Creative Partnerships to Advance Graduate Research in the Digital Age

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USETDA 2011
The magic of ETDs – Where Creative Minds Meet
Services for Graduate Students

Context

“Doctoral preparation remains a striking example of faith-based education…Our practices in doctoral education are a combination of longstanding traditions, replications of how we ourselves were trained, administrative convenience, and profound inertia.”

“Doctoral Education Shouldn’t Be a Marathon”
Lee S. Shulman, President Emeritus, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Library, Graduate School and IT services for graduate students tend to be traditional and generic

- Reference service - in-depth consultation
- Brief presentations to graduate seminars in early phase of proposal development - emphasis on literature review
- Citation management software workshops
- Graduate student carrels
- IT help desk services
- Workshops on software products

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Thesis and dissertation writers are an important sub-group of graduate students

- Generally few or no services targeted specifically to students at this point in their program
- This stage is a major impediment to completion of the graduate program
- Many students could benefit from increased support, contact with appropriate experts, and communication
- What roles can the library, graduate school and IT play?

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
New approaches

- Begin with a needs assessment
- Reports from U. Washington, NYU, and U. Minnesota at ARL/CNI Forum
- Use a variety of approaches - quantitative, qualitative
- Elicit views from diverse departments

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Questions to ETD award winners
(Lippincott/CNI)

- How did you learn what library and IT resources and services were available to you that might assist in your dissertation process?
- Do you believe you received adequate information about IP issues - incorporating others’ materials into your work and how you might want to share and/or protect your own work?
- Do you know about Creative Commons licensing and if so, how did you learn about it?
- Do you have concerns about using standard formats for materials in your dissertation in order that the digital version could be read or viewed in future years as platforms change?

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Response

- The librarian I worked with “is extremely well informed, motivating, and authentically interested.”

- “I do not feel like I have adequate, if any, information about IP issues about how I share my own work... Creative Commons is something I would like to learn more about and how to use/apply...”

Raquel Gutierrez - Dissertation
http://www.ndltd.org/events_and_awards/awards/etd-award-acceptances-2009

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
“Consulting my committee and representatives at the library were key.”

“Many of the IT resources that I used in the process were brought to the table by me to begin with. Some assistance for future students might be helpful. Something like a how-to and/or best practices…”

“I don’t know about Creative Commons licensing.”

Lara Fackrell - Thesis
http://krex.k-state.edu/dspace/handle/2097/792

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Services: Data and E-research

- Access to large data sets
- Creation of large data sets
- Best practices
- Creation of metadata
- Documentation of workflows
- Equipment, software, facilities
- Data repositories - Oregon State U. pilot with Ph.D. programs

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students, ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Services: Intellectual property

- Information on use of others’ works
- Information on licensing one’s own work
- Education about Open Access
- Information about impact of Open Access on future publication of dissertation

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Services: Writing

- Partnering with Writing Center on workshops
- Providing space for Writing Center assistance
- Hosting and encouraging dissertation writing groups - in-person and virtual
- Chapter-sharing events

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Services: Multimedia

- Loan of equipment
- Scanning, poster creation support
- Tutorials, workshops
- Studios
- Exhibits
- Information on intellectual property issues

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Current Trend

- Offer whole suite of graduate support services
  - Data & e-research
  - IP
  - Writing
  - IT
Ohio University

The Learning Commons - Ohio University Libraries

- **Student Writing Center** - Assists Ohio University undergrad and graduate students in meeting the requirements of college writing. Working on a thesis or dissertation final draft? Need assistance with editing and proofreading? FREE one-on-one tutoring; Work alongside students to help them identify and understand ways of strengthening a draft. Our philosophy: “Writing is a process.”

