

Background

The University of North Texas (UNT) was founded in 1890 as a normal and teacher-training institute and by 1990 had over 100 advanced degree programs. The UNT electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) program began in 1999. Although UNT is one of the early adopters of ETD, the UNT theses and dissertations (T&D) retrospective conversion project (for pre-1999 theses and dissertations) was not started until 2010. This poster presentation provides detailed information about the evolution of the UNT T&D digitization project workflow.

The UNT T&D retrospective conversion project involved the cooperation of departments and divisions of the UNT Libraries not previously involved with digitization projects. The poster will cover the challenges and opportunities involved in the selection, preparation, and transfer of the print theses and dissertations from Special Collections to the Digital Projects Unit. These include digitization and electronic storage, the involvement of the Cataloging and Metadata Services Department in providing access, and the various methods for disposing of the processed paper copies.

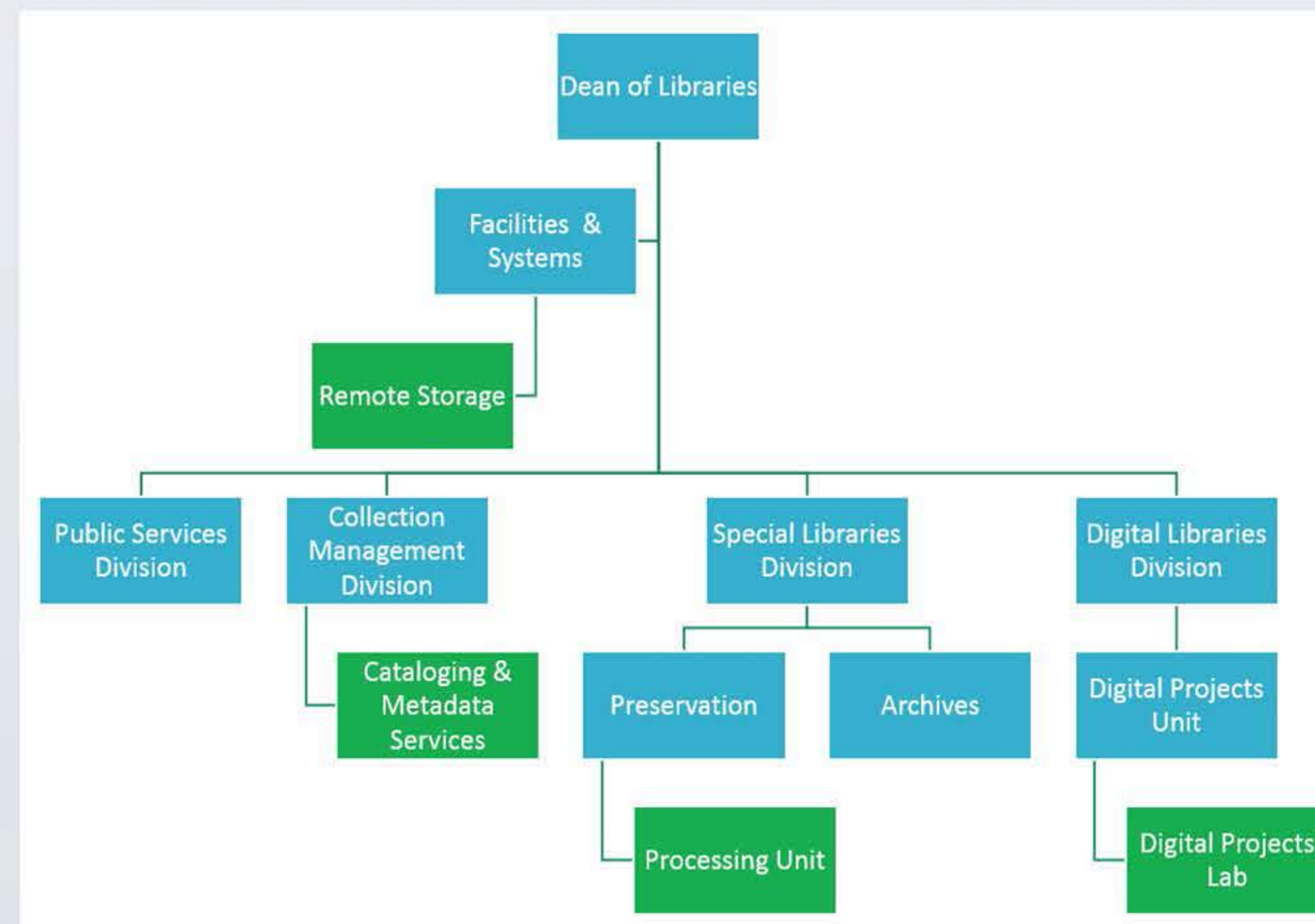


Figure-1: Participating UNT Libraries' Divisions and Units

At the beginning of the retrospective conversion project it was expected that the workflow would be different from the one in place for the current ETDs. Staff in other divisions not previously involved would now participate. Many questions would need to be answered and decisions would need to be made about many issues, including:

- Which copies (microform versus paper) should be digitized?
- How should we digitize theses that consist of fabric or 3-D items?
- How can we determine the identity of an unreadable signature?
- What are the impacts of new FRBR, RDA, BibFrames, etc. on our records and on the project workflow?

