarivate

The Web of Science platform provides access to multiple databases that provide citation data from academic journals, conference proceedings, and other documents in various disciplines. As of 2023, Clarivate has integrated ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT) metadata and abstracts with Web of Science. This integration provides authors and institutions with a significantly higher reach for their research and enables Web of Science users to access early career research alongside the data sources referenced above. The session will include partner testimonials to share their experience with PQDT/Web of Science firsthand.

SESSION 17 10:00 – 10:45 AM

Finding Your Voice: On Composing Your ETD

Joseph Moxley, University of South Florida – Department of English

The goal of this session is to help ETD authors better understand the writing process, the importance of "felt sense" and "believing" to composing, creativity -- and impact. Moreover, I'll introduce strategies for managing the process, from logging work to leveraging AI. Naturally, I'll deal with academic conventions and other constraints on composing, especially academe's failure to embrace change/multimodal compositions. Ideally, participants will leave the panel inspired, ready to seize their agency.

EXPLORE UTAH

Check out our insiders guide to find fun things to do, beautiful scenery, and good eats in the Utah Valley.

Sponsors

PLATINUM SPONSORS

ProQuest
Part of Clarivate

BYU
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

GOLD SPONSORS

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SILVER SPONSORS

Overleaf

The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Libraries

BRONZE SPONSORS

GradWorks Online

Renaissance Scholarly Communications

figshare

PARTNER

Texas Digital Library

SERVICES

- **GRADUATE STUDIES**
  96 Master's programs
  30 Doctoral programs
  www.gradstudies.byu.edu
- **SCHOLARSARCHIVE INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY**
  Digital publication of theses, dissertations, and graduate projects
  www.scholarsarchive.byu.edu
- **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**
  Protection and commercialization for technologies invented at BYU
  www.techtransfer.byu.edu
- **COPYRIGHT**
  On-campus copyright support
  www.copyright.byu.edu

CHOOSE
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
FOR YOUR GRADUATE DEGREE

No. 1 Best College Library (*Princeton Review*)

No. 4: Best Master of Accounting program (*U.S. News & World Report*)

No. 4: Best university for technology transfer (Milken Institute)

No. 4: Best run college (*Princeton Review*)

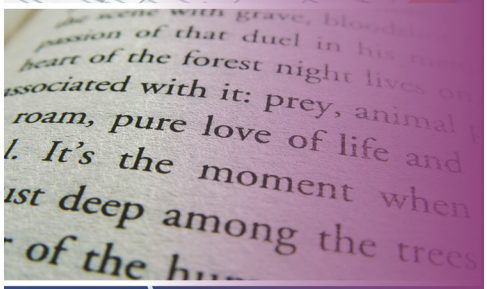
BYU
BRIGHAM YOUNG
UNIVERSITY

Provo, UT 84602, USA **801-422-4636** **WWW.BYU.EDU**

ProQuest's **6M+** dissertations and theses now discoverable on Web of Science

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global with the Web of Science™ enables researchers to seamlessly uncover early career, post-graduate research in the form of **6M+** dissertations and theses from over 4,100 institutions from more than 70 countries, alongside journal articles, conference proceedings, research data, books, preprints and patents.

The integration and introduction of the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Citation Index eliminates the need for researchers to search multiple databases, allowing them to streamline their workflow and focus more on their academic success and research advancements. Direct full text linking from the Web of Science to the ProQuest platform is now available for joint subscribers of the Web of Science and PQDT Global.



WELCOME to USETDA, 2024!

Join our sessions:

Thursday, 9/26/24 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.
Session 11: ETD *Administrator User Group Meeting* (Austin McLean, April Ellsey, Gilia Smith and Alison Thompson).

Friday, 9/27/24 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
Session 15: *Author Integrity in Dissertations* (Alison Thompson and Austin McLean).

Visit the ProQuest booth to learn more and meet the team.

- **April Ellsey**
  Senior Director, Dissertations
- **Austin McLean**
  Senior Director, Partnerships, Dissertations
- **Gilia Smith**
  Director & Partnerships Manager
- **Alison Thompson**
  Product Manager

Learn more at:
dissertations.com

ProQuest Dissertations & Theses GLOBAL

ProQuest
Part of Clarivate

COLLABORATING TO SUPPORT
TOP-TIER RESEARCH

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

grad.tamu.edu
library.tamu.edu

TEXAS Libraries
The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Libraries

USetdA

Bid to Host USETDA 2026

The USETDA is now accepting bids to host the USETDA 2026 Conference. Please submit your proposal by January 1, 2025. To contact the USETDA Board, send an email to info@usetda.org. For more information, visit https://www.usetda.org/usetda-conferences/usetda-conference-bid-process/.

