Full Disclosure
How Authors and Readers Really Feel about ETDs

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Full Disclosure: How Authors Really Feel about ETDs

- “It’s totally sweet.” 2005
- “They are great. I have gotten a lot of useful information from the ones on campus that have not yet had journal articles published from them, and have a more complete lit review than a journal article.” 2004
- “The $20.00 archiving fee is a bummer.” 2003
- “The ETD procedure described on the web site is simple and professional.” 2003
- “I think the ETD initiative is just great. There isn’t a more effective way to disseminate knowledge.” 2002
- “ETDs are one of the great resources for other knowledge seekers.” 2002
Authors submitted ETDs from

- Other
- Another university
- Tech Connect lab
- New Media Center
- Campus residence hall
- Campus office
- Northern Virginia Center
- Off-campus workplace
- Off-campus residence

[Bar graph showing submission locations and years from 2000-2001 to 2004-2005]
How many ETDs did you consult while preparing your ETD?
While preparing your ETD, where did you find answers to your questions?

- VT ETD Web site
- from New Media Center staff
- at an ETD workshop
- through e-mail
- by telephone
- Other/Comments
- from my committee
- from friends
- from ETD tech support
- other Web site(s)

Bar chart showing the percentage of answers found in different sources from 2000-2001 to 2004-2005.
Expectations about Creating PDFs

2000-2001

2001-2002

2002-2003

2003-2004

2004-2005

Expectations about Submitting ETDs
Access Issues: Availability of ETDs

- Worldwide access: 68%
- University-only access: 23%
- Mixed access: 2%
- Withheld from access: 7%
Authors’ Publishing Plans

- Journal article
- Conference proceedings
- Don't know yet
- Book
- Will not publish
- Other
- Book chapter

Bar chart showing publication plans across different years and types of publications.
If you restricted access to your VT ETD, what did you base your decision on?

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<th>2004/05</th>
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Full Disclosure: How Readers Really Feel about ETDs

- “I believe this kind of knowledge base is extremely generous and helpful for any student or interested individual that wants to study and research advanced subjects from different parts of the world and from various disciplines and sciences. I really appreciate the work and philosophy of this kind of initiative.” 2004

- “This site is great! Being a VT grad, I expected nothing less.” 2003

- “Thanks for nice information that you provide for usage of all person who need to this information. You are really so kind and I appreciate your policy.” 2002

- “Great idea to make in depth information available over the net.” 2002

- “Please, do help third’s world students, so as we can achieve our goals.” 2000
Characteristics of ETD Users
Familiar with PDFs?

Familiar with Online Databases?
Does your institution accept ETDs?

Have you submitted an ETD?
Why access ETDs?

![Chart showing the reasons for accessing ETDs over different years]

- Research
- Job related
- Personal interest
- Learning about ETDs
- Other

How many ETDs did you download?

![Chart showing the number of ETDs downloaded over different years]

- >10
- 6-10
- 3-5
- 1-2

The chart indicates the percentage of users who downloaded different numbers of ETDs from 2001/02 to 2004/05.
How often do you plan to use Virginia Tech's ETD library?

How often do you plan to use other ETD libraries?
ETDs Quick and Easy to Find

![Graph showing the ease of finding ETDs from 1999/00 to 2004/05.](graph.png)
In conclusion...

- Established vs newer initiatives
- Faculty/publisher issues need to be addressed
- Improve searching
- More browsing options
- Update surveys