Providing Online Access to over a Century of Theses and Dissertations at UMass Amherst

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

Meghan Banach Bergin
Head of Metadata Unit
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
Happy Authors
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. Inform academic departments
4. Pull from shelves
5. Check for damage or missing pages
6. Order missing and damaged copies from Depository
7. Prepare shipment
8. Ship to Internet Archive for scanning
Workflow

Post-Scanning Workflow

1. Print volumes shipped back from Internet Archive
   → Save completed piolists
   → Record opt-outs on Master file

2. Add new department series to ScholarWorks if needed
   → Create new auto collection filters in ScholarWorks if needed
   → Create MARC records for digital versions

3. Transform MARC metadata to Bepress Dublin Core
   → Add opt-out information to Bepress Dublin Core metadata
   → Batch upload metadata and PDFs to ScholarWorks

4. Export list of URLs from ScholarWorks
   → Add ScholarWorks URLs to MARC records
   → Match URLs with author contact information

5. Email links to authors
   → Discard print copies
   → Suppress records for print copies
THANK YOU!
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