A Comedy of Errors

Preservation challenges at Texas Tech University
The Physical Years (1926-2005)

- Embargo was simple - a drawer
- Moved to ETDs in 2005
  - Running out of space
  - Lack of resources for printing
- Started ETDs as a time saving measure
Scanning (2005-2009)
Almost lost all Embargoed items from 2005-2009

Saved by a random conversation and an Accidental archive

Plans didn’t survive past the people who made them
Virginia Tech System and the near miss (2011)
Local Vireo Problems (2009-2010)

- Administration assumption-
  - Library didn’t need to be involved
- Frustrating “Dark Age” for ETDs
  - no one was really in charge of the ETD collection in DSpace.
Local Vireo Problems (2009-2010)

- Embargoed items were in peril
- only one copy on a shaky local instance of Vireo
The start of Digital preservation (2011-2012)

- Single points of failure, Local DSpace and Local Vireo
- Established archive space ~50 TB
- Pulled a copy of everything - disregarding overlap
  - Dspace (17k items)
  - Vireo (3k items)
  - Virginia Tech (14K items)
  - T&D scanning project (12K items)
The start of Digital preservation (2011-2012)

- Didn’t have time to review items one by one.
- Just “preserved” everything
- Started a “manifest”
- But still no Metadata librarian involved
Metadata involvement (2012-2013)

- Put Shelley in charge of ETD collection
- Finally had one contact at the library
- Made list of “lost” items
- Revealed gaps
- Realized that while things were safe, they weren’t organized
Metadata involvement (2012-2013)

- Started reviewing ETDs item by item
- Started identifying where things were
- Found all “lost” ETDs.
- Started the long process of cleanup
“Digital Stewardship” (2013-present)

- Moved into Digital Resources Unit October 2013
- Goal: Clean up the archive and streamline workflows
- The DPN factor
- Current project: Audit the ETD collection
Current situation
Ideal situation
The Challenge

- Need to rein in ~1,800 out of 16,000 ETDs
- Have to identify duplicates and “other oddities”
- Need to create stub records in Dspace for embargoed items
- ETA: 2016
Getting to Ideal...
# ETD Audit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Archive Location</th>
<th>Embargo</th>
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Surprises along the way

012298
012309
012721 (Ready to Archive)
We all have the same Arch thesis
Discussion

- 2 years of clean up work ahead of us
- We tried to treat curation as simple when it was actually complex.
- Upper admin were calling shots, but not involved with day to day running.
- Stub records for embargoed items have their uses
Students are not informed

- We assumed students wouldn’t change their minds
- We were very wrong.
- We see a need to educate students on benefits and dangers of “publishing” and embargo
Conclusion

- Multiple copies in different places
- Keep a list
- Procedures for documentation so it will last
- Know where everything is