

Opening access to UK doctoral theses: the EThOS Project

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Would you like to save time and money, and provide a vastly improved service to your readers? The EThOS Project aims to develop just such a winning service.

PhD theses written by researchers at UK Higher Education Institutions (UKHEIs) contain new research findings, and are an under used source of new ideas for practising researchers. However, theses can be difficult to find and time-consuming and expensive to obtain. The EThOS Project (Electronic Theses Online Service) aims to open up the vast repository of theses hidden in libraries and stores up and down the country, and provide a one-stop service to find and access the digitized text of UK theses.

The resulting service will help to save the time and money of researchers who need access to theses, will promote the research work of UKHEIs and help launch the careers of new researchers. The workload of library staff involved with inter-lending, accessioning, metadata and stack fetching will be reduced, by replacing much of the present labour-intensive supply process with a digital service. The project will provide an operational service infrastructure, and a toolkit for university staff (including library staff) and students,

containing advice on issues such as copyright and confidentiality, recommended approaches and example procedures.

The project partners are the British Library, the Universities of Birmingham, Cranfield, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Southampton and Warwick, Robert Gordon University, the National Library of Wales, and SHERPA. The project is funded by the JISC, CURL and the partner institutions. Background information is on the JISC web site at:

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=project_ethos&src=alpha

Further details and progress will be published in the March 2006 issue of *Serials*. Meanwhile, please visit the project web site at:

<http://www.ethos.ac.uk>

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