

A Comparison of Features among ETD Submission Systems

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This poster is intended to provide a quick snapshot of features in popular Electronic Thesis and Dissertation submission systems. Current and potential users of ETD systems can see at a glance whether a system is likely to fit their needs. The student and staff side s of the submission systems were examined from beginning to end to identify and highlight features that are important for graduate college staff, librarians, and institutional repository staff.

Each implementation of an ETD submission system is unique to the institution it serves. The particular systems used for this study are Vireo 2.0 test installation at Texas State University; UMI’s ETD Administration demo site; student submission testing at Louisiana State University’s for the etd-db system; presentation and slides from “Moving Electronic Theses from ETD-db to EPrints : The Best of Both Worlds” by Coles and Johnson (2010) for Caltech’s EPrints system; and the “ETDs & Student Work Toolkit” available from Digital Commons. Not enough information was available to evaluate openETD from Rutgers.

	Vireo 2.0	ETD Admin	etd-db	EPrints	Digital Commons
Latest known update	Apr‘13	Apr‘13	Mar ‘04	May ‘12	Oct ‘12
Open-Source	✓		✓	✓	
Integration with university system to pre-populate student name, email, ID etc.	✓			✓	
Controlled vocabulary for Subjects to enforce data quality	✓	✓		✓	✓
Deposit and copyright agreement incorporated into system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PDF is required as primary document	✓	✓		✓	
Multiple file types are allowed for supplementary documents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Email templates for quick and consistent communication with students	✓	✓			✓
File name conventions are not required	✓	✓			✓
Run & export reports (ex. Dissertations approved, embargoed, year)		✓	✓		✓
Single filters (filter by submission status or name or staff assignment)	✓	✓		✓	✓
Combo filters (ex. status AND semester AND document type AND embargo)	✓				✓
Administrative notes area for each submission	✓	✓		✓	✓
New submission triggers an email to administrator		✓	Features not available in etd-db, Eprints, or Digital Commons		
System allows tracking of all requirements	✓	✓			
Custom filters for personal use	✓	✓			
Custom filters for shared staff use	✓				
Custom checklist in staff view	✓	✓			
Notes area in checklist		✓			
Batch processing (sending emails, changing processing status, assigning to staff)	✓				
Batch delivery/publishing	✓	✓			
MARC file export	✓				
Administrative files can be stored within the system	✓				
Metadata export to ProQuest/UMI	✓	✓			
Direct document Export to ProQuest/UMI	✓	✓			
PDF conversion tool		✓			
Automatically checks PDF for embedded fonts and security settings		✓			
Option to register for copyright, purchase bound copies, & pay UMI directly		✓			

Vireo and UMI’s ETD Administrator provide more extensive features in the management and processing of ETDs that go far beyond simple submission to the IR.

A unique feature in Vireo is a faculty view which allows approval an embargo selection and to verify that the document submitted is the same as the one defended.

A unique feature of the ETD Administrator is automatic deposit within ProQuest/UMI, which is convenient for institutions who already submit both theses and dissertations.

Etd-db, EPrints and Digital Commons are IR based submission systems, which can be useful to institutions with an IR but little or no technological support for a fuller ETD submission system. Students submit approved ETDs to the IR for limited review before the document is released. If submission to ProQuest/UMI is desired, it must be done separately by the student or institution.

For more information on these systems - **Vireo 2.0** <http://tdl.org/etds/> **UMI ETD Administrator** <http://www.etdadmin.com/cgi-bin/main/about>
etd-db <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ETD-db/index.shtml> **EPrints** <http://www.eprints.org/us/services/> **Digital Commons** <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/>

On the Horizon – Jarrow is an open-source system in development at the University of Northern British Columbia. It is intended to manage the complete thesis process beginning with a student’s first proposal and committee selection. See <http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/7486> and <https://conferences.tdl.org/USETDA/USETDA2012/paper/view/425/213>