

TDL Spotlight: Development team reaches key milestone on TxLOR



The TDL has completed a key phase of development on the Texas Learning Object Repository (TxLOR), performing a demonstration of its first iteration of the system to UT TeleCampus representatives on September 8.

UT TeleCampus (UTTC) is leading the TxLOR project, in partnership with the UT System Office of Health Affairs and with funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. UTTC has contracted with the TDL to provide technical development services for the repository, which will store and disseminate digital objects – including videos, quizzes, lesson plans, and images – used in teaching and learning.

For the TxLOR project, the TDL development team is using an Agile development methodology called Scrum, in which developers work in short development “sprints.” At the end of each sprint, TDL staff demonstrate a workable product to the TxLOR product owner, project manager Junius Rowland of UT TeleCampus.

At the start of the first TxLOR sprint on August 17, Rowland and the TDL development team worked together to create and prioritize a series of “user stories,” the Scrum term for system requirements. Developers then worked for three weeks to create a working model that fulfilled a designated set of the user stories. On September 8, developers revealed the results to Rowland and other project stakeholders at a demonstration held at TDL offices in Austin.

In addition to Rowland, UTTC Director Rob Robinson was present along with Michael Anderson and Terry Barksdale, both of UTTC. TDL developers who worked on the sprint are Dan Galewsky, Otto Fox, Jade Lindquist, and William Sidney, as well as TDL chief technology officer Peter Nürnberg.

“By working in short development cycles, we can create a working system rapidly,” said Nürnberg. “We also stay flexible and attuned to UTTC’s needs for TxLOR, since they

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can provide feedback to our developers at regular intervals.”

The first iteration of the Texas Learning Object Repository includes login and registration functionality, as well as the ability to add, search for, comment on, and download learning objects. Future development sprints will enhance and add functionality to the system. The finished TxLOR will feature a submission and review workflow system built in Grails, an open-source Web application framework, and will use a DSpace repository for dissemination of the learning objects.

Current development plans call for two additional three-week sprints, with the second sprint concluding in mid-October.

The TDL is working in conjunction with several other Texas Learning Object Repository working groups, including those designing metadata standards for the repository, as well as policy guidelines and a definition of the submission workflow.



TDL developers demo an early model of the Texas Learning Object Repository

For more information about the TxLOR project, see the project's wiki at <http://wikis.tdl.org/lor>. ♦

Texas Digital Library welcomes new software developer Jade Lindquist



Jade Lindquist, new TDL software developer

The Texas Digital Library is excited to announce the addition of Jade Lindquist to the TDL technical team.

Jade is a software developer who enjoys using technology to improve people's lives. She has previously worked as a developer for several organizations including Motorola and the Library of Congress and has experience develop-

ing mobile, enterprise, and Web applications. She has master's degrees in Information Systems, Library and Information Systems, and English Literature.

“[Jade] brings a wealth of experience to the team, including a strong library background.”

*-Peter Nürnberg, TDL Chief
Technology Officer*

“We are excited that Jade has joined the TDL development team,” said TDL Chief Technology Officer Peter Nürnberg. “She brings a wealth of experience to the team, including a strong library background, and we believe this experience complements the current team expertise well.”

Jade is located in the UT Austin office of the Texas Digital Library. She is one of three new developers to join the TDL this summer, after William Sidney and Otto Fox came to the organization earlier in August. ♦

Texas ETD Association leadership holds planning meeting September 8

Members of the Texas ETD Association leadership team met at Baylor University in Waco on September 8 to make plans for the coming year. The Texas ETD Association (TxETDA) is an organization formed in 2009 with the goal of providing a network of support for Texas users of electronic theses and dissertations, or ETDs.

The September 8 gathering consisted of a series of brainstorming sessions intended to solidify the mission and goals of the organization and to develop focused strategies for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Laura Hammons from Texas A&M University, Billie Peterson-Lugo and Amanda Harlan from Baylor, Jill Kleister from the University of North Texas, Ginger Dickens from the University of Texas at Arlington, Jason Thomale from Texas Tech University, Michele Reilly from the University of Houston, and Stephanie Larrison from Texas State University were all in attendance.