- Student Writing Center Video
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obZyZBkPYIc&feature=player_detailpage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obZyZBkPYIc&feature=player_detailpage)
The Learning Commons - Ohio University Libraries

- J. Leslie Rollins Room for Student Leadership is a specially-equipped room designed to re-create the corporate boardroom experience. This room seats as many as twenty people and has
Ohio University

The Learning Commons - Ohio University Libraries

- **Multimedia Computer Center** - The Multimedia Center has 13 Macintosh computers equipped with an array of software from Adobe, Apple, Microsoft, and other sources. All of the multimedia workstations have scanners.
Ohio University

The Learning Commons - Ohio University Libraries

- **Faculty Commons** - combines a number of faculty support services in one spot: the Center for Academic Technology, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA), Fulbright Scholar Program, and Library Collection Development.
Ohio University

The Learning Commons - Ohio University Libraries

- Café BibioTech – For those caffeine and food urges while researching in the library available day and night.
West Virginia University

- Libraries, Office of Graduate Education, Office of Information Technology & Research Centers
- Data, E-Research
  - GeoVirtual Lab - Department of Geology & Geography

FLEX

What is the FLEX?

- The FLEX (commonly referred to as a "CAVE") is a visualization system that completely immerses users into a stereoscopic, virtual environment, very similar to being inside a video game or CG movie. Seeing your data in the CAVE is a visual experience unlike anything you've seen before.

What can we do with it?

- Imagine working on your data at any scale, enlarge a molecule to fill an entire room, view a city from thousands of feet above the ground, or anything and everything in between. The FLEX system at WVU provides you with the tools you need to interact with your data the way you should.
- Analyze your data in a better way. Based on previous experience, researchers have been able to spot, previously unnoticed, anomalies or key pieces of information within moments of experiencing their data in the CAVE environment.
- Viewing your three dimensional data through a computer screen is like looking at the Grand Canyon from inside a box with a little hole in it. The CAVE system at WVU lets you get outside the box.
West Virginia University

- Libraries, Office of Graduate Education, Office of Information Technology & Research Centers
- Data, E-Research
  - GISTech Data Mine – Department of Geology & Geography
West Virginia University

- Libraries, Office of Graduate Education, Office of Information Technology & Research Centers
- Data, E-Research
  - Virtual Environment Lab – Digital Imaging – Department of Computer Science & Electrical Engineering / Department of English
West Virginia University

- **Libraries**, Office of Graduate Education, Office of Information Technology & Research Centers
- **Data, E-Research**
  - Mobile Applications, Reference Services & Open Access Scholarly Communication Resources – University Libraries
West Virginia University

- **Libraries**, Office of Graduate Education, Office of Information Technology & Research Centers
- **Data, E-Research**
  - Diverse Study & Research Environments – Historic Reading Rooms with Deep Quiet Zones, “Study with a View” in Atrium & Mountaintop Rooms, Group Study Rooms with Smart Boards, Group Study Areas with Mobile Furniture, Computer Stations, Laptop Loans, Eliza’s Café – **University Libraries**
West Virginia University

- Libraries, Office of Graduate Education, Office of Information Technology & Research Centers
- Intellectual Property – University Libraries
  - Fair Use / Plagiarism Tutorials
  - ETD Seminars
  - Information Literacy Education
West Virginia University

- Libraries, Office of Graduate Education, Office of Information Technology & Research Centers
- Writing Services
  - Term Paper Clinics (Undergraduate) – University Libraries / Department of English
  - Center for Writing Excellence – Department of English
    - CWE Lab - Individualized Writing Support
    - Dissertation Boot Camp
  - Graduate Academy – Professional Development – Office of Graduate Education
West Virginia University

- **Libraries**, Office of Graduate Education, **Office of Information Technology** & Research Centers
- **Multimedia Support**
  - Libraries (multimedia computers, scanners, group viewing rooms, IT support)
  - OIT & ITRC (ETD technical support, workshops & computer labs / design & specialized assistance)
Theater students include DVD recordings of their performances as part of their thesis.

Music students include performance files and scores in their thesis or dissertation.

Film and Digital Media students submit interactive DVD games as part of their thesis.

“A requirement for making these processes work for the benefit of faculty and students is **the integration and teamwork** of the U. Writing Center, the UCF Library, the FCLA, OIR, and Graduate Studies.”


Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Dissertation Calculator
Developed by University of Minnesota Libraries
• Center for Teaching & Learning
• Center for Writing
• Center for Research on Development
• Education & Urban Literacy

Stage 1: Compiling your Dissertation
Step 1: Choose topic
Step 2: Formulate a thesis statement
Step 3: Organize the dissertation
Step 4: Write the introduction
Step 5: Write the literature review
Step 6: Write the methodology
Step 7: Write the results
Step 8: Write the discussion
Step 9: Write the conclusion
Step 10: Review and revise

Stage 2: Developing a methodology or a methodological framework
Step 1: Understand your research question
Step 2: Choose a methodology
Step 3: Design and conduct your research
Step 4: Analyze your data
Step 5: Interpret your results
Step 6: Write a methodology section

Stage 3: Writing the dissertation
Step 1: Write the introduction
Step 2: Write the literature review
Step 3: Write the methodology
Step 4: Write the results
Step 5: Write the discussion
Step 6: Write the conclusion
Step 7: Review and revise

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
University of Virginia

- Scholars’ Lab
- Supports digital research and scholarly analysis in humanities and social sciences
- Equipment, space, software, expert assistance
- Talks, events
- Graduate fellowships in digital humanities

http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
A major study of doctoral students at 29 U.S. and Canadian universities reports that only 57 percent of Ph.D. candidates complete their programs within a decade, according to the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) organization.

Among the most promising practices, Sowell said schools are employing writing assistants for doctoral students to eliminate the trepidation that comes with starting a major writing assignment such as the dissertation. In some cases, senior Ph.D.s train newer students early on to prepare them for the dissertation process.

Producing data on attrition from doctoral study and completion of Ph.D. programs

Identifying promising practices

Program environment - informal social activities, interdisciplinary interactions (academic and social), network of support and outreach

Curricular Processes - writing assistance programs, dissertation retreat/boot camp, collaborative doctoral student writing room

www.phdcompletion.org

http://diverseeducation.com/article/13663/

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Council of Graduate Schools Ph.D. Completion Project

The Ph.D. Completion Project is a seven-year, grant-funded project that addresses the issues surrounding Ph.D. completion and attrition. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), with generous support from Pfizer Inc. and the Ford Foundation, has provided funding in two phases to 29 major U.S. and Canadian research universities to create intervention strategies and pilot projects, and to evaluate the impact of these projects on doctoral completion rates and attrition patterns. An additional 15 partner universities are currently participating in various aspects of this project. The Ph.D. Completion Project aims to produce the most comprehensive and useful data on attrition from doctoral study and completion of Ph.D. programs yet available.

Completion Project News
Headlines, articles, meeting presentations, and notices.

Featured Profile
The Ph.D. Completion Project at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Frequently Asked Questions
View FAQs regarding the Ph.D. Completion Project.

Project Calendar
View upcoming project events, meetings, workshops, and deadlines.

New from CGS
Ph.D. Completion and Attrition: Policies and Practices to Promote Student Success.
This is the fourth in a series of monographs from the CGS Ph.D. Completion Project.

Search

Keywords

GO+
University sectors need to play together

- Get Graduate Schools, Libraries, IT units and departments on the same page
  - Look for common goal / interests
  - Create upper level committee / task force within your infrastructure
- Library - Dean, Scholarly Communications Librarian, ETD Professionals, Library Systems personnel
- Graduate School – Dean, Administrators
- IT Director, Administrators and Developer

- Utilize existing areas of strength from which to build new support services
Libraries, Graduate Schools, IT units and Departments can be part of the solution

- Offering collaborative academic/social environments
- Providing specific support for the dissertation process


Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
As you develop services, don’t forget to market them

- Ask about communication mechanisms in your Needs Assessment
- Push messages to graduate student groups
- Ask students to help you market (YouTube videos / Facebook / Twitter / 4Square / Mobile Applications)
- Market through faculty advisors
- Utilize campus media outlets
- Exhibits of completed work or work in progress
- Advertise widely

Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin.
Acknowledgements

- Joan Lippincott, Coalition for Networked Information – for providing the inspiration and foundation for this presentation topic.
  - Source: Lippincott, Joan K. / ETDs and Services for Graduate Students. ETD 2010, University of Texas at Austin. URL: https://conferences.tdl.org/utlibraries/etd2010/paper/view/53/52
- Council of Graduate Schools / Ph.D. Retention Program
- Association of Research Libraries
Many thanks!

Have a safe journey home and we’ll see you next year at USETDA 2012!

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USETDA, NDLTD
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