



TDL Update

The Newsletter of the Texas Digital Library

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Third annual Texas Conference on Digital Libraries draws participants from across the state

On May 27 and 28, more than 110 librarians, scholars, developers, and other interested participants from some 25 institutions across Texas converged in Austin, Texas, for the 2009 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries. The conference, in its third year, is sponsored by the Texas Digital Library and is designed to facilitate discussion about topics relevant to the creation and promotion of digital libraries at Texas institutions of higher learning. It is open both to members and non-members of the TDL.

This year's conference theme was Linking Digital Libraries and Users, with participants exploring how library technologies and processes can connect with the ways users want to (or actually do) access, manipulate, and utilize objects within digital libraries.

Both the opening and closing keynote speakers addressed aspects of this theme. Daniel Chudnov of the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the Library of Congress spoke about ways that digital libraries can expose their collections more effectively to more users by employing Web development practices that facilitate linking between related data on the Web. The closing keynote address by David Maidment, Director of the Center for Research in Water Resources at the UT Austin, provided an impressive example of the work researchers can accomplish using digital library resources, and the ways that disparate academic water researchers "can be helped by the common infrastructure that TDL is providing." In Maidment's case, the UT Austin digital repository has facilitated the collection of key water documents that contribute to statewide efforts at understanding water quality.

In between the two keynote addresses, attendees heard from a variety of presenters from universities and other institutions working in the digital library arena. Conference presenters included members of the Texas Digital Library, who updated the conference on the progress of key initiatives such as OAI-ORE data harvesting and the TDL Preservation Network. Additionally, Dr. Linda Kornasky of Angelo State University spoke about her experience using the TDL Electronic Journal service to create the [Journal of Texas Women Writers](#); and several members of the University of North Texas Libraries Digital Projects Unit reported on various digital initiatives, including a redesign of the [Portal to Texas History](#), underway at UNT.

"We've been really excited about the innovative digital work that Texas colleges and universities are doing," said

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The Texas Digital Library is a multi-university consortium providing the digital infrastructure to support a fully online scholarly community for institutions of higher education in Texas and to promote the widespread availability of their enormous intellectual capital.

Texas Conference **on** **Digital Libraries**

The 2009 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries took place May 27-28, 2009, at the University of Texas at Austin.

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Ryan Steans, TDL Program Coordinator and the organizer for TCDL 2009. "TDL is working to facilitate the creation, not just of digital institutional repositories, but all kinds of other online scholarly communication like e-journals and wikis as well. And TCDL is a great resource for bringing lots of people together to learn from what other schools are doing in these areas."

Additional presenters at TCDL 2009 included representatives from Baylor University, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Texas A&M University, and UT Austin.

The Texas Digital Library would like to express thanks to Mark Phillips of the University of North Texas Digital Projects Unit for serving as Program Committee chair for TCDL 2009. For more information about the conference, please visit the TDL Web site at <http://www.tdl.org/tcdl>. Copies of conference presentations will be available on the site in the days ahead. ♦

Technical developers and ETD managers gain unique opportunities for interaction with TCDL special forums

For the first time at TCDL 2009, the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries offered two special events for specific groups within the digital library community. A day prior to the main conference, on May 26, the conference played host to the TCDL Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Forum and the TCDL Technical Developers Forum, both held at the University of Texas at Austin.

The ETD Forum, organized and hosted by Laura Hammons of Texas A&M University, served as the kick-off event for a new organization, the Texas ETD Association (TxETDA). As Director of the Thesis Office at Texas A&M, Hammons saw the need for cooperation among Texas universities around issues related to electronic theses and dissertations and wanted to form an organization that could facilitate sharing and support.

"I anticipate that TxETDA has the potential to fill a great need in Texas for individuals and institutions that work with ETDs," Hammons said, "providing professional development, support, and knowledge on best practices and policies."

More than 40 people from around the state – including deans and graduate school support staff – attended the event, which featured talks by Angela McCutcheon of the Ohio ETD Association, David Mendez of ProQuest/UMI, and Georgia Harper of UT Austin, who spoke about copyright and Creative Commons licensing issues. The Texas Digital Library's Adam Mikeal also presented on Vireo, the TDL's ETD submission and management software.

Hammons received enthusiastic responses from attendees who expressed interest in TxETDA and the possibility of "developing...resources for ETD users that could be made available through TDL, as well as getting support from institutions who are successfully working with ETDs."

Simultaneous with the ETD Forum, more than two dozen digital library developers convened at the TCDL Technical Developers Forum, hosted by Mark Phillips of the University of North Texas. The forum featured Daniel Chudnov, the main conference's opening keynote speaker, who gave a technical version of his presentation on linked data and, in the afternoon, an open forum (or "un-conference") for discussing topics suggested by attendees.

Phillips organized the forum to give library developers the chance to discuss challenges and issues unique to digital libraries. And he was more than satisfied with the results: "People learned about other projects," Phillips said, "and were able to ask questions at a very technical level and generally got to know more about what is going on in Texas with digital libraries."

Like Hammons, Phillips hopes that the forum will lead to future activities, possibly a Texas chapter of [code4lib](#), an organization that explores the intersection between computer technology and library and information sciences. Fol-

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Following in the steps of other regional chapters of the national code4lib group, Phillips believes that Texas “could do something really great for all of the library programmers and developers out there.”

For both ETD personnel and technical developers, the TCDL special forums provided a key step in organizing Texas institutions to deal with key issues related to digital libraries, but the work didn’t end with the final forum speakers. As Hammons asserted, “I believe we have made great progress with the forum alone, yet there is much to do.”

For more information about the TCDL 2009 special forums, please visit the Texas Digital Library Web site at <http://www.tdl.org/tcdl>. ♦

TDL developers speak at Open Repositories 2009



Photo: Katie Gentilello

TDL developer Adam Mikeal discusses the Vireo ETD system at Open Repositories 2009.

Six members of the Texas Digital Library staff traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, on May 19–21 to attend the 4th annual International Conference on Open Repositories, more commonly known as Open Repositories 2009. Co-directors Mark McFarland and John Leggett were joined in the TDL delegation by members of the TDL development team — Scott Phillips, Adam Mikeal, Michael Bolton, and Alexey Maslov, all of Texas A&M University — to present on two key initiatives of the TDL.

Open Repositories, held this year at Georgia Tech, assembles people and organizations involved in developing, managing, and using digital repositories. It combines user group meetings for different repository technologies, like DSpace and Fedora, with general conference sessions, thus addressing both practical concerns and overarching concepts related to repositories and their use.

Adam Mikeal spoke at one of the DSpace user group sessions on Vireo, the TDL’s electronic thesis and dissertation submission and management system. Additionally, Alexey Maslov presented on the TDL’s efforts to add data harvesting and dissemination technology to DSpace repositories, including the TDL ETD Repository, using ORE and PMH protocols from the Open Archives Initiative.

For more information about Open Repositories 2009, please visit <https://or09.library.gatech.edu>. ♦



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The University of Texas at Arlington
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For more information about the Texas Digital Library, please visit our Web site at <http://www.tdl.org>, or contact us at info@tdl.org.

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