

## TDL Spotlight: Texas A&M Qatar developing Arabic DSpace



More than 200 million people worldwide speak Arabic as their native tongue, and millions more speak it as a second language. Arabic speakers are also one of the fastest-growing groups of Internet users. And just this year, Egypt applied for the first Internet domain written in Arabic – the first nation to obtain a non-Latin character domain.

In this context of increased internationalization of the Internet, Texas A&M University at Qatar is at work to make its digital assets more accessible to Arabic speakers by translating its TDL Institutional Repository into Arabic.

A member of the Texas Digital Library, Texas A&M Qatar operates a DSpace repository that contains a diverse range of institutional, faculty, and student materials, including news releases, honors theses, and faculty research. Texas A&M Qatar is a branch campus of Texas A&M University that was estab-

lished in 2003.

News stories in particular, which the university releases in both Arabic and English, presented an interesting case to Texas A&M Qatar library director Carole Thompson. She and a bilingual staff member tested the repository software to see if metadata entered in Arabic characters for these documents could be searched for in Arabic, and discovered it was possible. As a result, Thompson and her staff are entering metadata for such dual-language items.

Thompson then decided to take the next step, exploring the possibility of translating the entire repository interface into Arabic. By doing so, users will have the choice to navigate the repository in either English or Arabic.

To accomplish this, Thompson enlisted James Creel, a software developer at Texas

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## TDL Spotlight: Qatar developing Arabic DSpace (cont.)

A&M University, as well as Wael Al-Rihawi, an engineering student at Texas A&M Qatar. Al-Rihawi is serving as chief translator on the project, converting the English text to modern standard Arabic.

Among the technical and translation challenges faced by the team are ensuring that the Arabic text is right-justified onscreen, as Arabic is read from right to left, and finding suitable Arabic words for some technical terms like “e-mail” that have no direct translations.

Thompson sees the project as essential to the school’s mission. “It’s very common in this part of

the world to have Web sites in two languages,” she says. “I’m hoping this project will let us do more outreach and also that it will be a tool for preserving our school’s history.”

“I’m happy to think that in addition to being able to display the

TAMU Qatar repository in Arabic, we’ll be making a contribution to the larger world.”

For more information, visit the [Texas A&M Qatar repository](#). Find out more about TDL Institutional Repositories on the Texas Digital Library [Web site](#). ◇

شهادات تقدير لطلاب قطريين من الثانوية العامة لإتمامهم بتفوق برنامج الدورات المكثفة المؤهلة للمرحلة الجامعية في جامعة تكساس أيه أند أم بقطر	
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<b>Author:</b>	كريل, برايدي Brady Creel
<b>Abstract:</b>	برنامج الإثراء Enrichment program
<b>URI:</b>	<a href="http://handle.tamu.edu/1969.2/147">http://handle.tamu.edu/1969.2/147</a>
<b>Date:</b>	2009-03-15

## JoDI gets “A” ranking from Australian computer science society

The [Journal of Digital Information](#), a member of the TDL Electronic Press, has been ranked “A” by the Computing Research and Education Association of Australasia (CORE). CORE is an association of university departments of computer science in Australia and New Zealand.

CORE created the rankings of computer science journals as part of an Australian government-sponsored effort to measure the quality and impact of Australian research. That effort, the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative, is led by the Australian Research Council, a government agency with significant oversight of research funding in Australia. As a result, the rankings have implications for research investment in the country.

According to the ERA standards for journal rankings, a Tier A journal is one in which “a majority of the papers...will be of very high quality,” and publishing there will “enhance the author’s standing, showing they have real engagement with the global research

community.” Tier A journals also feature editorial boards that include “well-known researchers from top institutions.”



Texas Digital Library Co-Director

John Leggett serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Digital Information (JoDI), which covers broad topics related to digital libraries, hypertext and hypermedia systems, and the issues of digital information. JoDI is an electronic-only journal and is supported by the Texas A&M University Libraries through the Digital Initiatives, Research and Technology group; it is hosted by the Texas Digital Library as part of the TDL Electronic Press.

You can find out more about [TDL Electronic Journals](#) and the journals of the TDL Electronic Press on the Texas Digital Library Web site at [www.tdl.org](http://www.tdl.org). ◇

## Development Update: Progress continues on key projects

The TDL technical team continued work on a number of development fronts, including the Texas Learning Object Repository (TxLOR), the Vireo electronic thesis and dissertation system, and PresNet.

**TxLOR** The TDL is working in partnership with UT TeleCampus to create the Texas Learning Object Repository (TxLOR), a statewide repository for digital objects used in teaching and learning.

Since October, developer Scott Phillips in College Station and webmaster Dan Zappone, based in Austin, have created a unique look and feel for the TxLOR submission interface and DSpace repository interface.

**Vireo ETD Management** [Vireo](#) is the TDL's electronic thesis and dissertation submission and management system. The TDL Austin development team completed infrastructure development on Vireo and is engaged in bug-fixing and quality improvement work. TDL plans a release of these im-

provements over the winter break—stay tuned for an announcement.

**Preservation Network** The goal of the PresNet project is to provide long-term storage of digital information via geographically distributed storage nodes. Currently, the TDL has storage nodes operational at Texas A&M, UT Austin, and Texas Tech; this alpha network is handling special collections of data from several TDL members.

The TDL is working in partnership with the Lonestar Education and Research Network (LEARN) to further develop storage nodes for PresNet.

**Online Conference Management** The TDL development team in Austin and College Station have integrated PKP's Open Conference Systems into the TDL infrastructure. Stay tuned for the upcoming release of this service, which provides online tools for managing academic conferences. ◇

## Texas Metadata Working Group meets in Waco to set 2010 goals

The TDL Metadata Working Group, chaired by Amanda Harlan of Baylor University, met in Waco on Friday, October 23, to set goals for the group through 2010.

The mission of the Metadata Working Group is to provide general metadata expertise to the TDL community, through development of best practices and communication around trends in metadata development.

The group currently has seven members: Daniel Alemneh (University of North Texas); Timothy Strawn (University of Texas at Austin); Jason Thomale (Texas Tech University); Mingyu Chen (University of Houston); Holly Mercer (Texas A&M University); Jeanne Hazzard (Texas State University); and Amanda Harlan (Baylor University).

At the meeting on October 23, the group laid out plans for three projects:

- Development of technical and descriptive metadata guidelines for images and datasets
- Development of metadata training courses (to begin fall 2010)
- Creation of a metadata information Web site providing activities and resources for the state's metadata librarians



Metadata Group chairperson Amanda Harlan

The group plans to unveil its Web site and new metadata guidelines at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in the spring of 2010.

For more information about the TDL Metadata Working Group, please e-mail the TDL at [info@tdl.org](mailto:info@tdl.org). ◇

## TDL thanks volunteer trainers for success of 2009 sessions

The Texas Digital Library held its final training session of 2009 on November 12 and would like to thank all the faculty and staff from TDL member institutions, as well as TDL staff, who traveled to Waco during the year to lead sessions on TDL services.

Recognizing that the fastest way to become proficient at something is to teach it, the TDL training program strives to create campus-level experts by giving users the opportunity to teach, prepare, and lead training classes. The TDL relies on its users to make this model successful and is appreciative of their exceptional efforts at making the TDL work for all its members.

- Adam Mikeal (TDL) – Vireo ETD Management
- Cameron Kainerstorfer (UT Southwestern Medical Center) – Introduction to DSpace
- Christine Dromgoole (Texas A&M) – Vireo ETD Management
- Heather Perkins (UT Southwestern Medical Center) - Introduction to DSpace
- Janis Darden (UT Southwestern Medical Center) – Introduction to DSpace
- Jason Thomale (Texas Tech) – Vireo ETD Management
- Jay Koenig (Texas A&M University) – Introduction to DSpace
- Kristi Park (TDL) – Open Journal Systems
- Laura Hammons (Texas A&M University) – Vireo ETD Management



Heather Perkins of UT Southwestern Medical Center discusses metadata issues at the Introduction to DSpace class in August.

- Philip Mattingly (TDL) – DSpace Systems
- Ryan Steans (TDL) – Open Journal Systems, Vireo ETD Management
- Scott Phillips (TDL) – DSpace Customization
- Steven Williams (University of Texas Libraries) – DSpace Customization

The TDL would also like to extend its thanks to Baylor University, which demonstrates its commitment to the Texas Digital Library by providing training facilities and, in particular, to Amy Alexander for coordinating registration and other logistics for the sessions. ◇

## DuraSpace fosters collaboration with Solutions Community program



DuraSpace, the organization that supports the DSpace repository platform, has officially launched its Solutions Community program to provide

opportunities for collaboration around repository issues.

The Solutions Community program is an effort to

bring repository users together to solve common problems of digital information management and preservation. The program is using a “bottom-up” approach to organizing users and encourages grassroots efforts to find others with similar interests and begin sharing information.

Several Solutions Communities are already in existence and new groups are forming. Those interested in participating in the Solutions Community program can find more information in the [Solutions Communities wiki](#). ◇

## TDL training sessions at Baylor University added for Spring 2010

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

Please visit the [TDL Web site](#) for more information about location, registration, and cost. Additional dates may be scheduled, so check back often.

### January 26, 2010

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM – 4 PM)
- Introduction to DSpace (9 AM – 4 PM)

### February 23, 2010

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM – 4 PM)
- Scholarly Electronic Journals (9 AM – 4 PM)

### March 25, 2010

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM – 4 PM)
- Open Conference Systems (9 AM – 4 PM)



### April 22, 2010

- DSpace Customization (9 AM – 4 PM)

### May 27, 2010

- DSpace Systems (9 AM – 4 PM)

All sessions listed above are held at Baylor University in Waco. ♦

### 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
- ♦ Online conference management

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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  
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*