ETD in South Africa – The National Development

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg has played a major role in bringing ETD to South Africa and the rest of Africa, and will continue to do so.

The presentation will outline the national ETD situation in South Africa as it stands now and illustrate the challenges of setting up an ETD Project that would improve the management of theses and dissertations at a national level.

The presentation will illustrate in detail the University's efforts in advancing ETD in South Africa. These include the national ETD Project that is being driven by the Committee for Higher Education Librarians of South Africa (CHELSA) and sponsored by the National Research Foundation (NRF), as well as in the rest of Africa (UNESCO sponsored projects). The presentation in addition illustrates some of the challenges of ETD in the developing countries.

Finally the University would like to share experiences in setting up our own ETD system, including copyright issues, the question of open source software, preservation and institutional resistance. Currently the University is in the process of migration, moving the (VTETD-db) ETD system to DSPACE (an institutional repository). The Presentation will further include comments regarding the impact of ETDs on an Institutional Repository.