



Australian Digital Theses Program

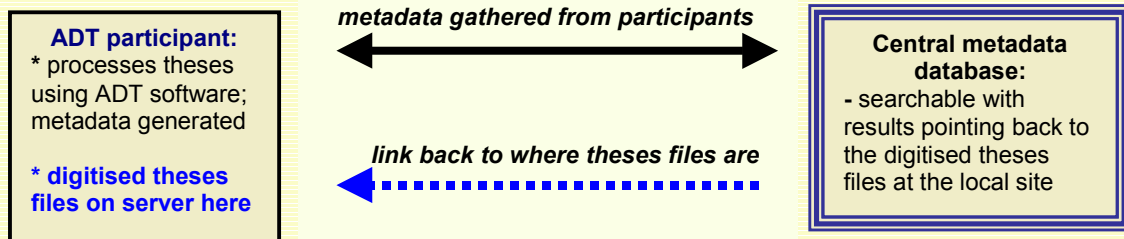
<http://adt.caul.edu.au/>

Background:

- initially funded by Australian Research Council - Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Program grant (ARC-RIEF)
- initiative of 7 Australian Universities - The University of New South Wales [leader]; University of Melbourne; University of Queensland; University of Sydney; Australian National University; Curtin University of Technology; Griffith University - in association with Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) model developed during 1998-1999; opening up to all CAUL members in 2000
- Australian model unique as its focus is on a collaborative approach in developing sustainable method for distributed input to form a central metadata database of digitised theses

How does the ADT model work:

- local institution uses ADT software to process theses in digital format. The theses are mounted on the institutions own server/s. The local institution can also integrate access to theses via local infrastructure, eg webcatalogue, provide local search interface, etc..
- the ADT software automatically generates DC metadata. This metadata is gathered on a regular basis into a central metadata repository/database. The metadata database is searchable using an Australian developed proprietary search engine, with links provided back to the local institution housing the digitised theses files



ADT model in practice:

- digitising theses and making them available via the web is currently done on a voluntary basis; in essence, depositing a digital copy in addition to the traditional paper version
- the ADT model is scalable, and sustainable as long as participants maintain enthusiasm and dedicate resources to the ideal
- at some time in the future some institutions will inevitably move to full electronic submission only; at some point in the future too, this may lead to a comprehensive database of digitised versions of all Australian research theses

The Benefits:

- ready and easy access via the web to information contained in Australian research theses to the worldwide community
- greater recognition by the international research community
- greater access to a valuable but underutilised information resource
- the whole Australian research community



Further Information:
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