

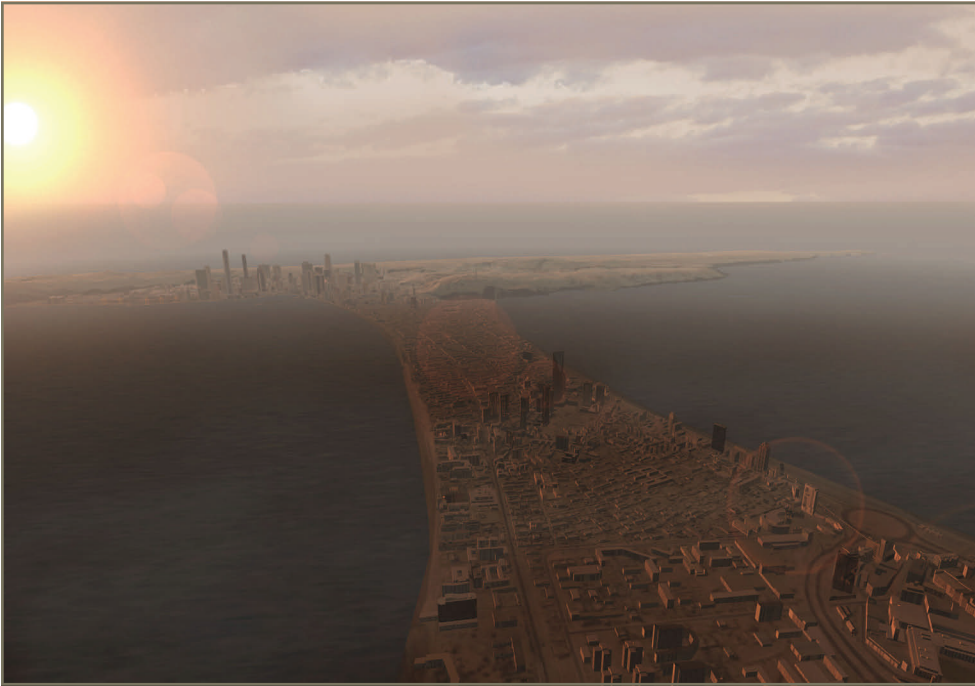


TDL Update

The Newsletter of the Texas Digital Library

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TDL Spotlight: Journal of Virtual Worlds Research



If you've used online chat or played a multi-player game like *World of Warcraft*, you already know about virtual worlds – those computer simulations where avatars (either textual or graphical) stand in for actual people. Virtual worlds aren't just for gamers or for keeping in touch with farflung friends, however. They have broad application across a number of academic and non-academic fields, including healthcare, government, and economics.

The Journal of Virtual World Research (JVWR), a peer-reviewed academic journal published by the [TDL Electronic Press](#), provides a space for scholars and creative communities to explore the practical and theoretical concerns that the term

“virtual worlds” encompasses.

The journal is published online using [Open Journal Systems](#) (OJS), the open source online journal management software used by all TDL journals.

Jeremiah Spence, the founding editor of JVWR, started the journal in May 2008. Spence is a doctoral student at UT Austin, pursuing his degree in the area of Communications and Sociology of Technology.

According to Spence, setting up his journal with TDL was a simple process, helped along by librarians at UT Austin and TDL staff.

“When I decided to establish the JVWR,” said Spence, “one of the

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T E X A S
DIGITAL LIBRARY

<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.

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first priorities was to locate the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the peer review and online publication process, [and] OJS appeared to be the most robust Web platform available to academics without paying a steep subscription fee.”

When reference librarians at UT Austin informed Spence that the TDL offered electronic journal publication services using OJS, Spence contacted TDL’s directors and opted to use the TDL’s OJS platform to host JVWR.

JVWR operates on an Open Access model, promoting

the widest possible availability to its authors’ work.

Since its inception, JVWR has produced five issues, including thematic issues on areas where virtual worlds and other disciplines collide. JVWR’s most recent issue, published in May, explores the intersection of 3D virtual worlds in the realm of healthcare.

You can access the Journal of Virtual Worlds Research via the [TDL Electronic Press](#) or the [JVWR Web site](#). For more information about JVWR or TDL Electronic Journals, visit the [TDL Web site](#) or contact the TDL at info@tdl.org. ♦

Texas Digital Library welcomes new software developers to technical team



William Sidney, new TDL software developer

The Texas Digital Library is excited to announce the addition of two members to its software development team: Otto Fox and William Sidney.

Otto Fox is a software developer with two decades of experience in the software industry. He has previously worked at IBM and Hewlett-Packard and specializes in enterprise software and software process improvement. He has a master’s degree in computer science from the University of Texas at Dallas.

William Sidney also joins the TDL technical team as a software developer. William is a husband, father, and IT professional with extensive experience in software



Otto Fox, new TDL software developer

process, development and management of Information Systems, and system administration of UNIX and Linux infrastructures in high-performance computing environments.

“Bill and Otto bring excellent skill sets to TDL,” said Peter Nürnberg, Chief Technology Officer of the TDL. “Both have years of industrial agile software development experience, and are helping to build this organizational competence here. We’re excited to have been able to bring aboard both Bill and Otto in connection with our efforts to move TDL into a professional, production environment.” Both William Sidney and Otto Fox are located in the TDL’s UT Austin office. ♦

TxETDA holds inaugural committee meeting September 8 in Waco

The Texas Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association will hold its first committee meeting on Tuesday, September 8, in Waco.

