Wrangling Horses and Herding Cats
ETDs and Other Terminal Projects (OTPs)
Overview

• Why we started talking about terminal projects (TPs), not just ETDs and PILOs

• Nontraditional electronic TPs have been around almost as long as traditional electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs)

• Our non-ETD processes are much improved in recent semesters and we have plans for further improvement
Terminal Projects (TPs)

- Core requirements for degree completion that need to be archived and/or published
- With exceptions at some institutions:
  - Graduate programs that do not submit terminal projects to libraries, graduate schools, or other campus-wide units
  - Undergraduate honors programs
Terminal Projects (TPs)

- TPs ‘versus’ ETDs and PILOTs
  - Also called culminating projects
  - ETDs are a subcategory

- PILOTs are another subset
  - UF has a growing number of “professional doctorates” that do not flow through our Graduate School

- Practices for approving/accepting other TPs vary widely
  - Among institutions
  - Sometimes among units in large organizations like UF
The Horses: Traditional ETDs

- Our Graduate School accepts the large majority of TPs
  - 2,156 over past six terms, average 359 per term
- After all for a term are formally certified, they are transferred to the Libraries for preservation and sharing
  - Grad School also generates metadata
- Work on our end includes:
  - Checking packages for files that do not belong in the online item
  - Running automation to ingest all packages (PDF and xml metadata), assign any restrictions, and set restriction expiry dates
  - Semi-manually sorting out all items made public in a cycle and making copies available to ProQuest
  - Processing requests for restriction extensions and early releases
Probably our earliest OTP, from 2000

- https://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/UF00094002/

A Guide to

Create A
Knock-out
Advertising
Portfolio

(Without Setting Foot in Portfolio School)

Renee Yarrington Regoeteiro
Brief History of OTPs at UF

• We began ingesting electronic projects in lieu of theses in 2009

• Process was extremely manual and customized for degree granting units (DGUs)
  • Included physical visits to some offices to collect files on thumb drives
  • Metadata was inconsistent because we were not permitted to request original cataloging

• Routine cataloging began in 2016
  • Started receiving handoffs via shared folders in spring 2018
Future for our OTPs

• Currently working to bring all OTP ingests into a unified workflow

• Most (all?) DGUs will retain unique aspects of their content
  • And possibly individual workflow tweaks, e.g.:
    • Handling multi-item submissions
    • Managing audio, video, and other formats not focused on text

• Identifying existing programs is a challenge
  • So is spotting new ones
Resources

- Slides and handouts will be available at https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00011681/
- Partial list of OTPs: https://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/ufetd/results/?t=,terminal+project,project+in%20lieu%20of%20thesis&f=ZZ,+TI,+TO,+TO
  - We are in transition to a new platform and this canned search might stop working in the near future
- Contact info: gwswicord@ufl.edu  
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