



# TDL Update

The Newsletter of the Texas Digital Library

July 2009 · Volume 1, Number 5

## ***TDL Spotlight: Texas Learning Objects Repository***

One of the key development programs of the Texas Digital Library is its participation on the Texas Learning Objects Repository (TxLOR) project, an initiative led by UT Telecampus and funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the UT System Office of Health Affairs.

The aim of the TxLOR project is to create a statewide DSpace repository that can hold learning objects – lesson plans, videos, maps, quizzes, audio files, or any other digital item useful in teaching—for reuse and repurposing by Texas professors and instructors in their courses and other training efforts.

UT Telecampus took on the project in the fall of 2008, building on a pilot project undertaken by the University of North Texas, and began looking for an organization that could handle the technical responsibilities for infrastructure and application development. “We began asking ‘Who has the familiarity and hosting capabilities to run DSpace for this project?’” says Michael Anderson, Assistant Director for Course Development and Technology at UT Telecampus, “And that’s when we came upon TDL.”

Consequently, UT Telecampus sub-contracted with the TDL to provide technical services for TxLOR, with the TDL destined to host the repository. TDL developers, principally Scott Phillips of Texas A&M University, are also working to develop a workflow application to handle learning object submissions from multiple institutions across the state, each with potentially unique processes for approval and submission.

Phillips, as well as TDL co-directors Mark McFarland and John Leggett, serve on the project’s Technical Working Group, which is chaired by Anderson. Dr. William

[Continued on page 2](#)

## ***Staff Update: TDL welcomes new CTO Peter Nürnberg***



The Texas Digital Library is excited to announce that Peter Nürnberg has joined the TDL staff as Chief Technology Officer. As CTO, Peter will be in charge of all technology and software development for the Texas Digital Library.

Peter comes to the TDL with extensive experience in both academic and industry environments.

Since 2001 he has helmed his own software consulting company (Xstructure), managing teams on a wide variety of development efforts, including projects for NASA and TeleAtlas. He also previously served as Associate Professor in the Department of Software and Media Technology at Aalborg University in Esbjerg, Denmark, pursuing research in areas such as hypermedia, Web technologies, knowledge and information management, and digital libraries. Peter holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Texas A&M University. ♦

## ***In this issue:***

- ♦ TDL Spotlight: Texas Learning Objects Repository
- ♦ Staff Update: TDL welcomes new Chief Technology Officer
- ♦ TDL Summer Training begins in July
- ♦ TDL News Round-up: A new TDL Blog, An update on Vireo, How to join the ETD listerv, TDL Help Desk information, and more!



<http://www.tdl.org>

*The Texas Digital Library is a multi-university consortium providing the digital infrastructure to support a fully online scholarly community for institutions of higher education in Texas and to promote the widespread availability of their enormous intellectual capital.*

For more information about the Texas Digital Library, please visit our Web site at <http://www.tdl.org>, or contact the TDL program coordinator at [info@tdl.org](mailto:info@tdl.org).

Texas Digital Library  
P.O. Box P · Austin, Texas 78713-8916 · Ph. 512-495-4129 · Fax 512-495-4347

Have an item for TDL Update? Please contact Kristi Park at [kristi.park@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:kristi.park@austin.utexas.edu).

## ***TxLOR project key for the TDL, continued from page 1***

Moen of UNT, who served as principal investigator on the pilot repository, also plays an active role on the Metadata Working Group.

Initially the learning objects repository will contain course materials created through course redesign grants from the THECB, as well as UT Telecampus courses and objects created at UT System's health and medical institutions. However, the repository will also be open to submissions from institutions of higher learning across the state. ♦

## ***TDL News Round-up: What's happening now at the TDL***

**TDL Summer Training begins.** TDL is holding summer training sessions, including full- and half-day courses on TDL services, starting in July and running through September. The next session is August 19. All training sessions take place on the Baylor University campus and are open to staff and faculty from any TDL member institution. Please visit the [TDL Training page](#) on our Web site for more information about course costs, location, and registration or e-mail the TDL at [info@tdl.org](mailto:info@tdl.org).

**Keep current with the TDL Blog.** If you're looking for a new way to keep up with the Texas Digital Library, take a look at the TDL's newest communications tool – the TDL Blog. We'll be using the blog to make organizational announcements and discuss the latest goings-on in the digital library world. Check for new postings at <http://www.tdl.org/blog> or follow us on [Facebook](#).

**Have a question about TDL services? Contact TDL User Support.** To help members get the most out of TDL services, the TDL has set up a user support help desk, staffed by new TDL staff member Lance King at Texas Tech University. You can contact the help desk via an online form at <http://support.tdl.org> or via e-mail at [support@tdl.org](mailto:support@tdl.org).

**Need to know all things ETD? Join the newly created Texas ETD listserv.** The listserv is a Web forum for Texas graduate studies offices, librarians, technical managers, and others that encourages members to ask questions, share best practices, post announcements and publish information that enhances understanding of ETDs. To be added to the list, e-mail the TDL staff at [info@tdl.org](mailto:info@tdl.org).

### **Vireo update**

- UT Austin and Texas Tech University are continuing their testing of Vireo, the TDL's ETD submission and management system, during the summer of 2009.
- Adam Mikeal, a TDL developer at Texas A&M University, and Laura Hammons, Director of the Thesis Office at Texas A&M, traveled to Pittsburgh in June to deliver a presentation on Vireo at [ETD 2009](#).
- The TDL development team's paper on Large-Scale ETD Repositories, presented by Adam Mikeal at [JCDL 2009](#), was nominated for the Vannevar Bush Best Paper Award. Congrats to Adam and the team!

**The TDL Metadata Working Group is re-forming!** In order to provide a forum for defining metadata standards for TDL members, the Texas Digital Library is re-forming the Metadata Working Group. Anyone interested in the group can contact the TDL at [info@tdl.org](mailto:info@tdl.org). Stay tuned for more announcements about this exciting development! ♦



### **Member Institutions**

Angelo State University  
Baylor University  
Texas A&M University\*  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
Texas A&M University at Galveston  
Texas A&M University at Qatar  
The Texas A&M Health Science Center  
(NEW MEMBER!)  
Texas State University  
Texas Tech University\*  
University of Houston\*  
University of North Texas  
The University of Texas at Arlington  
The University of Texas at Austin\*  
The University of Texas at Brownsville  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
The University of Texas Southwestern  
Medical Center at Dallas  
The University of Texas Medical Branch  
at Galveston  
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson  
Cancer Center

*\*founding institutions*