

University of Technology, Sydney
Faculty of Information Technology
Master of Business in Information Technology Management

The Australian Digital Theses Program
and the
Theory of Disruptive Technologies: a case study

Susan Lafferty

This Project B has been submitted as a requirement of the
Master of Business in Information Technology Management

University of Technology, Sydney
Faculty of Information Technology
Master of Business (IT Management)

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ABSTRACT

The Theory of Disruptive Technologies put forward by Clayton Christensen in 1997 has attracted significant attention. This case study tests the hypothesis that the theory is generalisable to new situations. It uses datasource triangulation by using document, statistical and interview analyses (including investigator triangulation) to apply the Theory to Australian Digital Theses Program (ADT) and finds that the Program may indeed be a disruptive technology in relation to academic libraries, universities and to the publishing industry.

However, it has greater potential to be disruptive in the latter, and to be a sustaining technology, as defined by the Theory, in relation to libraries and universities.

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Glossary of Terms

<i>ADT</i>	<i>Australian Digital Theses Program</i>
<i>CAPA</i>	<i>Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations</i>
<i>CAUL</i>	<i>Council of Australian University Librarians</i>
<i>DEST</i>	<i>Department of Education, Science and Training (Australia)</i>
<i>Dublin Core</i>	<i>The Dublin Core metadata element set is a standard for cross-domain information resource description (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, 2003)</i>
<i>MARC</i>	<i>Machine Readable Cataloguing</i>
<i>Metadata</i>	<i>Data about data. Describes how and when and by whom a particular set of data was collected, and how the data is formatted (Webopedia,).</i>
<i>Qualified Dublin Core</i>	<i>Dublin Core metadata qualified by the addition of information. e.g. type of contribution made by Contributor, dimensions of an image, etc. (Cox, 1999)</i>
<i>XML</i>	<i>Extensible Mark up Language</i>