EThOS
(Electronic Theses Online Service) – a national UK project

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Introduction

- Project background and approach
- Proposals and achievements
- Next steps
Background – current situation

• User requests a known thesis
• Thesis supplied in print or microfilm by British Library
• Some interlending between institutions
• Staff time and administration
• End-user sometimes charged, 6 week wait
Background – the EThOS project

• Builds on projects that examined:
  – Best practice and implementation models
  – Testing different software

• EThOS brings the different strands together

• Digitisation of current print theses in addition to born digital

• A working, scaleable prototype national service
Approach – who?

• Collaboration between varying institutions:
  – Universities with experience of the prior projects
  – Universities with no experience of e-Theses
  – British Library, National Library of Wales
  – National organisations for university administrators, postgraduate students

• Work with other relevant projects
Approach – how?

• Project board (advisory role, final sign-off)
• Project Manager
• 8 separate workpackages covering 3 areas:
  – Technical
  – Business/legal
  – Procedural
Proposals – service delivery

- e-Theses stored on Central Hub and / or Institutional Repositories
- Metadata harvester to hold information on all UK theses (eventually print and electronic)
- Theses supplied either electronically or in a physical format
Proposals – service sustainability

- Universities to subscribe (Sponsor) or fund ad hoc (Associate)

- Costs to cover digitisation of print material when requested by end-users

- Universities to determine level of Open Access

- Special digitisation projects available
1. The HEI credits a sponsorship payment to EThOS at the start of the financial year.

2. A Researcher orders one of the HEI's theses.

3. The thesis is requested from the HEI and is supplied for digitising.

4. The thesis is digitised and the HEI's credit is reduced by the appropriate sum.
Achievements 1

- UK e-Theses metadata standards
- IPR report and resultant risk management strategy
- Standards and procedures for digitisation
- Harvesting interface and mechanism tested and working
Achievements 2

• Model end-user and deposit licences
• Core system built and ingest mechanisms working
• Advocacy within UK – articles, press releases, awareness events
Next steps

• Project Evaluation underway
• End-user interface to be finalised
• Further advocacy events
• Digitisation projects call
• EThOS toolkit to be finalised
Thanks for your time

Any questions?
EThOS: Who’s involved?

The EThOS project is a partnership project between the following institutions:

- University of Glasgow
- British Library
- Cranfield University
- The Robert Gordon University
- University of Birmingham
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Warwick
- University of Southampton
- National Library of Wales
- SHERPA Project
Others involved

Has also had input from:-

National Postgraduate Committee

Association of Heads of University Administration

Consortium of University Research Libraries

Academic Registrars Council
Funding

The EThOS project is funded by the partner institutions and:-

Joint Information Systems Committee  
CURL - consortium of research libraries