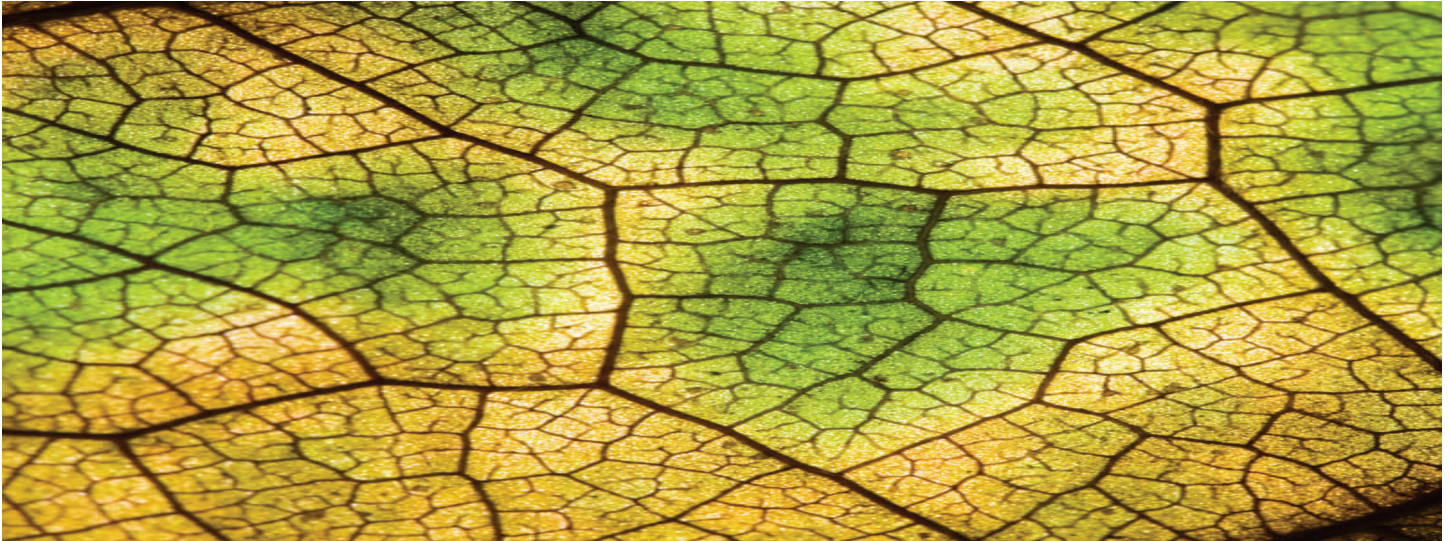


TDL Spotlight: TDL and LEARN form strategic partnership



The [Texas Digital Library](#) and [LEARN](#) (the Lonestar Education and Research Network) have formed a strategic partnership that will support collaboration among Texas higher education institutions and scholars by enhancing access to online scholarly communication services and strengthening the preservation of digital assets.

A non-profit collaboration of Texas higher education institutions, LEARN provides crucial networking infrastructure to the researchers, teachers, and health care workers of the state via an intrastate optical fiber network. The Texas Digital Library provides digital services -- such as institutional repositories, electronic journals, and ETD management solutions -- that enable the publication and preservation of scholarly work.

With their similar memberships and overlapping missions to serve the state's research and higher

education communities, the partnership between TDL and LEARN proved to be a natural fit. "Because everything we are doing in the Texas Digital Library relies on a robust network infrastructure in higher education across the state," said TDL co-director Mark McFarland, "the LEARN partnership is a key to our continued success."

"One piece [TDL and LEARN] share is trying to develop a contemporary set of tools that enhances collaboration," said LEARN Executive Director Michael Phillips. "LEARN can cite the technical pieces, like our 3,000 miles of network infrastructure, but that's only cool to the extent that it allows people to do things. That's where the TDL and its services fit in."

