

# The Lifecycle Management of ETDs Project: Multi Stakeholders Partnership



Shannon Stark, Daniel G. Alemneh, & Stephen Eisenhauer  
University of North Texas

## Background

With most theses and dissertations now being created as digital products, lifecycle management of these valuable intellectual documents is an important new responsibility of academic libraries. But it is a responsibility that unfortunately not all libraries have the infrastructure or resources to support. The big question is:

**“How will institutions address the entire lifecycle of ETDs, ensuring that the papers acquired from students today will be available to future researchers?”**

This two-year project, funded by IMLS, is a collaborative attempt to respond to this question. We will promote best curatorial practices to increase the capacity of academic libraries to reliably preserve ETDs by using a three-pronged approach: writing guidance documents, developing software tools, and creating educational materials. All of these resources will be available under an open access license at the conclusion of the project.

