Working with ProQuest to Digitize Legacy Theses & Dissertations

Texas ETD Association Webinar
June 14, 2018

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A Tale of Two Times – Then & Now

• It was the best of times. . . it was the worst of times. . . well, not really. . .

• Then – Fall 2002/Spring 2003

• Now – Fall 2017
Background

• Private Institution
  – Fall 2002 about 14,159 FTE
  – Fall 2017 about 17,000 FTE (20% increase)

• Graduate Students
  – Fall 2002 about 1,259 (843 masters & 416 doctoral)
  – Fall 2017 about 1,875 (1,140 masters & 703 doctoral; 49% increase)

• All dissertations sent to ProQuest and some theses
  – Currently ~2,762 titles in ProQuest database
  – 507 theses (1949–present)
  – 2,255 dissertations (1960–present)

• Implemented ETDs in Fall 2005
  – About 175 submissions/year
  – Currently 1,942 ETDs (theses and dissertations) in BEARdocs
More Background

• Fall 2001 -- The Baylor Libraries & Information Technology Services Merged

• Spring 2002 – “Electronic Library” Formed
  – Library Technology & Academic Technology
    • Classroom Technology
    • High Performance Computing
    • Online Teaching & Learning (Blackboard)
    • Student Technology
  – Budgets separate, but together
Then -- What?

Proposal from ProQuest to GWLA consortium to digitize pre-1997 microfilmed dissertations

• Primary deliverables
  – PDFs of dissertations and MARC records (optional links)
  – Accessible to Baylor at no cost outside of ProQuest Digital Dissertation via “Research@Baylor” database

• Digitization fee based on number of participating GWLA libraries
Then -- Why?

- Very good price break
- Merger provided a budget with more robust funding
- No in-house digitization facilities
- Relatively small number of dissertations (~900)
- No work on our part
- Win – Win proposition
Then -- Outcome

• Dissertations digitized
• Made available to us via Research@Baylor, as well as PQDD
• Did not obtain:
  – PDFs of dissertations – no institutional repository
  – MARC records
    • Already had in-house MARC records
    • Easier for cataloging personnel not to deal with duplicate MARC records with 856 links
Now -- What

A proposal from ProQuest to digitize our print masters theses and remaining print dissertations

• Ship to ProQuest
• Some unbound & discarded; some bound & returned
• Digitized and microfilmed
• Metadata created
• Return digitized content, metadata, & bound theses
• Multi-year project, with cost distributed over 5 years
• An opportunity to remove volumes from shelves & make all theses & dissertations available digitally
Now – More What

• Print theses – ~5,655
  – ~2,210 only 1 location – digitized as bound volumes and returned
  – ~3,445 at least 2 locations – digitized as unbound volumes and not returned

• Print dissertations – fewer than 100
  – Some in 1 location
  – Some in multiple locations
Now – More What

Accompanying materials
• ~114 Folded plates and/or maps
• ~19 CD-ROMs
• 1 additional volume with maps
• 1 Zip disk
• 1 Audio CD
• 2 Videocassettes
Now – Why

• Project would require a request for funds
• Significant amount of work to pull together print theses and dissertations
• Robust digitization facilities
• Excellent metadata librarian
• Funds and personnel time needed to migrate to new online system – much higher priority
• On hold for now
The End