

University of Pretoria

The dot on the i: reflections of a postgraduate student & repository manager on the ETD process @ the University of Pretoria

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Introduction

- This paper offers 3 perspectives
 - Postgraduate student doing research
 - Repository manager
 - Graduate and author of the ETDs
- Paper will explain the role players & their perspectives
- Distinguish between
 - Student busy with postgraduate research
 - Graduates with completed research



Postgraduate student's perspective

- Being a student after a break of 20 years
- Literature review
- Information overload
- Supervisor's role
- Finding sources in reference lists



Benefits of ETDs for the student

- Increased access – greater quality result
- Exposure to many methods
- Paper free, but always there
- A view of existing research
- Supervisor's role
- Getting e-literate



Benefits of ETDs for the student (cont.)

- Multimedia is possible
- Increased access and better preservation options
- Lower cost
- Empower universities to unlock their information resources
- Advancing digital library technology



Involvement with UPeTD

- In 2003 my M-dissertation was submitted
 - Multiple hard cover copies
 - One copy unstapled (in a box) for microfiche purposes
 - One copy on a floppy disk in MSWord
- In 2006 my PhD-thesis was submitted
 - One hard copy
 - One copy in PDF & MS Word format on a CD



Repository manager's perspective

- UP background
 - One of the largest & leading research universities on the African continent
 - Spread over 6 campuses, with 9 faculties and 1 Business school
 - Offers 1800 academic programmes in 2 official languages
 - In 2011 : 67 981 registered students
 - Post-graduate awarded degrees in 2010: 1456 (189 theses & 1267 dissertations)



Establishment of UPeTD

- Prof Ed Fox visited UP in 2000
- ETD-db software was demonstrated
- UP realised e-implementation should receive priority
- ETD goals (Suleman & Fox 2003)
 - Improving/enhancing graduate education
 - Increasing availability of student research
 - Preserving & disseminating ETDs electronically



Mandatory policy adopted in 2003

Office of the Registrar

Policy on University of Pretoria electronic theses and dissertations

Policy Group/Category: Academic

Doc number: S 4844-46/08

1. Position statement

The University of Pretoria supports free access to research literature for all researchers worldwide and takes responsibility for the dissemination of its own research outputs. Because theses and dissertations are not formally published it is even more important that the University itself should provide access to them.

2. Purpose

This policy provides directions for the archiving and dissemination of theses and dissertations resulting from postgraduate work done by University of Pretoria students.