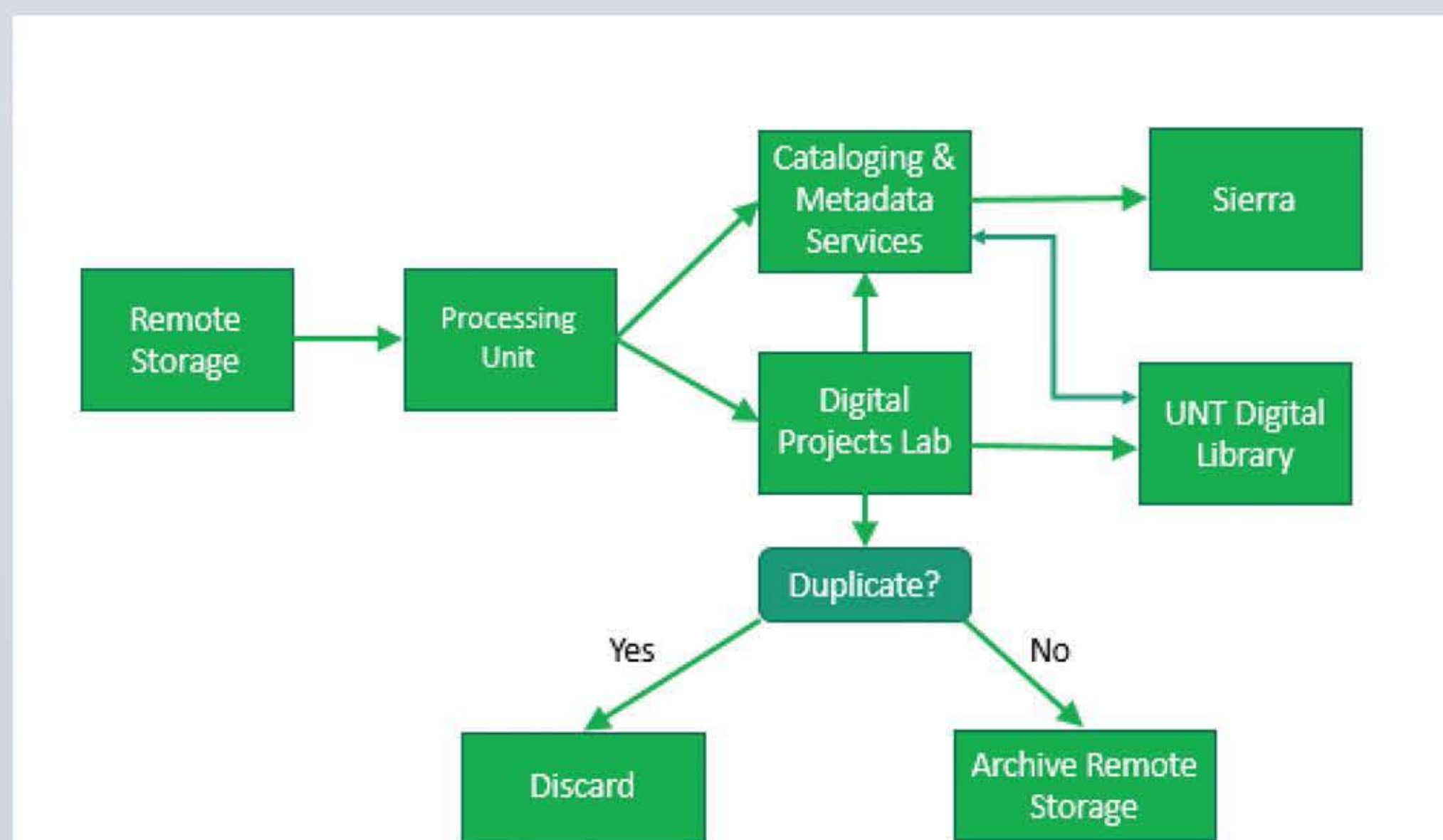


Figure-2: General Workflow of Theses and Dissertations Retrospective Digitization at UNT

Workflow



Figure-3: Preparation for Polar Cutter (Cutting off the Cover and Spine)



Figure-5: The Unbound Digitized Copies Ready to be Shipped to Archival Storage (Off-campus New Remote Storage Facility)

