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For Immediate Release

VTLS Partners with Virginia Tech on NDLTD

Blacksburg, Va. - VTLS Inc. is pleased to announce its partnership with Virginia Tech to promote and provide a union database for access to the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). The NDLTD is an international federation of member universities and other institutional members who wish to improve graduate education, promote access to scholarly research, increase sharing of knowledge, help universities build their information infrastructure, and extend the beneficial impact of digital libraries. Established in 1997, NDLTD has grown to more than 100 members, with new additions occurring regularly. Today's members come from 18 nations.

NDLTD was established through a research project of Virginia Tech in 1997, with Principal Investigators Dr. Edward A. Fox, Department of Computer Science; Dr. John L. Eaton, Graduate School; and Gail McMillan, Digital Library and Archives.

Commenting on the partnership between VTLS Inc. and NDLTD, Fox said, "As NDLTD continues its rapid expansion and extends its services to members, we are pleased to discuss with VTLS new ventures of mutual interest."

The NDLTD will provide easier access to theses and dissertations from all over the world. As Eaton notes, "The ETD project is an excellent way for universities to let their scholarship be known to the world. In the past, much of this information has been unavailable to researchers."

In addition, McMillan said, “Online thesis and dissertation is an easy way for libraries to improve user services. Our experience with this project has been very positive.”

VTLS Inc. has been invited to serve on the Steering Committee of NDLTD. Company president, Dr. Vinod Chachra, will be the VTLS representative on the Steering Committee. VTLS will be actively involved in promoting NDLTD among its customers worldwide. VTLS will also begin to host a union database of electronic theses and dissertations. Contributions for this database will be invited from all the libraries participating in the NDLTD project. VTLS is uniquely equipped for this activity due to the comprehensive support of the Unicode® Standard in its Virtua ILS—Integrated Library System. Encoding in Unicode allows data to be entered into a single database in any language, including non-Roman languages like Arabic, Chinese, English, Greek, Hebrew, and Russian, providing for a single repository of metadata of theses and dissertations from all over the world.

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to provide such a valuable service to the worldwide research community. This project will benefit all libraries and library users,” said Chachra. “As an alumnus, I am more than pleased to have the opportunity to work in tandem with Virginia Tech.”

VTLS Inc.

VTLS Inc. (www.vtls.com) is an ISO 9001 registered company. VTLS develops, markets, and supports solutions for managing library collections and accessing information via computer networks. VTLS solutions include Virtua ILS (Integrated Library Systems), Visual MIS (Multimedia and Imaging Solutions) and Vista CPS (Companion Product Suite). VTLS is a corporate member of the American Library Association, a voting member of NISO, and a charter member of CNI. A diverse customer base of more than 900 libraries, located in 32 countries give VTLS a global perspective of the industry and compels the company to abide by strict international standards.

NDLTD

NDLTD (www.ndltd.org and www.theses.org) is a membership organization with 4 Consortia, 13 Supporting Institutions and over 80 Universities/libraries that are members. Its purpose is to promote the creation of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) by all students around the world; the development of supporting programs and infrastructure at libraries, universities and other interested institutions; and the sharing of research results through ETDs and other resources made accessible through digital library technology. Eventually it is hoped that hundreds of thousands of ETDs will be prepared yearly, written in all the languages of the globe, and be shared to promote knowledge, scholarly communication, and understanding. All interested parties are invited to join NDLTD and to help in this endeavor.