Welcome Address – USETDA 2020 – John Hagen

Good afternoon. My name is John Hagen and I’m the Executive Director of the United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USETDA). The USETDA is a national non-profit organization representing the community and interests of graduate school and library professionals and others who work with graduate students and faculty, electronic theses and dissertations, institutional repositories and scholarly communications issues. 

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I’d like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as you join us at USETDA 2020, our 10th annual conference. This year’s theme is “Making Connections: Scholarly Communication in the Digital Age”. We hope you will learn from the insights and experiences of our presenters and share your own thoughts as we begin our journey on exploring all things ETD.

Over the past decade, USETDA conferences have been held across the United States. We’ve been to Orlando, FL; Boston, MA; Claremont, CA; Austin, TX; Columbus, OH; Washington, DC; Denver, CO and Charleston, SC. Today we have over 200 people attending the 2020 conference, mostly from the United States, but we also have a fair number of visitors with us from around the world.

I’d like to introduce the USETDA Board of Directors who, as members of the Conference Planning Committee, helped to organize this event. I’d like to thank everyone for your enthusiasm and thoughtfulness as we organized our first virtual conference.

- Heidi Arbisi-Kelm, Valeria Caviness, Valerie Emerson, Sally Evans
- Lusiella Fazzino / Board Secretary
- Teri Green / Board Treasurer / Programming Committee Chair
- Janice Robinson, Teri Robinson, Cynthia Tindongan, Stacy Wallace, Emily Wuchner and Aura Young

If you’re interested in serving on the USETDA Board, feel free to contact us, we’d love to hear from you. You’ll find our application on our Website.

Please help me thank our sponsors for their generosity in helping make this event possible. We couldn’t have done it without you!

- Ohio ETD Association
- ORCID
- ProQuest
- Texas Digital Library
- University of Florida Graduate School & Libraries
  - Don’t forget to visit our virtual exhibition area for more information on our Website

Finally, I’d like to acknowledge our host institutions which are providing the Zoom room streams for today’s conference.
We want to remind everyone that today’s Zoom meeting sessions will be recorded and available for later viewing. We’ve also posted copies of presentations in our online conference proceedings. The conference program and program schedule are also available from our Website.

- If you like today’s conference, please consider joining USETDA as a member institution. The dues are only $100 annually. There are perks for members and it helps sustain our organization and annual conferences.

Join us at the USETDA 2021 Conference, to be held (live, in theory) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio next September 29th – October 1st, 2021. Alternatively, If all else fails, I am sure we’ll meet again here virtually in Zoom.

Consider hosting the USETDA 2022 Conference in your city or on your campus, the USETDA Board handles all of the planning, financing and logistics, we simply need partners to assist with local organizing tasks.

**Zoom Room Navigation Tips**

- [Online Tutorial](#) (link also included in your invitation email)
- 3 institutional Zoom room streams (Rooms A, B, C)
  - Room A is the plenary room and one of 3 breakout rooms

Visit our Website at [usetda.org](http://usetda.org)
- Click on Program Schedule in the right sidebar
- Enter password: xxx
- Select (xlsx) or (pdf) format or the Conference Program

Here’s a snapshot of the program schedule.
- Click on a session you want to attend, and then click on the hyperlink.
- When the applicable Web page opens, click on the Zoom Room link to join the session.
- Zoom will prompt you to leave your current session when you want to go to a session in a different room.

If you need assistance along the way today, don’t hesitate to contact our virtual Help Desk. Aura Young and I will be happy to assist you.

Finally, I’d like thank our presenters for sharing your experiences and wisdom with our audience today. I’d also like to thank you, our audience participants for your devoted attention and your contributions to the ETD community by being here with us today. So let’s get started, shall we?