

Message from the Conference Chair



Welcome to South Africa and to the 14th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations, proudly hosted by the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) in collaboration with the Committee for Higher Education Librarians in South Africa (CHELSA) and the Association of African Universities, Database of African Theses and Dissertations (AAU DATAD). This is the first time this symposium is held in Africa. We are very pleased that so many have found their way to our mother city, Cape Town. The list of participants shows that close to 160 participants from 25 countries have registered. This is an indication that the challenges and opportunities evidenced in national initiatives, open access, institutional repositories, digitization, union catalogues, publishing and plagiarism in ETDs have also started to develop in Africa.

ETD 2011 is the latest in a series of international conferences of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD), which provide participants the opportunity to share experiences, compare the issues and solutions in the broad area of open access and digital repositories as presented by experiences of different continents, and to use this knowledge to bridge the north-south divide and enrich the institutional experiences within the Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).

The theme of ETD2011 is “From islands to Global Interconnectedness”. The theme builds on the African philosophy that “We are who we are because of others”. In agreeing to the theme, attention was paid to the critical role that the ETDs as research outputs play nationally and internationally in the union catalogues. It is therefore appropriate to foster institutional relationships and support policy, advocacy, and seamless access and preservation within the Library and Information Science community.

We are proud of the ETD 2011 programme we can present to you. We hope that that you will enjoy the symposium and that you will return home with inspiring ideas and enriching experiences.

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee for ETD2011,

Dr Daisy Selematsela

Chair of the Committee
Executive Director: Knowledge Management & Evaluation
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