

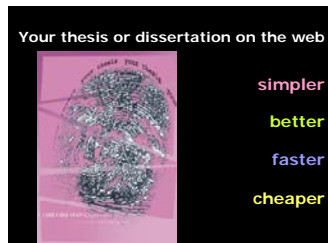
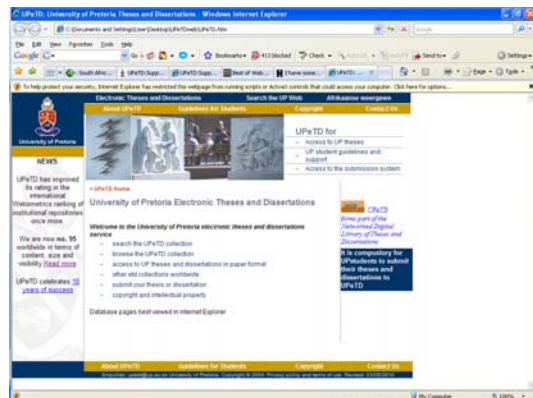
# UPeTD CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS

UPeTD (University of Pretoria Electronic Theses and Dissertations) recently celebrated its first decade with its best rating in the January 2010 *Ranking of World Repositories*: out of 400 best institutional repositories worldwide it is no. 95 in terms of content, size and visibility (<http://repositories.webometrics.info/index.html>).

Neither the oldest (Rhodes University) nor the biggest (WITS), UPeTD is undoubtedly the most successful South African etd repository. At the end of 2009 the collection consisted of 4831 items, 1503 doctoral theses and 3343 master's dissertations. In 2009 4317706 files were downloaded and regular messages from thankful users testify to the usefulness of the system. A [2007 survey](#) also indicated that participation in the programme had a beneficial effect on the careers of UP alumni.

It started in 2000 in a very tentative way. After a visit by prof Ed Fox of Virginia Tech, one of the etd pioneers, the principal, prof Johan van Zyl, decided in his inimitable style that we needed to be on this bandwagon and tasked the library to start such a project immediately. This was the beginning of a happy relationship with UP postgraduate research for Monica Hammes, Alet Grobler, Gloria Maripane, Thea Heckroodt, Ria Groenewald and Elsabé Olivier.

The first four years passed in the *we build the road by walking it* style. Charles Ceronio of Dept IT downloaded the free ETD-db software on an old



unused server at IT and helped us to configure it and give it a slight local flavour. ETD-db, the mother of DSpace, Fedora and other repository systems to follow is not very sophisticated but fortunately very reliable. In ten years the system only collapsed three times. With the help of Ria Groenewald en Eleta Grimbeek a support system was created around the web site (<http://upetd.up.ac.za>) with information, help files and tutorials for students. Students were trained in the use of the system and endless visits to academic departments and faculties' post graduated offices resulted in a workflow that is extremely efficient.

In 2003 policy was adopted by senate to make submission compulsory and a new server was bought. This ended the haphazard participation - at the end of 2002 the repository contained 39 theses and 26 dissertations - and necessitated a full time staff member. Alet Grobler who was part of the library secretariat was persuaded to take on this job. She developed the role of UPeTD administrator with great success and was succeeded by Gloria Maripane when she retired in 2006. Alet is still an active member of the team: she processes the doctoral theses under contract for us and participates in the retrospective project with Thea Heckroodt.

UPeTD brought an end to the production of microfiche copies of theses and dissertations. At the outset it was decided that we will only deal in *born digital* documents but that any thesis or dissertation requested via interlending will be digitized. This was so successful that Thea was contracted after her retirement to create short records for all theses and dissertations since 2000 with a view to digitizing all of them eventually. This project is now in its final stage with approximately 600 items remaining.

Our engagement with other universities on etds flagged the absence of a concerted effort to combat plagiarism and to guide students towards ethical use of existing knowledge. A campus committee was set up to create a framework within which the university policy, guidelines and resources were made accessible for students, teaching staff and administrators. A web site was created, brochures produced, regular anti-plagiarism campaigns organised and software tested. This is now a solid feature of the library's service offering.