The policy aims to ensure that

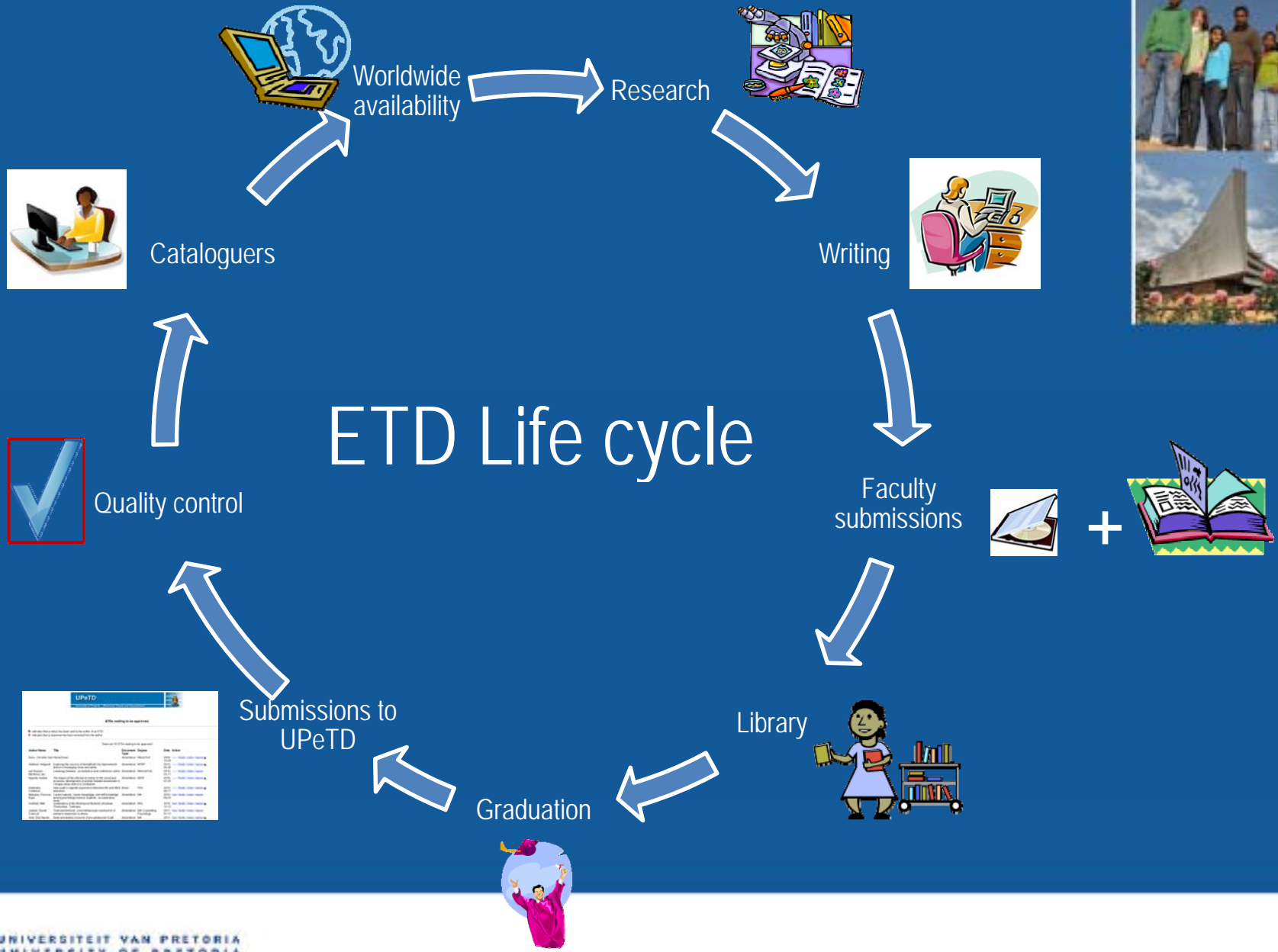
- any student, researcher or member of the public with a non-commercial need for the information has access to it;
- the University's Research Report is complemented with the full text of theses and dissertations;
- mechanisms exist for the long-term preservation of UP theses and dissertations.



Student & Faculty officer's responsibilities

- Self-submissions are encouraged
- Student submission
 - 1 paper copy & electronic copies in (MS Word & PDF)
 - Submission form indicating the access options
- Postgraduate faculty officers coordinate submissions





Open Scholarship Office responsibilities

- Formally established in 2007
- UP follows the mediated approach in submissions
- Only released after graduation – April & September
- Subject cataloguers receive hard copies & catalogued on Millenium



Retrospective Digitization Project

- Voluntary submissions during the early years
- Two temporary staff members were contracted
- Digitize the fronts of ETDs completed 2000-2004
- Requests were received via UPeTD postbox
- Interlending section also became a client
- Completed towards 2010



Ownership of Property Rights

- According to the General Regulation G57(6) the rights with regard to intellectual property that is produced by a student during his/her studies, vest in the University



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Graduate's perception

- UP send me the link by e-mail
- Other people ask me about my work – I supply the link
- A wider audience has access
- As supervisor, I use ETDs
- Plagiarism ... (Examiners have access too)
- Networking



UPeTD highlights

- 2010 – celebrated our first decade of success!
- Most successful repository in South Africa and Africa
- According to webalizer statistics it has 1200 visits daily
- UPeTd provides access to 6621 ETDs
- Member of ND LTD since 2005
- ND LTD winners (3 students & 1 ETD leadership award for Monica Hammes)



Future of UPeTD

- Two important changes envisioned for future
 - UPeTD will migrate to UPSpace
 - Integrated portal environment that will deal with the postgraduate student's workflow process
- Will involve challenges but imperative to keep up with new technological innovations
- Provide the best possible service in opening access to postgraduate research



Conclusion

- The final ETD is just the dot on the i
- Producing an ETD is an intricate work process
- Most prominent advantage of ETDs is avoiding duplication of research
- Through ETDs quick retrieval is ensured and resource sharing promoted



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Thank you!

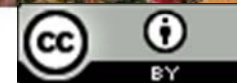
Questions?

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