



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH
LIBRARIES

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ASERL and LOCKSS to Preserve e-Theses & Dissertations

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) recently launched a joint effort with the LOCKSS Project (“Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe”) to test the use of LOCKSS software plug-ins to preserve copies of the more than 13,000 electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) held at eight ASERL libraries.

“Our charge as research institutions is to ensure the ongoing accessibility of the theses and dissertations created by our universities’ graduate students and scholars. At the moment, if there were some kind of catastrophic system failure, we might not be able to recover those documents,” commented Paul Gherman, ASERL’s Board President and University Librarian at Vanderbilt University. “LOCKSS, however, represents a simple, cost-effective means to ensure accessibility even when a document is no longer available from the original publisher.”

Victoria Reich, LOCKSS Program Director at Stanford University, notes that “this project is a logical application and extension of the LOCKSS system. Using the LOCKSS software to preserve and archive copies of ETDs builds well on our six years of experience working with electronic journals and other web-based information.”

For the next six months, a handful of ASERL’s 43 member libraries will work with the LOCKSS development team at Stanford to create and test the necessary plug-ins. The development team will also identify any policy concerns that need to be addressed. Full-scale production of the service is anticipated soon after the start of the new year.

The participating ASERL libraries are: Florida State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, North Carolina State University, University of Kentucky, University of Miami (FL), University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University (TN), and Virginia Tech. Founded in 1956, ASERL is the largest regional academic library cooperative in the country, with 37 research libraries and six state libraries. ASERL was a founding member of the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) and established SOLINET’s group licensing program. For more information about ASERL’s ongoing programs, please visit www.aserl.org.

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