*Hierdie veldtogte was ook op 'n eie manier interessant en kontroversieel: daar was die keer toe 'n groep kunsstudente vir ons bemarkingskonsepte uitgewerk het. Ons het die een met die Hangman speletjie gekies en naas plakkate en brosjures ook 'n dataprojektor in die foyer gehaa waar dit deurlopend gespeel het. Dit het nogal die studente se aandag getrek tot iemand toe gevoel het dis totaal onvanpas aangesien die doodstraf in Suid-Afrika afgeskaf is.*



*Maar dit was niks vergeleke by die brosjure debakel van 2004 nie. Ons laat maak brosjures op UP voorskryf en kies 'n foto uit die UP fototeek vir die voorkant. Ek was op reis iewers in die buiteland toe ek 'n boodskap kry van prof Boon dat die persoon op die foto beswaar aangeteken het en dat die brosjures nie so kan voortgaan nie. Daar was natuurlik nie sprake van oormoed nie (geld was toe nog BAIE skaars) en dit het ons weke gevat om al die brosjures te stempel met 'n FOTO GEPOSEER/PICTURE POSED boodskap!*



In 2007 UPeTD became part of the library's broader open scholarship operation (<http://www.library.up.ac.za/openup/index.htm>) which also deals with open access to UP research articles and support for open access journals on campus. Elsabé Olivier took leadership of the wider operation.

Internationally the etd movement is a close-knit family keen to share stories, celebrate success and offer help. The university is a member of ND LTD (Networked Library of Theses and Dissertations), a body that provides access to all the world's theses and dissertations, holds annual conferences and awards etds that use technology in innovative ways. Two UP students have won awards so far - Rousseau Pienaar in 2005 (<http://upetd.up.ac.za/thesis/available/etd-02212005-085046/>) and Annemie van den Heever in 2007 (<http://upetd.up.ac.za/thesis/available/etd-02162007-161618/>). Over these years we contributed to 9 workshops in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Ghana and Ethiopia, sharing expertise and enthusiasm and helping colleagues to start their own operations. UPeTD was also the subject of seven conference presentations at ETD, open scholarship and library quality conferences.

In the near future UPeTD will migrate to UPSpace. Also in the pipeline is a project to embed UPeTD together with the support service for postgraduate students into the academic process by means of the Oracle software.

### UPeTD stories

*Soveel van die dinge wat ons vandag as vanselfsprekend doen, was destyds totaal vreemd. Niemand op die kampus kon 'n dokument PDF nie (ons het in Johannesburg na die Adobe kantoor gegaan om raad te vra), ons het geen skanderingservaring gehad nie - gelukkig was Ria byderhand en soos gewoonlik entoesiasties - en ons het ins geheel nie eintlik geweet hoe om dit aan te pak nie.*

*Alet vertel "Aan die begin-dae van UPeTD het dit maar voel-voel gegaan. Ons het net 'n paar p/vs gehad wat ons op een hand kon tel, en na die eerste drie maande was hulle nog nie klaar nie! Ons het gesukkel om die pdf-program te bemeester. Dit was in elk geval nie so eenvoudig soos vandag nie. Daar was baie aksies nodig. Die verwerking was ook baie stadig, ons moes al die boekmerke intik, en die opbreek van 'n proefskrif was 'n beproewing. Van skakels was daar geen sprake nie, en toe ek die dag 'n skakel kon maak, was dit 'n groot oorwinning! Die Griekse en Hebreeuse woorde in the Teologie proefskrifte was ook 'n groot uitdaging. Een dag het ek en Monica 'n hele oggend bestee om 'n Hebreeuse paragraaf te ontsyfer deur na die letters te verwys as 'hierdie een lyk soos 'n stoeltjie met 2 pote' ens...."*



*Ag, en daardie eerste "web tutorials" was natuurlik ook 'n nuuttjie! Ria het dit in haar gewone 110% styl aangepak en ons was net baie trots op onself om so voorwaarts te wees!*

