

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



Paul Sheehan

IUI SC 2004

Kilkenny

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



⌘ CONUL Theses Working Group.

☒ Geraldine McFeeley (Convenor)	Dublin City University
☒ Marie Burke	University College, Dublin
☒ Ken Bergin	University of Limerick
☒ Florence Stephenson	University of Limerick
☒ Valerie Seymour	National University of Ireland, Maynooth
☒ Marie Boran	National University of Ireland, Galway
☒ Breda Long	University College, Cork
☒ Maureen Melvin	Trinity College, Dublin
☒ Arlene Healy	Trinity College, Dublin
☒ Michelle Berrigan	Registry NUI Maynooth

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



CONUL Theses Working Group Remit:

- ⌘ How best to enhance access to theses in Ireland
- ⌘ Index to Theses
- ⌘ Development of an electronic theses database for Ireland

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



CONUL Theses Working Group Recommendations:

- ⌘ Index to Theses:
 - ☒ Irish indices within current structure
 - ☒ An 'Irish' page, with links from CONUL libraries etc.

- ⌘ Electronic theses and Dissertations would give improved access

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



ETDs offer:

- ⌘ improved searching/retrieval: all Irish theses could be accessible to all institutions
- ⌘ Savings in shelving space, binding, storage, circulation
- ⌘ Preservation benefits in a digital archive
- ⌘ Students gain experience of publishing

- ⌘ There are examples:
 - ☒ Networked digital library of theses and dissertations (NDLTD)
 - ☒ Australian digital theses programme
 - ☒ European initiatives: Germany, Sweden, UK

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



ETDs Issues

- ⌘ ETDs can offer greatly improved access but...
- ⌘ Stakeholders: authors, libraries, registries, universities
- ⌘ Processes: submission, publication
- ⌘ Intellectual property rights
- ⌘ Searching and retrieval
- ⌘ Technical requirements: formats, formatting etc
- ⌘ Archiving
- ⌘ Cost

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



ETDs: Self publishing?

- ⌘ Analagous to existing print practices
- ⌘ Some elements of infrastructure available e.g. OAi for metadata and searching
- ⌘ IPR retained

- ⌘ Formats and formatting
- ⌘ Archiving

- ⌘ Process changes

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



ETDs: Third party publishing?

- ⌘ Formats and formatting - XML
- ⌘ Archiving
- ⌘ Access
- ⌘ Retrospective conversion
- ⌘ Economies of scale

But...

- ⌘ Differences in USA and European practices: processes, contracts, copyright, royalties
- ⌘ Cost

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



Current position

- ⌘ Expected that paper formats will be preferred medium for 5+ years
- ⌘ Archiving - move to ETDs would need secure stable archive. Microfilm is current standard

But

- ⌘ Digitisation improves access in terms of searching/full text delivery
- ⌘ Some subjects may only be represented in digital formats
- ⌘ OA initiatives may drive ETD developments
- ⌘ Digital submission may become a norm

Electronic Theses and Dissertations



The drivers:

- ⌘ Open access
- ⌘ Self publishing
- ⌘ Intellectual property