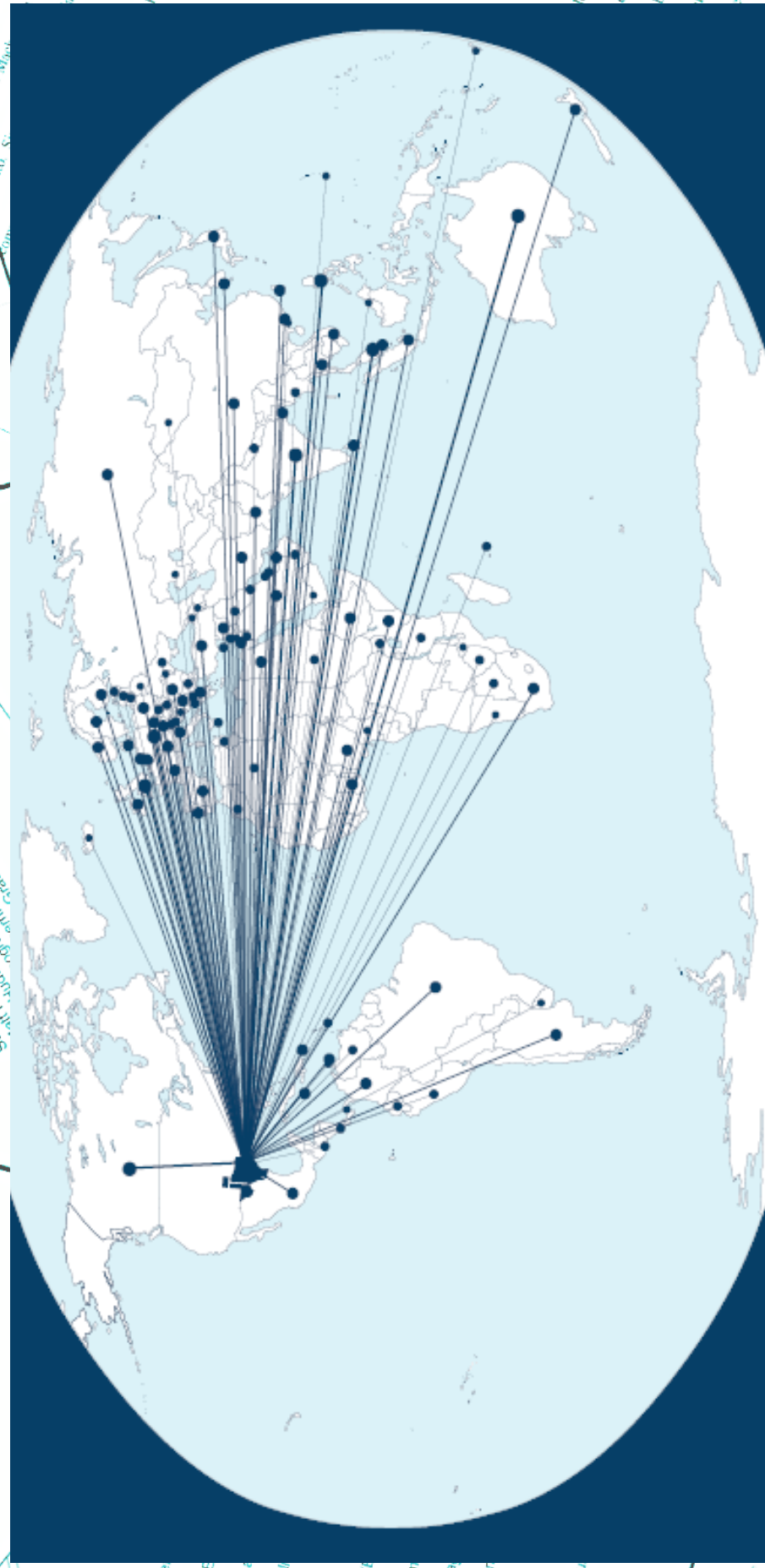


Toward Best Practices in Integrating ETDs and Associated Data: UNT's Approach

2012 TxETDA Conference, Beyond Boundaries: Extending the Reach of Research at the University of North Texas in Denton February 23-24, 2012



UNT Libraries
THE POWER OF IDEAS STARTS HERE

Toulouse
Graduate School

Introduction

A move to an all-digital means of providing ETDs and related academic documents is accelerating their discovery and facilitating their use, value and impact in research. With enhanced metadata-based and subject-specific search mechanisms, it is now easier than ever to access, use and reuse scholarly works and associated data that have not been available through traditional publishing alternatives.

The University of North Texas (UNT) has a long history with ETDs. It has mandated the electronic submission of theses and dissertations since 1999. Different disciplines have different ETD structures and requirements. For instance, the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) dissertation consists of all required recitals plus the written document. In addition to the written document that represents original specialized research and an advanced level of musicianship, DMA students are required to provide digital copies of all of their DMA recitals.