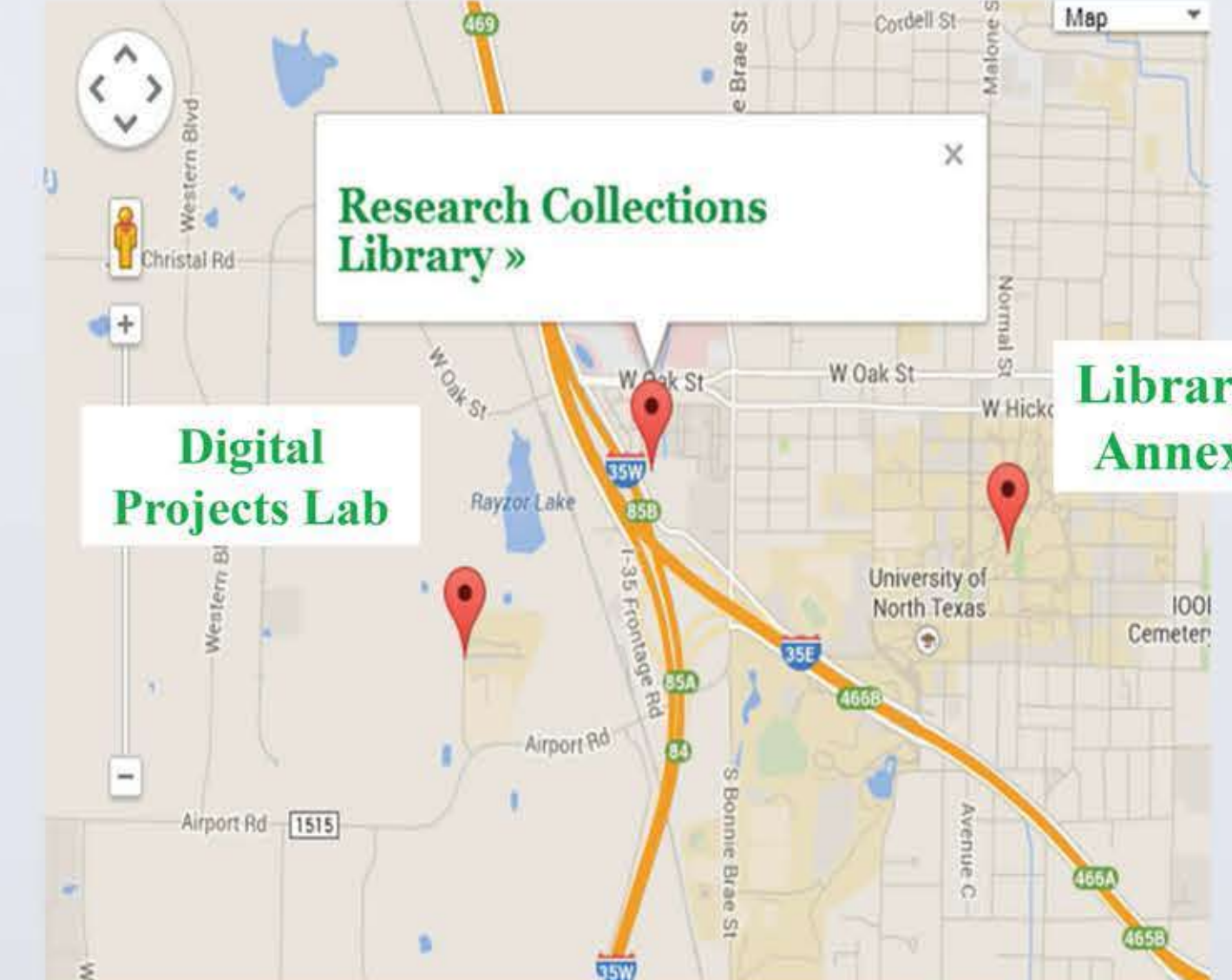


Figure-6: The Three Locations (about 3 miles apart)

