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

Jim Meernik
Acting Dean, Toulouse Graduate School
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
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!