

## Free US ETDs (FUSE)

Promoting Open Access to American graduate research

# Subversive Proposal 2.0\*: Creating an OA portal to US Theses and Dissertations

Posted on **December 3, 2012**

This fall, ETD-L, the popular listserv for ETD librarians and graduate school professionals, hosted an impromptu discussion about developing an open access Web portal where users could go to find American thesis and dissertations. In what was deemed by some as an “Unconference,” this thought provoking discussion led to several proposals and models for a US ETD portal.

The primary proposals were shared and summarized on list, but will be reposted here to capture the essence of the Unconference. This is the first of the proposals that got the conversation started.

Continued discussion and elaboration on the proposal for an open access portal to American ETD's (both current ones, born digital, and legacy ones digitized and made available online) are most welcome! Help set our graduate works free!!!

===== xxx clip here xxx =====

### **Subversive proposal 2.0\*: Creating the national portal for US graduate works, in a few easy steps**

1. Graduate students and graduate schools produce graduate works in their usual way
  - 1a. [Voluntary add on]: Works are registered with the US Copyright office to ensure

long-term retention of the work off-site.

2. Academic libraries create catalog or other metadata records for the graduate works of their institution and add those records to their online catalog and to the worldwide online catalog at OCLC

3. OCLC harvests records of graduate works to the NDLTD They already do! According to the manager of the NDLTD Catalog Hussein Suleman (Source: presentation at ETD 2012, Lima, Peru) , OCLC has provided 1 million records of graduate works to the NDLTD Catalog)

4. NDLTD catalog interface tweaked to allow searches limited by nation  
DONE!

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### Cost Analysis: An Executive Summary

- Cost to graduate schools: Zip
- Cost to graduate students: Zip (or \$35 with copyright registration add-on)
- Cost to libraries: Savings of about \$20,000-\$30,000/annually for a university the size of Texas A&M (this includes cancellation of yearly subscription to PQ database)
- Cost to NDLTD: TBD
- Value to the world: \* Priceless\*

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\* NOTE: The original subservice proposal was “an Internet posting by Stevan Harnad on June 27 1994 (presented orally at the 1994 Network Services Conference in London on November 28, 1994) calling on all authors of “esoteric” writings-written only for research impact, not for royalty income-to archive them free for all online (in anonymous FTP archives or websites).” (Source: Wikipedia, Subversive Proposal)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subversive\\_Proposal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subversive_Proposal)). Harnad’s proposal catalyzed the Open Access movement.



This entry was posted in **ETD metadata, Networked Library of Theses and Dissertations, OA portal to US ETDs, Open Access** by **gclement**. Bookmark the **permalink** [<http://sites.tdl.org/fuse/?p=82>] .

2 THOUGHTS ON “SUBVERSIVE PROPOSAL 2.0\*: CREATING AN OA PORTAL TO US THESES AND DISSERTATIONS”



Thomas Dowling

on **December 3, 2012 at 9:49 pm** said:

As a point of clarification, OCLC no longer harvests anything. I believe Suleiman adopted the list of sites OCLC used to harvest. In my experience, a number of sites with ETDs, and even with OA ETDs, either do not support OAI harvesting, don't publish usable metadata ("what records are ETDs? why aren't there any URLs?"), or don't publish their OAI-PMH base URL anywhere? So improvements to the portal still have to be accompanied by a big publicity push to get people interested in playing nice with others.



Thomas Dowling

on **December 4, 2012 at 6:47 am** said:

Sorry, I meant Hussein Suleman, not just "Suleiman".