

José A. Mari Mutt – Acceptance Speech – ETD Leadership

Greetings from very far away, in Puerto Rico. I am thrilled to have been awarded one of the ETD Leadership Awards. My sincere thanks go to the NLDTD Awards Committee, and to Adobe for their support of this award and for developing a product central to ETD projects around the world.

I think that my very modest contribution has been to show that a successful ETD project can be established with very few resources. The concept behind ETDs is very easy to understand. For me, establishing a large committee to study the subject and/or conduct an extended pilot study was out of the question because, at least around here, that's what you do when you want to kill a project or delay it for many years. Besides, many universities have conducted such studies and some of their reports are available on the web for us to read and learn from. All we needed was one person with enough influence to convince department heads and students, knowledge about PDF files, ability to maintain a simple website, and access to reliable server to store the documents. Luckily, from previous positions as department head and scientific journal editor, I had the experience and necessary skills plus FTP access to the main university server. Our one-person project will surely grow and become more complex with time, but it is now fully functional and operates with minimal resources. We have about 250 theses online, available 70-24-365 with unrestricted access, and administrators, professors and students are happy.

Thanks again! I hope that all of you are enjoying the meeting and having a great time in Australia.

José A. Mari Mutt
Director of Graduate Studies
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez