

Canada Report
NDLTD Board of Directors Meeting, June 9, 2009
Submitted by Sharon Reeves

Nancy Stuart, a librarian at the University of Victoria who championed the implementation of the University's ETD submission program, is doing a six month study leave in Theses Canada.

Nancy has been contacting Theses Canada's university participants to establish the status of their transition to electronic theses and encouraging them to participate in the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) theses harvesting program. As well we are working together to plan a Canadian Regional ETD workshop to be held in May 2010.

She is also working with Mathieu Fortin, the LAC programmer-analyst responsible for the e-theses program, to improve the Theses Canada harvesting requirements document that is sent to universities. She has been in contact with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries coordinator of its institutional repositories program with a view to forging stronger links between it and Theses Canada. There is considerable overlap between the two programs since IRs are often seeded with ETDs. It's been wonderful to have some assistance with university liaison.

During 2008 Library and Archives Canada received 18 months worth of PDF theses (20,531) on DVDs from ProQuest, spanning September 2002 to May 2004. These were available to clients by the end of 2008. More recently LAC has started to receive monthly loads of digitized theses from ProQuest via FTP.

Since last year Theses Canada has started to harvest ETDs and metadata from McGill University and the Université de Montréal.

We are test harvesting data from the University of Alberta, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and the University of Toronto. We expect to be harvesting these universities on a regular basis in the near future.

We are waiting for the University of Lethbridge and the University of Windsor to give us the go ahead to test harvest their data.

We have found that, partly because we harvest the ETDs themselves as well as the metadata, this can lead to problems when universities make systems changes, for example migrate from a home-grown submission system to DSpace. We are still working to sort out the problems we are having harvesting the University of Waterloo and the University of New Brunswick, neither of which we have been able to harvest for several years now. We hope to resolve those problems in the near future.

Universities currently harvested:

University of British Columbia

Laval University

University of Manitoba

McGill University

Université de Montréal

Queen's University

University of Saskatchewan

University of Victoria