# The Lifecycle Management of ETDs Project: Multi Stakeholders Partnership

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**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.

**Timeline**

- **Dec. 2011**: Project Kick-off
- **Aug. 2012**: Programming team begins development of micro-services
- **Sep. 2012**: Second steering committee meeting to finalize guidance documents
- **Dec. 2012**: Begin collecting user feedback on deliverables
- **Jan. 2013**: First public release of documents and micro-services
- **Feb. 2013**: Conduct project workshops
- **Feb. 2013**: Guidance documents, micro-services, and final report available

**Guidance Documents**

- Program Design and Options
- Implementation Strategies
- Copyright Issues and Fair Use

**Management Tools**

We consulted with partner sites and researched the best tools for:

**ETD Submission and IR Tools**
- Vireo
- DSpace
- Archivematica
- EPrints
- OpenETD
- ETD-db

**Introspектив Micro-services**
- JHOVE2
- DROID
- ClamAV
- PREMIS Event Tracker

**Web Tools**

- ETD Management Software
- Format Validation
- Virus Scanning
- Other Institution-Desired Services

- Institutional Repository
- EPrints
- Fedora Commons
- DSpace