# APPENDIX D:
## FUTURE PLANS

The collaboration between the MetaArchive Cooperative and the NDLTD is now long-standing, with many plans in place to continue building on the collaborative efforts undertaken to date. If this proposal is awarded by IMLS, the leaders who planned this project fully intend to further build on the documents and tools produced. These future plans are speculative, and have therefore not been included in the grant proposal narrative; by relating some highlights of our thoughts concerning the future, we hope to provide a better sense of how we see the results of this project being carried forward, sustained, and further developed.

### A National Dialogue

While it lies outside the scope of this project, we envision fostering a national dialogue concerning lifecycle management of ETDs resulting from this project. This dialogue will certainly include discussions in the workshops and presentations that we have described elsewhere in this proposal, but we also see promise in hosting various kinds of social media sites on this topic. Such dialogue websites might take several forms; we can envision discussion boards, blogs, and wikis as possible ways of fostering this discourse.

We also see possibilities for user groups and support groups to engage in dialogue on lifecycle management topics. The code4lib conference is a successful example of a practitioner conference which regularly results in both information exchange and practical spinoffs. Venues that are more free-form and user driven than existing ETD associations might result in a different kind of engagement with the practical concerns of maintaining ETDs.

### Future Workshop Series and Connections to LIS Education

As ETD programs continue to proliferate in the United States, there will be a continually growing need for training and education opportunities for those who must lead and operate such programs. The project PI (Dr. Martin Halbert) and project Co-PI (Dr. Katherine Skinner) see a great need for inculcation of ETD lifecycle management topics in Library and Information Science curricula. While we strongly believe that this project is a necessary first step that must grow out of the community of practitioners, there must eventually be transfer of this curriculum into LIS programs. Dr. Halbert is a tenured member of the UNT LIS faculty, and Dr. Skinner is a regular adjunct faculty member in several LIS programs. The planning team can envision a future project that expands the results of this project into a full-fledged curriculum of study to be incorporated into LIS educational programs around the country. Such a project might be a logical future proposal to the Laura Bush IMLS program, but it will first require that basic materials such as those proposed in this project become available to build on.

### Connections with Other Digital Archives Endeavors

While there are particular issues associated with ETDs as a genre of digital assets with aspects unique to their function as instruments of educational certification and intellectual accomplishments, many aspects of lifecycle management discussed in this project are of course relevant to other kinds of digital archives. The MetaArchive Cooperative regularly studies and identifies broad-based issues that cut across boundaries of digital archives. Many of the guidance documents, tools, and educational materials that this project would generate could be seen as prototypes for similar products tailored to other kinds of digital assets. We can envision future projects that would explore the targeted needs in other kinds of digital archives for such documents and tools. The experience to be gained in the current proposal would inform such work.

### International Dialogue

Finally, we see the issues surrounding lifecycle management of ETDs as appropriate and of interest to an international dialogue. As our letters of support demonstrate, there is interest in the international ETD community in the topics of this project. While international connections are beyond the scope of this project, we see them as very relevant for subsequent projects, and a very fruitful area of international collaboration.