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PROVIDING ONLINE ACCESS TO OVER A CENTURY OF
THESES AND DISSERTATIONS AT UMASS AMHERST

Meghan Banach Bergin
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UMass Amherst Libraries
Background

- Launched our Bepress IR in 2006
- Began collecting theses and dissertations from grad students in 2007
- Began digitizing print collection in 2014
- 24,000 print titles dating back to the late 1800s
- 5,000+ print titles scanned so far
- All freely available in ScholarWorks
Project Goals

• Make print theses and dissertations more accessible
• Increase their chances of being read by a worldwide audience
• 20,000 (out of 24,000) print titles have not circulated since 2006
• ETDs some of the most highly downloaded content in our IR
• ETDs are approaching 1 million downloads in ScholarWorks
• 19 downloads per title on average
• All titles have been downloaded at least once
• Older titles receive surprisingly high numbers of downloads
Copyright Policy

- Contact authors to inform them about the project
- Allow authors to opt out
- 3% opt out rate
- Ask authors for donations to cover cost of scanning
Random Obligatory Pet Slide – Toby at a horse show
Pre-Scanning Workflow

1. Select academic programs to digitize
2. Create list of titles to pull from shelves
3. Order missing and damaged copies from Depository
4. Inform academic departments
5. Pull from shelves
6. Prepare shipment
7. Check for damage or missing pages
8. Send letters to authors
9. Ship to Internet Archive for scanning
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