

A photograph of Earth from space, showing the blue and white horizon of the planet against the blackness of space. A bright light source, likely the sun, is positioned at the top center, creating a prominent vertical lens flare that streaks down towards the horizon. The Earth's surface is visible as a curved band of blue and white, with some darker patches indicating landmasses.

No Longer Collecting Dust: How ETD & Open Access Will Revolutionize the Academy

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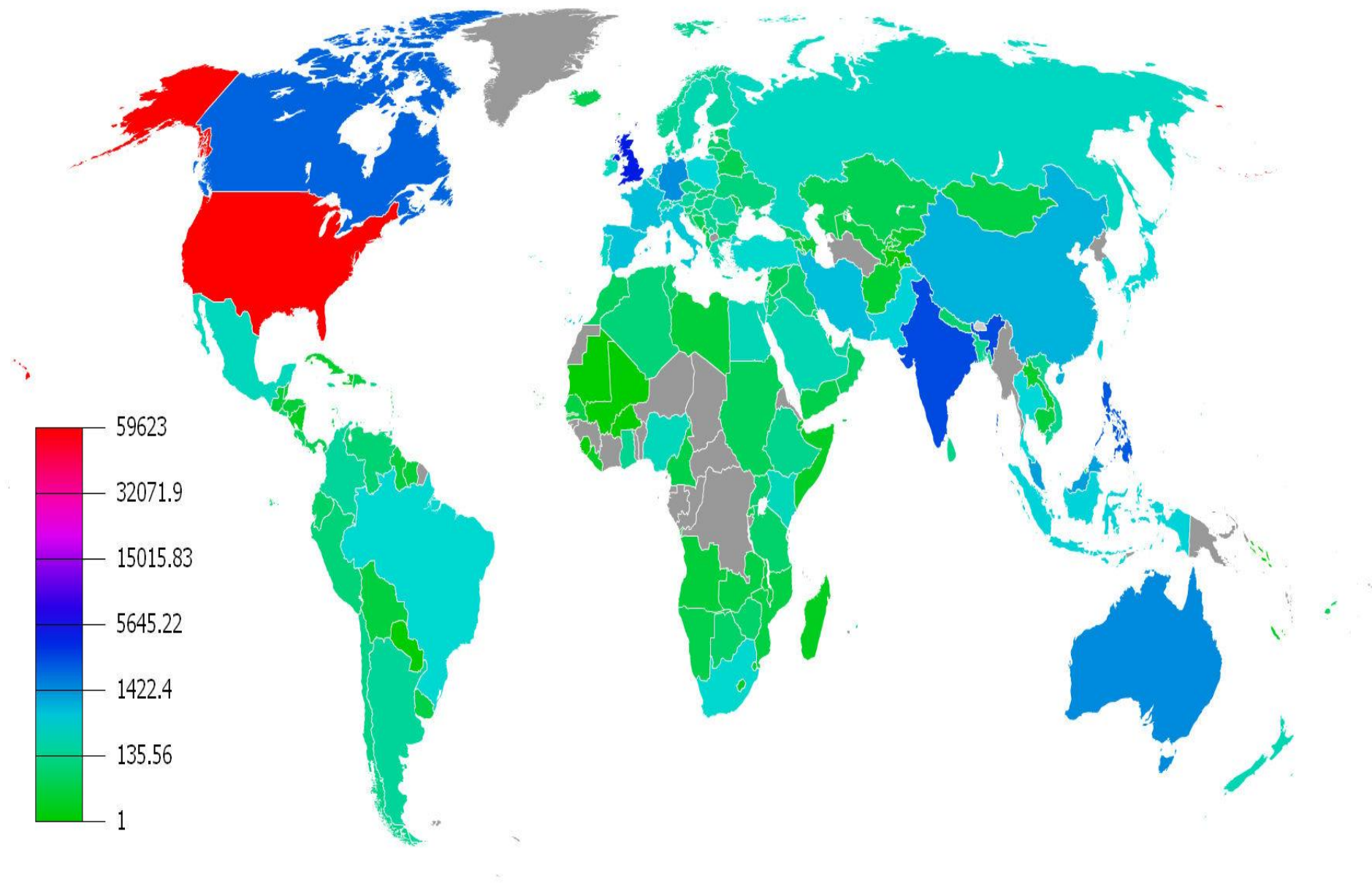
ETDs, Open Access & the Democratization of Information

For universities, ETDs & open access will

- Allow them to harness the power and impact of the greater speed and reach of information diffusion
- Speed the process of information sharing and discovery
- Move research impact metrics away from citations to other more timely and useful indicators
- Increase the impact of new and emerging areas of research
- Democratize rankings of universities away from slower moving measures, like reputation



Google Hits of UNT ETDs



Coordination, not Control of Information

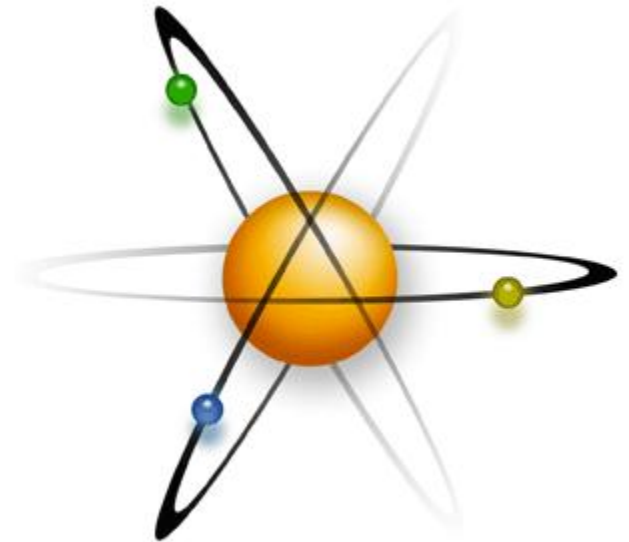
When everybody or nobody is in charge
there must be leadership

- To protect against damage to files
- To protect against release of sensitive information
- To facilitate productive discussion through civil discourse and most importantly to promote access



A Critical Mass of Leaders is Needed

- Leadership in critical associations
- Leadership among top-ranked universities
- Leadership among key university leaders
- Leadership among key stakeholders



Information Seeks to be Free!

- It will eventually find its way into the public domain
- Standing in the way will be university politics, profit and scholarly egos
- But those who innovate and publicize their accomplishments fastest will force others to catch up



People Seek Free Information!

[UNT ETD Collection](#)



Now it's your turn!