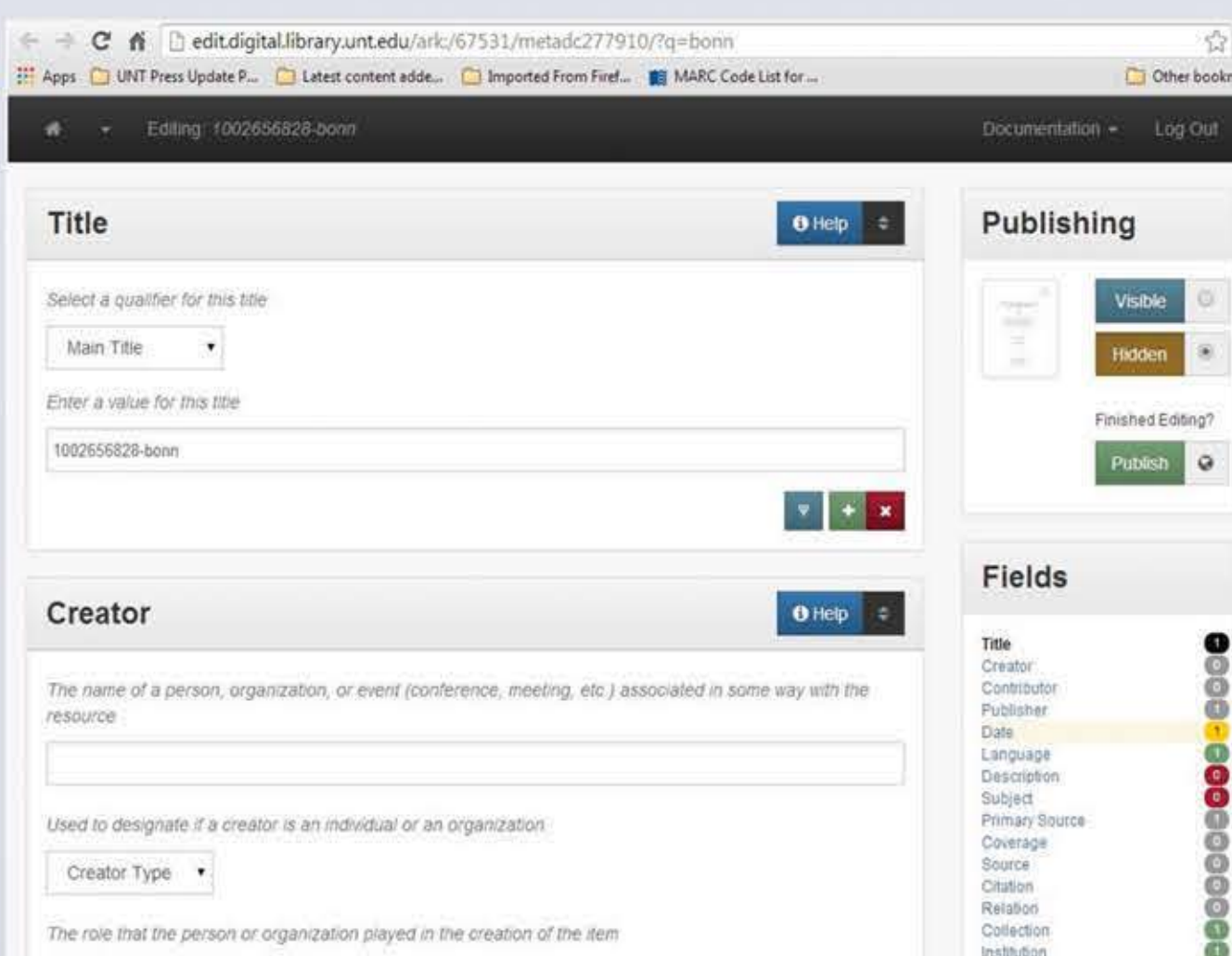


Figure 8 Enriching Metadata Descriptions Access