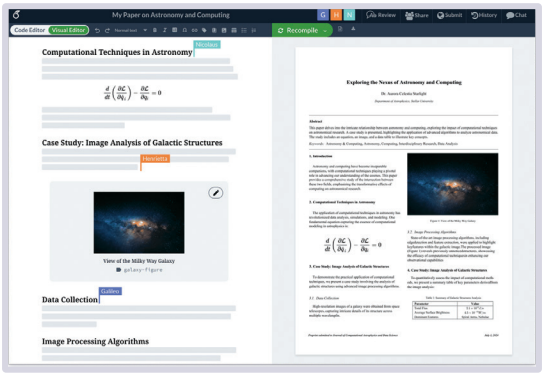
The following information should be included in your institution's bid:

- Hosting organization / institution(s)
- Rationale for hosting the conference
- Planned dates – please include proposed conference dates and explain your choice, including flexibility of proposed dates
- Venue – city, information on conference facilities (e.g., number and size of conference rooms, and availability of Internet access in conference rooms)
- Conference organization:
    - Level of logistical and financial support from host institution
    - Detailed information on conference support personnel
    - Distribution of responsibility for conference organization
    - Capacity to host hybrid and/or virtual conferencing via Zoom, etc.
- Travel/transportation considerations
- Accommodations (type, cost, applicable city and state taxes, and access to conference venue)
- Proposed special activities
- Tourist information
- Restaurants

The USETDA board will work closely with host institution(s) to plan and execute all aspects of the conference.

Overleaf
\begin{writing}

Create smarter theses and dissertations with beautiful formatting, powered by LaTeX



overleaf.com/for/universities

Renaissance Scholarly Communications
Bridging the Knowledge Divide — Consulting Services for Digital Library, Open Access & Social Justice Advocacy

Proud sponsor of USETDA 2024

26 years of experience providing consultation services

- digital libraries
- institutional repositories
- intellectual property
- ETD program implementation
- multimedia production
- conference planning / organizing
- sponsorship fundraising
- promotions & publicity
- open access and social justice advocacy

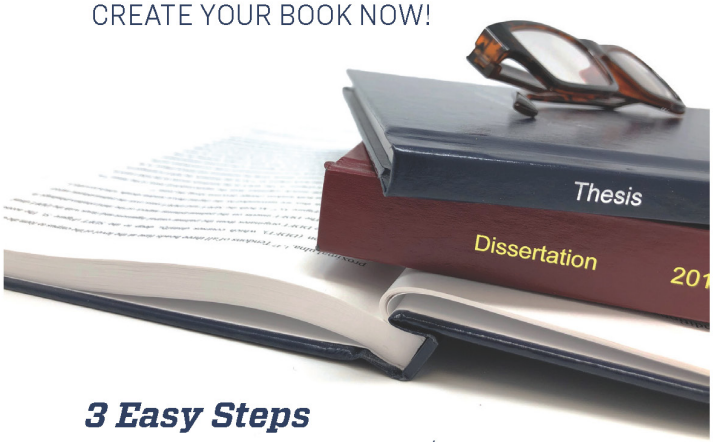
John H. Hagen, Consultant / Owner

www.renaissance-scholar.com

Renaissance Scholarly Communications

GradWorks Online

CREATE YOUR BOOK NOW!



3 Easy Steps
to print and bind your thesis/dissertation.

1 UPLOAD Upload a pdf of your paper.
2 CREATE Choose cover material and foil.
3 SHIP Select your shipping from our options.

www.gradworksonline.com

figshare
A Digital Science Solution

Share, showcase and manage all of your institution's research outputs.

Figshare's industry leading repository infrastructure offers a single solution for storing and sharing data, papers, theses, media and much more.

USETDA 2025

15th Annual Conference on Electronic Theses and Dissertations

USETDA / NDLTD Joint Virtual Conference

USETDA 2025 will provide excellent educational opportunities for professionals from graduate schools, libraries, academic computing and others who work with electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), institutional repositories, graduate students and scholarly communications.

Organized by the United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association and the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations

www.usetda.org