The emergent themes included increasing awareness of TxETDA and ETD issues, providing support for ETD professionals, and facilitating education and information sharing. TxETDA strives to be a place where ETD professionals look for support and informed practice.

As a result of the meeting, Laura Hammons from Texas



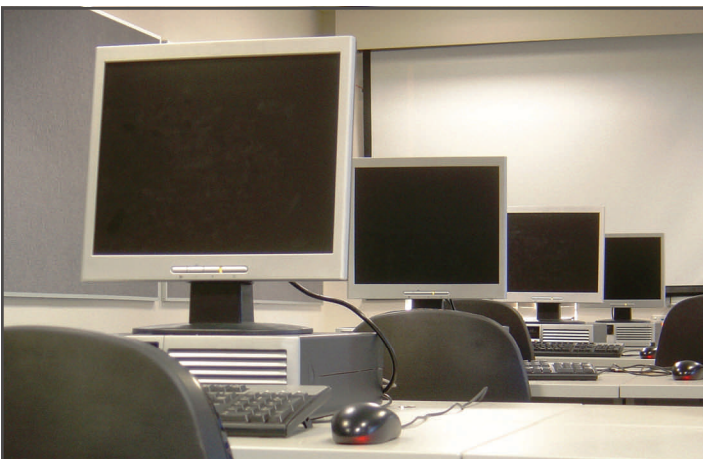
Laura Hammons, Thesis Director at Texas A&M

A&M will be leading the charge for communication and outreach, including the planning of an annual meeting. Billie Peterson-Lugo will head up the open access and copyright subcommittee, while Jason Thomale will facilitate the subcommittee focused on Vireo and ETD management and workflow issues.

Additionally, Stephanie Larrison of Texas State holds responsibility for developing a statewide survey that can be used to assess current ETD practices in Texas. Michele Reilly will coordinate the subcommittee focusing on education, training, and development and will develop a blog to enable resource and information sharing. Jill Kleister, Ginger Dickens, and Amanda Harlan will be supporting the work of one or more of these groups.

Anyone interested in joining the TxETDA listserv to stay abreast of developments within the organization should e-mail lhammons@tamu.edu. ♦

TDL announces training sessions for Fall 2009 at Baylor University



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

There are still openings for the courses to be held on September 21, so register now! Additionally, the TDL is offering several classes on October 22 and November 12.

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

SEPTEMBER 21

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

October 22

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM-4 PM)
- Development, Maintenance, and Use of Wikis (9 AM-12 PM)
- Creating and Managing Blogs with TDL (1 PM-4 PM)

November 12

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM-4 PM)
- DSpace Systems (9 AM-4 PM)

TDL offers technical support to members through newly created helpdesk

In September, the TDL formally announced the creation of a helpdesk to assist users with technical issues they encounter while using TDL services.

The helpdesk is located in Lubbock, Texas, and is the result of work done by Texas Tech University, a founding member of the Texas Digital Library. Texas Tech staffs the service and provides other support that has made the helpdesk a reality.

Lance King of Texas Tech runs the service, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, except on posted holidays.

Lance joined the TDL in the spring of 2009 and has undergone extensive training on all TDL services and products. He has degrees in Management Information Systems and Business Administration from Texas Tech University. Formerly he worked in Network Support and Messaging for AT&T.

Members can access helpdesk support via a simple Web form found on the TDL web site at <http://support.tdl.org> or via e-mail at support@tdl.org.

For more information about the TDL helpdesk and the levels of technical support provided by the TDL, please visit the [TDL Web site](#). ♦



Lance King, right, discusses TDL services with Sarah Sutton of Texas A&M Corpus Christi at a training session in August.

About the TDL

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.

Services provided by the TDL to its members include:

- ♦ Institutional repositories
- ♦ Electronic Journals
- ♦ ETD Submission and Management software
- ♦ Scholarly Blogs
- ♦ Research Wikis
- ♦ Faculty homepages

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TDL Member Institutions

- Angelo State University
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- Texas A&M University at Qatar
- The Texas A&M Health Science Center
- 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 institution