"Almost all of our members are also members of LEARN," said Texas Digital Library co-director John Leggett, "The TDL/LEARN partnership is of strate-

[Continued on page 2](#)

In This Issue:

- [TDL Spotlight: TDL and LEARN form strategic partnership](#)
- [UNT releases new features for Portal to Texas History](#)
- [Development Update: Progress continues on TxLOR, Vireo, other projects](#)

- [Texas ETD Association launches resource](#)
- [TDL Travels: Co-directors, staff travel the state](#)
- [Open Access Week promotes free access to research](#)
- [TDL training sessions held at Baylor University](#)
- [Metadata Working Group meets in Waco](#)

TDL Spotlight: LEARN/TDL partnership (continued from page 1)

gic importance to our members in a number of areas, including federated authentication and preservation.”

Those two issues – authentication and preservation – are key areas of focus for the new partnership.

First, the two organizations will work together to establish a statewide Shibboleth federation that will encourage and assist member institutions in setting up Shibboleth federated authentication. By leveraging the authentication and identity management systems of multiple member institutions, Shibboleth makes the sharing of applications among users at those institutions easier and more efficient.

“It makes more sense than ever to share our resources and work together.”

*-Michael Phillips, LEARN
Executive Director*

“LEARN reinforces the importance of federated authentication to our members and we are thrilled they’ve agreed to help us get Shibboleth installed with our members,” said Leggett.

Secondly, the TDL/LEARN partnership will enhance the TDL’s efforts to create a robust Preservation Network to safeguard the digital information pro-

Member success: UNT releases new features for Portal to Texas History

Congratulations to TDL member the University of North Texas, whose Digital Projects Unit this month released new search and RSS features for its [Portal to Texas History](#). The Portal is a repository of digital collections focused on Texas historical materials.

The Digital Projects Unit launched a completely redesigned Portal in summer 2009. The added features resulted from usability testing conducted for the [IOGENE](#) project, a user interface study funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



duced and stored by its members.

“Best practice for digital preservation requires distributing multiple copies of collections at geographically distributed sites,” Leggett said. “The LEARN network connects a set of distributed nodes in a high capacity computer network, allowing TDL to efficiently distribute copies of our collections in a Preservation Network that is distributed across the State of Texas.”

By strengthening preservation and identity management options within the two organizations’ shared membership, the TDL and LEARN hope to not only improve the provision of services to these members, but also to enhance the spirit of cooperation among higher learning institutions in the state of Texas.

“Texans have always been about sharing,” said Phillips. “And in particular during a time of resource scarcity, it makes more sense than ever to share our resources and work together.” ◇

The feature set released in October includes the ability to limit search results by various facets like county or collection; the ability to return to search results after navigating within an object; new citation formats for users; and RSS feeds for any search.

“We expect to do another round of usability testing on this new interface,” said Mark Phillips, head of the Digital Products Unit at UNT, “and introduce changes based on those findings in early 2010.” ◇

Development Update: Progress continues on TxLOR, Vireo, other 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.



Members of the TDL technical team at work on TxLOR

TxLOR The TDL development team completed a second TxLOR sprint on September 25, adding role and state change mechanisms for the repository to the basic functionality they created in Sprint 1. Developer Scott Phillips in College Station and webmaster Dan Zappone, based in Austin, continue

work on the learning object repository, with a focus on creating a unique look and feel for TxLOR.

Vireo ETD Management Currently, the TDL Austin development team is focused on infrastructure development that will facilitate future bug-fixing and quality improvement work with Vireo. [Vireo](#) is the TDL's electronic thesis and dissertation submission and management system.

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.

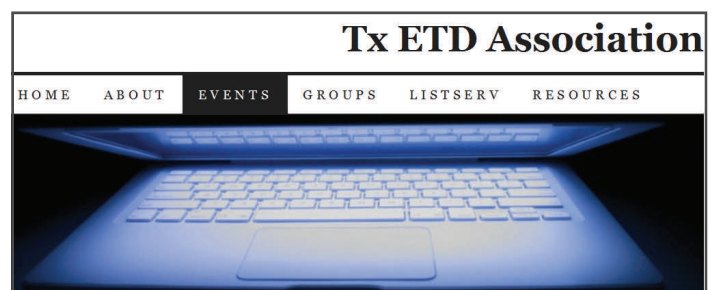
Online Conference Management The TDL development team in Austin and College Station have been working to integrate PKP's Open Conference Systems into the TDL infrastructure. Stay tuned for the upcoming release of this service, which provides online tools for managing academic conferences and conference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

Texas ETD Association launches resource for ETD professionals

The Texas ETD Association, an organization that supports the use and management of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), is excited to announce the launch of the [Texas ETD Association Blog](#), a new resource for communicating with ETD professionals in Texas.