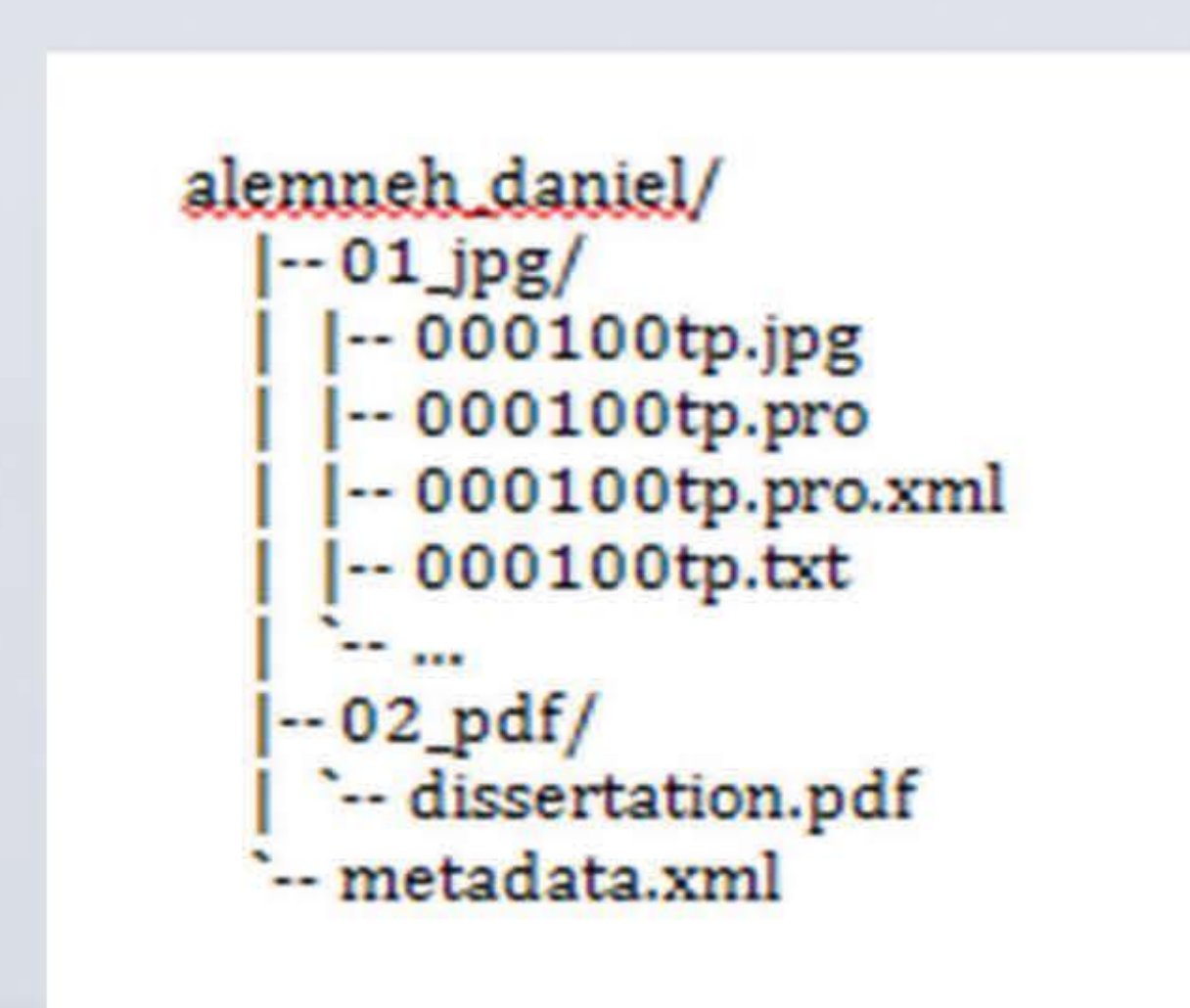


Figure-9: Submission Information Package (SIP) at UNT