The 2009-2010 committee aims to use the gathering to finalize the organization's purpose and goals and establish an agenda for the coming year. Among other things, the Texas ETD Association plans to provide support and training for the TDL's [ETD submission and management system](#), Vireo, as well as offer opportunities for networking and developing best practices around ETD issues.

Laura Hammons, Director of the Thesis Office at Texas A&M University, chairs the TxETDA Committee. Other participants include Jason Thomale (Texas Tech University); Jill Kleister (University of North Texas); Ginger Dickens (UT Arlington); Michele Reilly (University of Houston); Stephanie Larrison (Texas State University); Billie Peterson-Lugo (Baylor University); and Tim Brace (UT Austin).

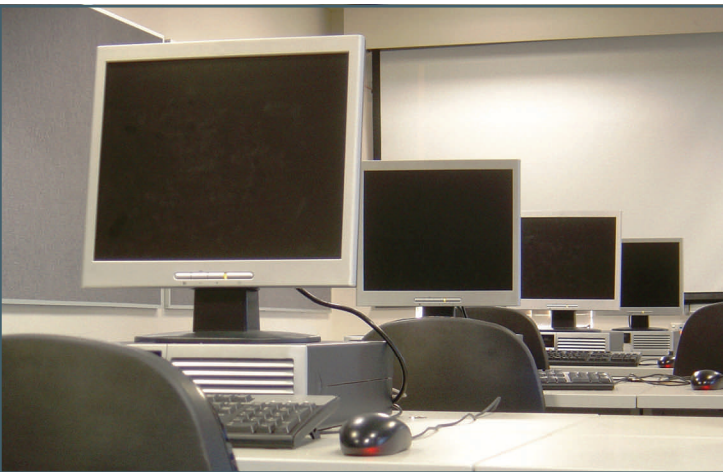
Hammons has high hopes for the committee and TxETDA.

I expect we will make great headway in the next year to advance ETD issues and serve professionals who work with ETDs.

-Laura Hammons, Chair of TxETDA

"The committee represents a diverse number of institutions and experience with ETDs," Hammons said. "We have been actively engaged in online discussion for the past few weeks. I anticipate great things from this meeting, and expect we will make great headway in the next year to advance ETD issues and serve professionals who work with ETDs." ♦

TDL offers training sessions in August and September



The Texas Digital Library welcomes faculty and staff from all TDL member institutions to participate in training courses, covering a range of TDL services and technologies.

August and September sessions, listed below, are held at Baylor University in Waco. Please visit the [TDL Web site](#) for more information about location, registration, and cost. ♦

AUGUST 19

- ♦ Intro to DSpace (9 AM-4 PM)
- ♦ Creating and Managing Blogs with the TDL (1 PM-4 PM)
- ♦ Development, Maintenance, and Use of Wikis in a Scholarly Environment - RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER 21

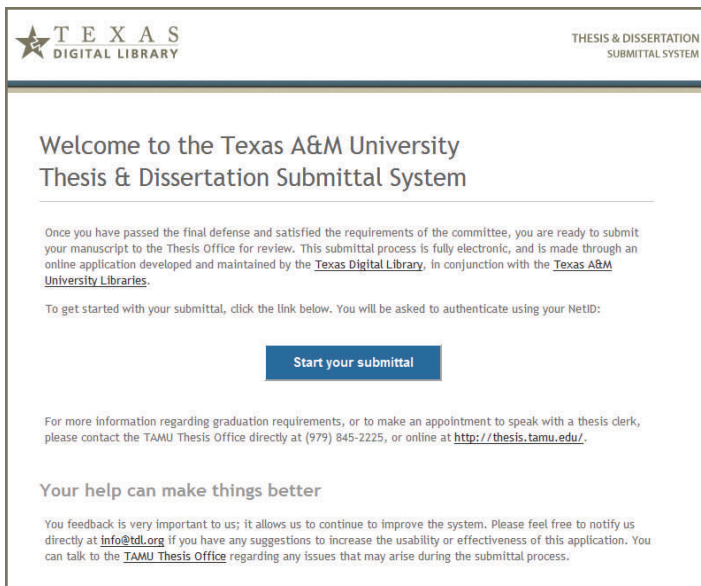
- ♦ DSpace Customization (9 AM-4 PM)
- ♦ Online Scholarly Journals with Open Journal Systems (9 AM-4PM)

Vireo Update: Vireo ETD project nears completion

The Texas Digital Library is excited to announce that programming work on its [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Submission and Management System](#) (known as Vireo) will be complete as of the end of business on August 31, 2009.

TDL staff members are working on final maintenance issues and preparing documentation for those institutions that wish to deploy Vireo at their campuses.

Currently, Texas A&M University is using Vireo for ETD submissions; and UT Austin, Texas Tech University, and UT Medical Branch at Galveston are scheduled to deploy the system in the fall of 2009. Deployments at several other member schools are in the pipeline for the coming year.




Vireo student submission interface for Texas A&M University's ETD system


Vireo addresses all aspects of the ETD process, from submission to approval to publication. TDL developers created the system using DSpace Manakin's capabilities for creating new workflow functionality for DSpace repositories. With Vireo, students submit their digital theses and dissertations via a simple online interface, while graduate offices can manage the ETD submission and approval process behind the scenes.

For more information about Vireo, please visit the [TDL Web site](#) or contact the TDL staff at info@tdl.org. ♦

Keep in touch with the TDL

The Texas Digital Library offers a number of options for keeping current with the organization.

 Become a fan of the TDL on [Facebook](#).

 Read the [TDL Blog](#).

 Follow us on Twitter. We are [TxDigLibrary](#).

You should also feel free to call the TDL at 512-495-4403 or e-mail us at info@tdl.org. ♦



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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
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