Implementation of a New Date/Time Standard in Digital Library Metadata

The University of North Texas Libraries' digital collections switched to the Extended Date/Time Format for dates associated with digital objects. We analyzed the dates already in the system at that time:

- **Valid EDTF**: 379,682 (97.2%)
- **Not Valid**: 11,069 (2.8%)
- **Total**: 390,751 dates in 234,381 records

**Figure 1**: Number of valid vs. not-EDTF valid dates in the collections

**Figure 2**: Most common problems in non-EDTF valid dates

**Figure 3**: Valid vs. not-EDTF valid dates after automated conversions

**Conclusions & Challenges**

- Date validation can improve accuracy
- Not all formatting is straightforward for unfamiliar metadata creators, particularly if it does not match their local practices
- For any format, using a written display can make dates less ambiguous
- Some dates are difficult to normalize for display, e.g.: 1852-uu-09 → ?? 9, 1852

**Figure 4**: Metadata guidelines clarify date formats for creators

**Figure 5**: Date validation assists metadata creators through color coding and reminders

**Figure 6**: Dates are normalized in the public interface for users

**Figure 7**: An icon is displayed for dates that cannot be normalized, leading to a glossary