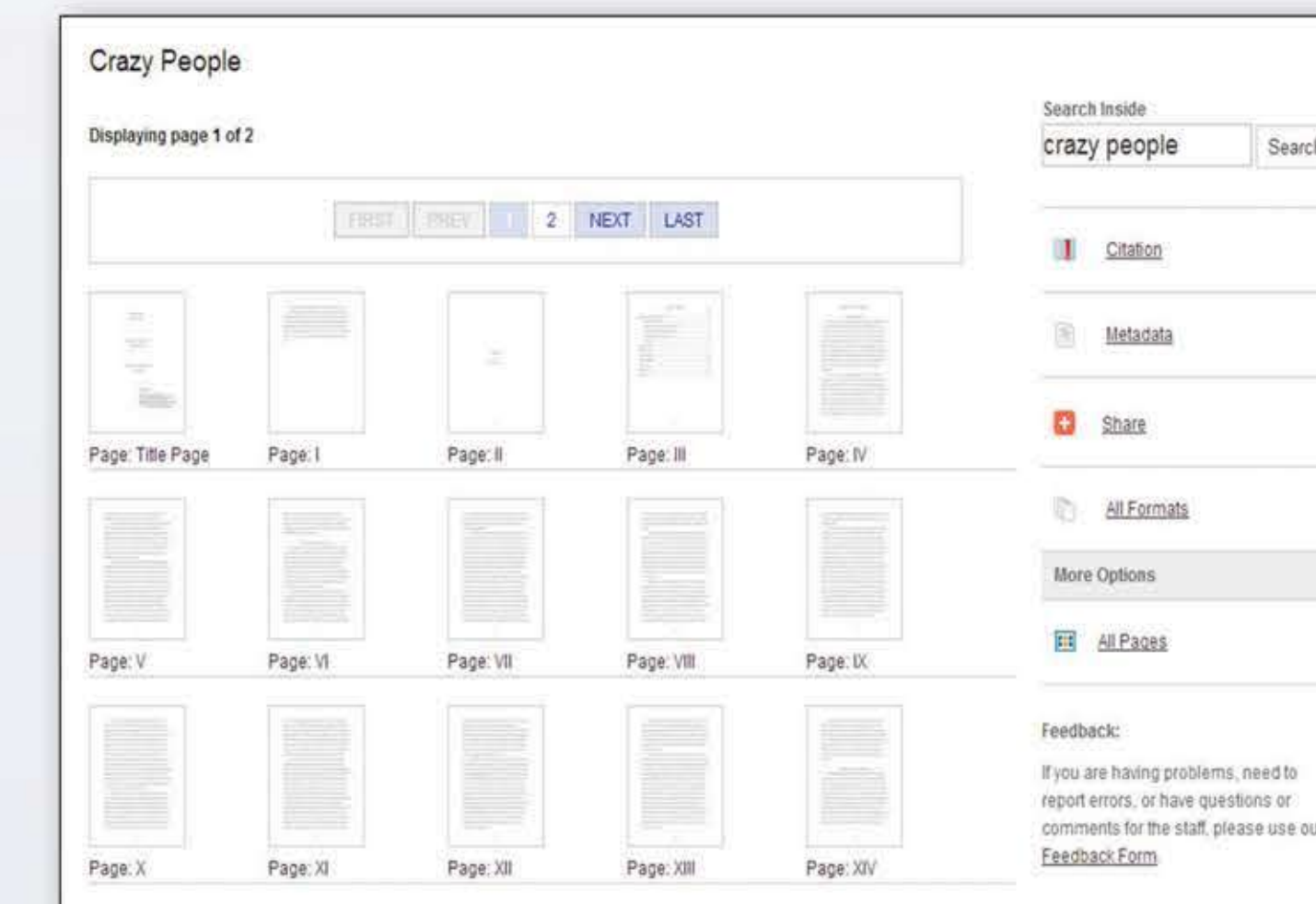


Figure-4: Digitization Process at Dig-Lab