Multimedia Content Challenges

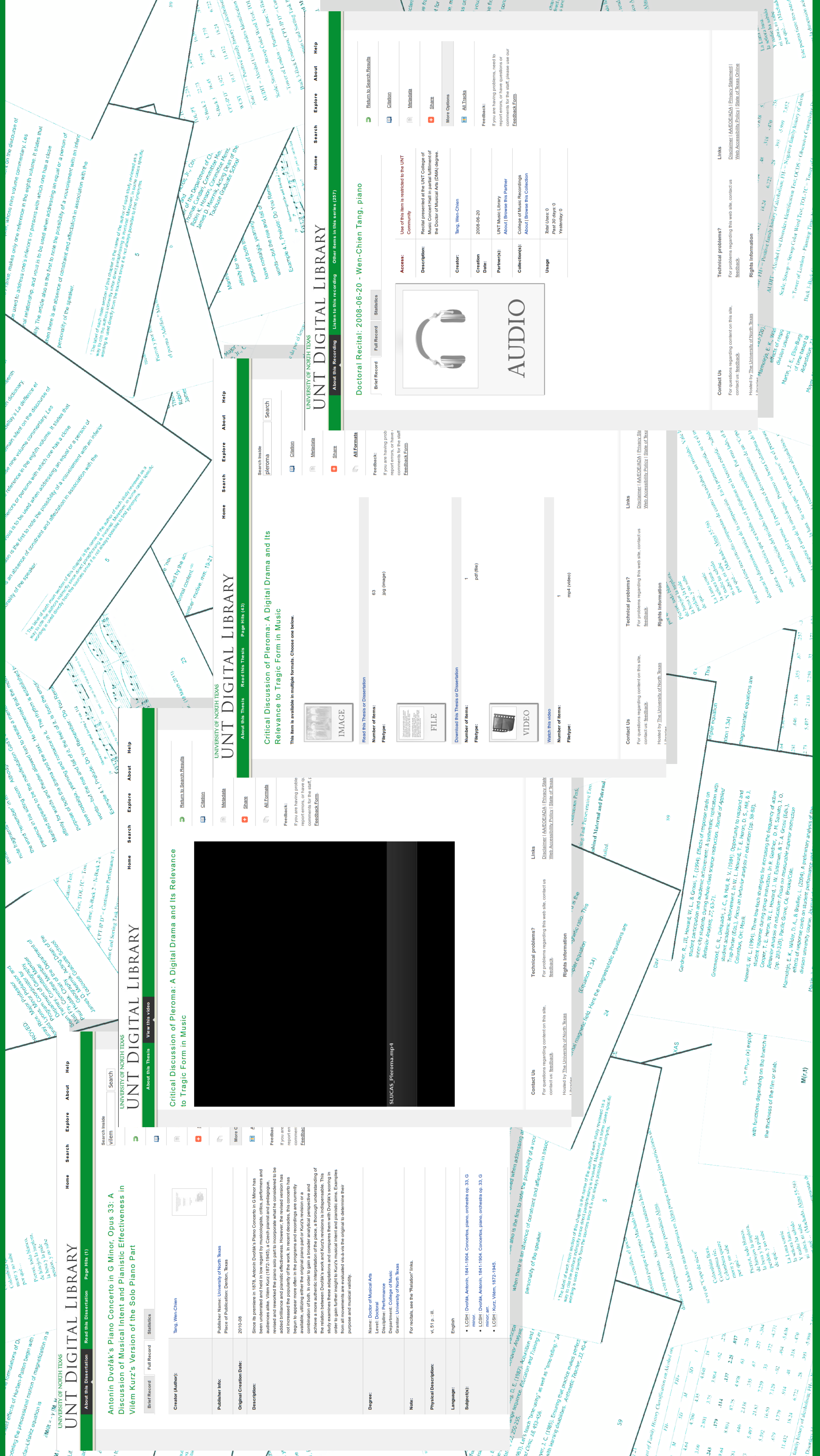
The challenge yet to be overcome in the provision of access to such multimedia content includes achieving a level of description and information retrieval sufficient to the medium's demands.

Video: Typically can only be fully comprehended and described after having been experienced in real time.

Text: Can be readily scanned and made searchable using OCR.

Still Images: Can be visually analyzed and easily cataloged.

This situation may become more onerous as the volume of unusual datasets and multimedia contents associated with the ETDs increase.



Retrospective Conversion for ETDs published 1999 to 2010

Providing multiple format access

- Jpg (Single page image)
- Pdf file of all content
- Other associated data (video, audio, dataset, etc.)

Integrating and linking multiple parts

- Music Recitals
- Journal Publications
- Other Related Parts

Summary

There is general agreement within the academic and research communities about the critical need to link publications and underlying data. The UNT digital library infrastructure supports aggregating a variety of digital formats. It also facilitates the re-use of existing resources and creation of new scientific knowledge. Recognizing the research values of ETDs and associated data, this poster highlights UNT's approaches to integrate and provide seamless access to these valuable, often overlooked materials.