Integrating ETD program in to a brand new Research University environment: lessons from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

Abstract

For many Universities, ETD is a combination of digitized documents and digitally born documents. But at brand new Universities like King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), or more specifically for the libraries that born digitally, establishing an ETD program seems to be much easier and straight forward, without having an inherited backlog of paper-based collections. But it is not a simple journey. In a new environment, process, policies, systems are immature and not integrated, moreover new add-ons elements and bringing all players together makes it a difficult process. As our library building does not have a space for print journal collection, do not have one for theses collection either, which adds to the concern of long term retention of graduate works output.

This paper explores the establishment phases of ETD program in a brand new University. We will be discussing, the success stories, difficulties, different systems used in submissions, plagiarism checks, approvals, stakeholder’s involvement, alignment with different units and finalizing the efforts through adopting a graduating policy and service level agreements. Graduate Education and the Library work together to keep ETD program follow the creation, submission, and dissemination of graduate research in digital form. The second section of the paper will discuss future challenges associated with ETD, the increasing demand on supplemental files such as audio, video and research datasets. The skill sets required in describing supplemental files, expertise in preserving datasets, research data expertise and continued access are going to be the challenging faces for any ETD programs in near future.

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