The blog offers a wealth of information about the Texas ETD Association (TxETDA) and ETDs more generally. Among the items included are:

- the TxETDA vision and mission statements
- contact information for TxETDA leadership
- information on upcoming and past events
- a resource list containing useful information on Vireo (the TDL's ETD management system)
- a listing of Texas institutional ETD websites
- discussion of the key initiatives of the TxETDA



The Texas ETD Association was formed in 2009 in conjunction with the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries, hosted annually by the Texas Digital Library.

In addition to its new blog, the TxETDA maintains a listserv for those interested in keeping up with ETD issues. Instructions for joining the listserv can be found on the [TxETDA blog](#). ◇

TDL Travels: Co-directors and staff travel the state to talk TDL

The Texas Digital Library staff visited universities and other institutions across the state this fall to inform members and others about the activities of the TDL.



TDL Co-directors travel to Lubbock to meet with LEARN staff. From left: TDL Co-director John Leggett, LEARN Executive Director Michael Phillips, and TDL Co-director Mark McFarland.

TDL co-directors John Leggett and Mark McFarland have traveled extensively in September and October. The two visited [LEARN](#) executive director Mi-

chael Phillips in Lubbock on September 21-22 to finalize the TDL/LEARN partnership.

Early in October, Leggett and McFarland attended [iPRES 2009](#), an international conference on digital preservation issues, as well as the Sun Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group meeting; both events were held in San Francisco.

Additionally, on September 21, TDL program coordinator Ryan Steans spoke to the Annual Meeting of the [Texas Council of Academic Libraries](#) (TCAL), which met at the AT&T conference center in Austin, Texas. Steans updated the assembly of librarians about the Texas Digital Library and its services.

In October, Helpdesk operator Lance King traveled from the Helpdesk home base of Texas Tech University for a weeklong visit with the TDL team in Austin. He met with various components of the team to get up to speed on TDL services and to finalize TDL support policies. For an outline of TDL policies, including information on the TDL Helpdesk, please visit the [TDL Web site](#). ◇

Open Access Week, October 19-23, promotes free access to research

October 19 marked the beginning of [Open Access Week](#), a global celebration of the principle of Open Access. The week provides an opportunity to expand awareness about the Open Access (OA) movement and its goal of making research results immediately and freely available online.

Organizations around the world, including here in Texas, have planned events and presentations designed to promote Open Access and inspire their constituencies to use the power of the Web to increase access to scholarship.

The event, lasting October 19-23, is the first international Open Access Week, though it builds on past Open Access Day celebrations, which began in 2007. OA Week is sponsored by a number of organizations, including [SPARC](#), [PLOS](#), and [Students for Free Culture](#).

The Texas Digital Library supports Open Access by

providing tools for Texas scholars that encourage the free and open publication of their research. Those tools include institutional repositories, where scholars can self-archive their work, as well as open access electronic journals, blogs, and wikis.

Several TDL member institutions, including [Baylor University](#), [Texas Tech University](#), and the [University of Houston](#), have planned OA Week events, such as presentations on electronic journals and Creative Commons licensing.

For more information on Open Access Week and the Open Access movement, visit the [OA Web site](#). ◇



TDL Training sessions at Baylor University, October 22 and November 12

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.

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.



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) ◇

Metadata Working Group convenes in Waco for October meeting

The TDL Metadata Working Group will meet on Friday, October 23 at Baylor University.

The meeting, led by metadata librarian Amanda Harlan of Baylor University, will be focused on developing an agenda for the group for the upcoming year.

The Metadata Working Group is focused on metadata issues related to institutional repositories and digital collections. ◇

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

Contact the TDL

Texas Digital Library
P.O. Box P
Austin, Texas 78713-8916
Ph. 512-495-4129
Fax 512-495-4347

Follow the TDL



TDL Member Institutions

Angelo State University
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*