*Maar ons was entoesiasties en meelewend. Elke student en studieleier wat naastenby probeer saamwerk het, is met ope arms ontvang. Die eerste student wat 'n proefskrif selfstandig verwerk en opgelaa het was die hoogswanger (prof) Tania Hanekom. Vir lank het ons die gradeplegtighede bygewoon, notatjies in die programme gesit om mense te vra om hulle proefskrifte vir ons te gee en sommer net saam te vier. Ek onthou party van die studente soos gister: Abby Mathekgga het 'n studie van die gesondheidsvoordele van sewejaartjies gemaak. Hy was nie meer jonk nie en toe hy my by die gradeplegtigheid vertel dat niemand van sy familie kon bywoon nie, het ek onderneem om ekstra hard vir hom hande te klap. En dan was daar Ruth en Gaby de Villiers (van Ol), die eerste ma/dogter kombinasie op UPeTD.*

*Die eerste jaar nadat dit verpligtend geword het en ons dus 'n goeie oes PhD's gehad het, het ek die rektor oorgehaal om by die grade-plegtigheid melding te maak daarvan dat hulle proefskrifte op die internet was. Soos gewoonlik het ek almal wie se proefskrifte nog uitstaande was, bygeloop. Maar daar was hierdie een paartjie wat, terwyl hulle hul Chemie proefskrifte geskryf het, ook nog 'n baba gehad het! Van hulle kon mens regtig niks meer verwag nie.....*



*Ons het altyd graag deur die proefskrifte geblaai en ge-oe en -aa oor interessante navorsing waarvan ons voorheen niks geweet het nie en so ons eie lewens aansienlik verryk. 'n Geliefkoosde area was die bedankings voor in die proefskrifte wat meestal gesprek het van wonderlike ondersteuning wat mense van familie en vriende gekry het (soms ook die inligtingkundige) en van duidelike geloofsverarings - iemand behoort 'n proefskrif hieroor te skryf!*

*Die Argitektuur skripsies is ook altyd 'n bron van groot verwondering: soveel kreatiwiteit en wonderlike dokumente. Dit is altyd 'n plesier om saam met Hettie en die departement hieraan te werk en het sekerlik ook bygedra daartoe dat hulle so maklik by UPSpace ingeval het.*

### In the words of our clients

*Many thanks for this - a great service to have.* Prof Pat Eriksson, Geology

*I have never before seen an unpublished thesis digitized in such an appealing manner.* Frank Hulek, Ruhr Universitat, Germany

*I showed UPeTD to my new colleagues and students: they were challenged by the impressive format of UP PhD presentations and would like to learn from it.* Lewis Methu, TUT

*This service proves that the Dept of Library Services at UP is dedicated to keeping in step with current technology, to the benefit of as many students as possible. Now I feel proud to call myself a Tuks alumnus again because of what my university can do for me.* Georgina Scott, Taiwan

*I was asked to contribute to a journal after the editor saw my thesis on UPeTD.* Terefe Belehu, Ethiopia

#### Conference presentations that dealt with UPeTD

UPeTD : It's the start of your publishing career, Monica Hammes. *6th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations, Berlin, 21 May 2003* (<http://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/handle/2263/12958>)

Positioning etds in the e-Research arena: a South African case study, Monica Hammes. *8th International Symposium on Electronic Theses & Dissertations, Sydney, 29 September 2005* (<http://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/handle/2263/12961>)

Making UP research visible on the web, Heila Pienaar, Monica Hammes and Theo Bothma. *CITTE, Pretoria, September 2006* (<http://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/bitstream/2263/822/3/webcittte.pdf>)

Institutional self-archiving (ISA) : a multi-faceted start-up strategy to populate the institutional repositories of the University of Pretoria, Monica Hammes. *Poster at Open Scholarship 2006, University of Glasgow, 18-20 October 2006* (<http://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/handle/2263/1113>)

E-quality for equality, Monica Hammes & April Mahlangu. *7th Northumbria Conference, Stellenbosch, 13-16 August 2007* (<http://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/handle/2263/3405>).

The Open Access Mandate: a key element of open scholarship, Monica Hammes. *African Digital Scholarship and Curation Conference, Pretoria, 13 May 2009* (<http://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/handle/2263/10116>)

Third Generation Balanced Scorecards for Libraries, Monica Hammes, *8th Northumbria Conference, Florence, Italy, 20 August 2009* (<http://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/handle/2263/11377>)