TRACING OUR GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
A Bibliographic Analysis of UNT Digital Library Item Usage Among Global ETDs

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1. 
Introduction

ETDs as a source for evolving digital scholarship
Evolution of ETDs

- Beginning of ETDs in 1999
- Widespread adoption over the next decade
- Integration of born-digital components
- Alternative forms of ETDs
  - Infinite Ulysses,
  - Owning My Masters: The Rhetorics of Rhymes & Revolutions
These build from current trends in the discipline, and with each change at the ETD level, the potential increases for systemic change to disciplinary standards.
UNT Digital Library and ETDs

As both a repository for ETDs and source for primary resources for study, we sought to understand the global impact of UNT Digital Library collections on electronic theses and dissertations worldwide.
UNT Digital Library Mission

In support of the UNT Libraries Mission, the UNT Libraries’ Digital Collections is dedicated to the long-term collection, production, maintenance, delivery, and preservation of a wide range of high-quality digital resources and services for the UNT Community and users throughout the world.
How can we measure our impact?

To understand how our items might be used around the world, one way to chart how they are integrated into disciplinary scholarship is to measure them within one source: electronic theses and dissertations.
Research Questions

1) What Disciplines are citing UNT Digital Library items through their ETDs?
2) What kinds of global connections have developed through ETD usage of UNT Digital Library items?
3) How has cited UNT Digital Library scholarship changed over time within ETDs?
2. Methodology

Building a process
Gathering the corpus

While NDLTD and WorldCat provide indexes of ETDs, full-text searching remains difficult.

By combining a search of individual institutional repositories with ProQuest, we can better understand how ETDs function as a measure of scholarship’s evolution and a source of that change in itself.
ProQuest Global

Scope of coverage
- Over 3.8 million dissertations and over 630k Master’s theses
- Over 1.6 million dissertations and almost 500k Master’s theses in full-text

Advantages:
- Full-text coverage of dissertations since 1997
- Starting in the 1980s ProQuest includes author created abstracts for both dissertations and theses
- Representation of over 1,000 institutions from 6 continents for dissertations and theses
ProQuest Global: Representation by Language

Dissertations - 53 languages
Theses - 31 languages

*Other consists of 48 languages
*Other consists of 28 languages
ProQuest Global: Dissertation Representation by Location

- Total Dissertations
  - 67% North America
  - 27% Europe
  - 12% Asia

- Full Text Dissertations
  - 87% North America
  - 11% Europe
ProQuest Global: Theses Representation by Location

- Total Theses
  - 98% North America
  - 1% Africa
  - 1% Asia

- Full Text Theses
  - 99% North America
  - 1% Asia
ProQuest Global Dissertations and Theses by Publication Date

- 1637 - Oldest dissertation
- 1743 - Oldest full-text dissertation
- 1888 - 4 Master’s Theses
  - 2 from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln
  - 2 from the Central Institute of Psychiatry (India)
Limitations

Universities are making submission to ProQuest optional rather than required.

Some institutional repository search interfaces only allow keyword search of metadata record, not full text. This prevents a search of reference items and limits discovery to information from the title and abstract only.
Institutional Repositories

Use of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for identifying individual institutional repositories

Using the top 500 institutions, we took a stratified sample using 4 randomly selected institutions per 100 listed
Individual Institutions Searched

Top 100
- National University of Singapore
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Freiburg
- University of Helsinki

Top 200
- Pohang University of Science & Tech
- University of Adelaide
- University of Copenhagen
- University of St. Andrews

Top 300
- Birkbeck, University of London
- Central Queensland University
- Deakin University
- Norwegian University of Science & Tech

Top 400
- Hanyang University
- Technical University of Dortmund
- University of Macau
- University of Navarra

Top 500
- Stellenbosch University
- University of Aveiro
- University of Strathclyde
- University of Nice Sophia Antipolis
Definitions

UNT Digital Library encompasses three repositories located at the following URLs:

UNT Digital Library
http://digital.library.unt.edu

The Portal to Texas History
http://texashistory.unt.edu

Gateway to Oklahoma History
http://gateway.okhistory.org
Scope

As The Portal to Texas History initially became available in 2004, we limited our searches to manuscripts submitted from 2005-2016.

Our initial protocol called for gathering documents at 2-year intervals. As this pulled a limited number of documents, it was expanded to all years within our scope.
3. Results
Initial Search Results

Out of the 20 searched institutions, none contained references to the URL strings. However, a third of these did not have full-text available.

Within ProQuest Global, over 600 ETDs were found to cite UNT Digital Library items from predominantly US institutions.
1) What kinds of global connections have developed through ETD usage of UNT Digital Library items?

Items predominantly appeared in North American institutions’ ETDs. However, 30% of these institutions were ranked in the top 500 worldwide by Times Higher Education 2017 World University Rankings.
The Portal to Texas History

Number of ETDs citing The Portal to Texas History Items per Institution Ranking Group

- 001—050
- 051—100
- 101—150
- 151—200
- 201—250
- 251—300
- 301—350
- 351—400
- 401—500
- 501—600
- 601—800
- 801—
How has cited UNT Digital Library scholarship changed over time within ETDs?
Types of Items cited in ETDs

Most consistent and highly cited item types from the UNT Digital Library:

- Dissertation
- Report
- Book
The Portal to Texas History Items

Most consistent and highly cited item types from The Portal to Texas History:
- Book
- Newspaper
- Map
What Disciplines are citing UNT Digital Library items through their ETDs?
# UNT Digital Library Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Disciplines Using DL Items</th>
<th>Number of ETDs</th>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Social and Behavioral Sciences</td>
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<td>Business Administration</td>
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<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Languages and Literature</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
References


THANKS!

Any questions?

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CREDITS

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