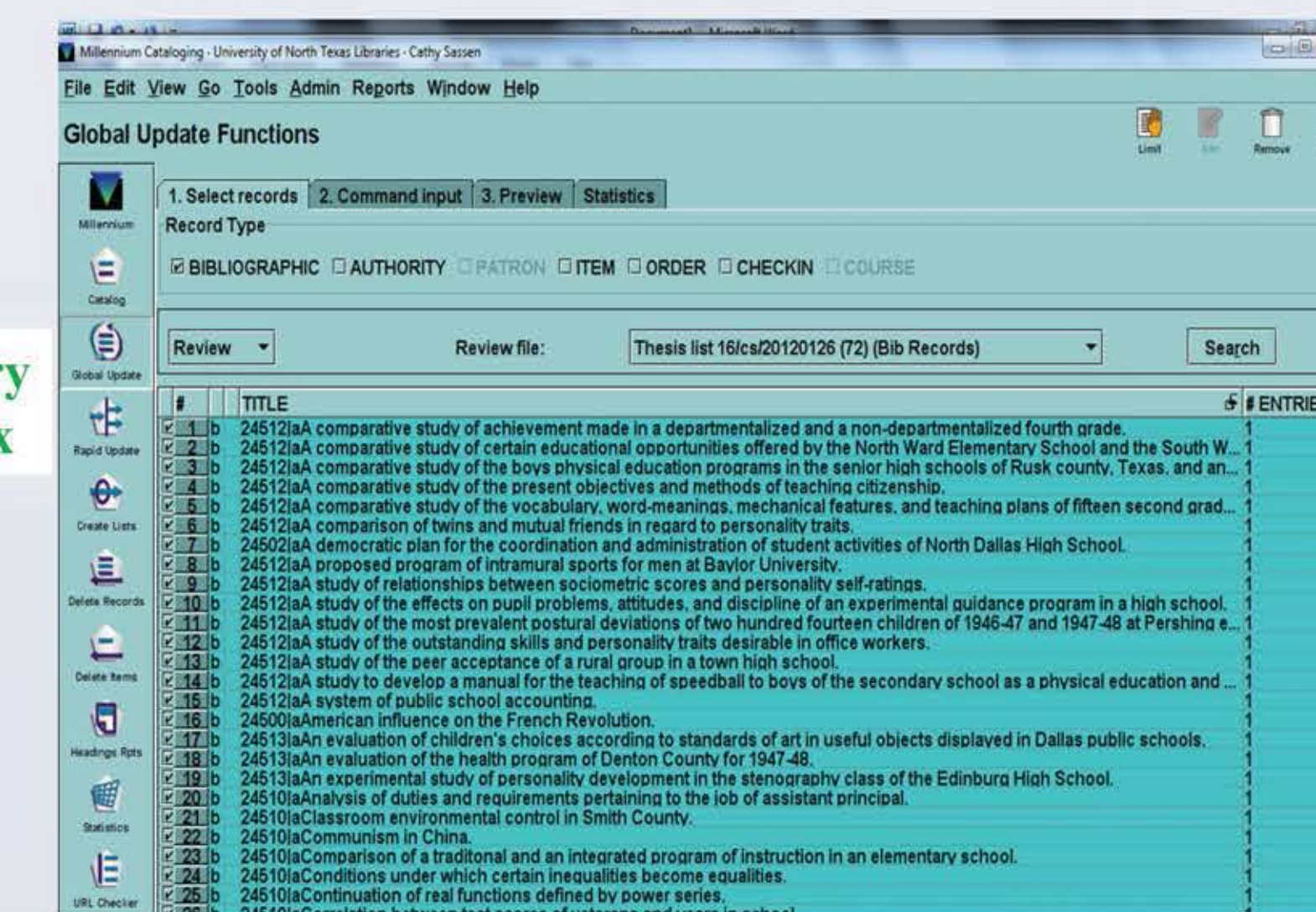


Figure-7: Enhancing Cataloging Minimal Records

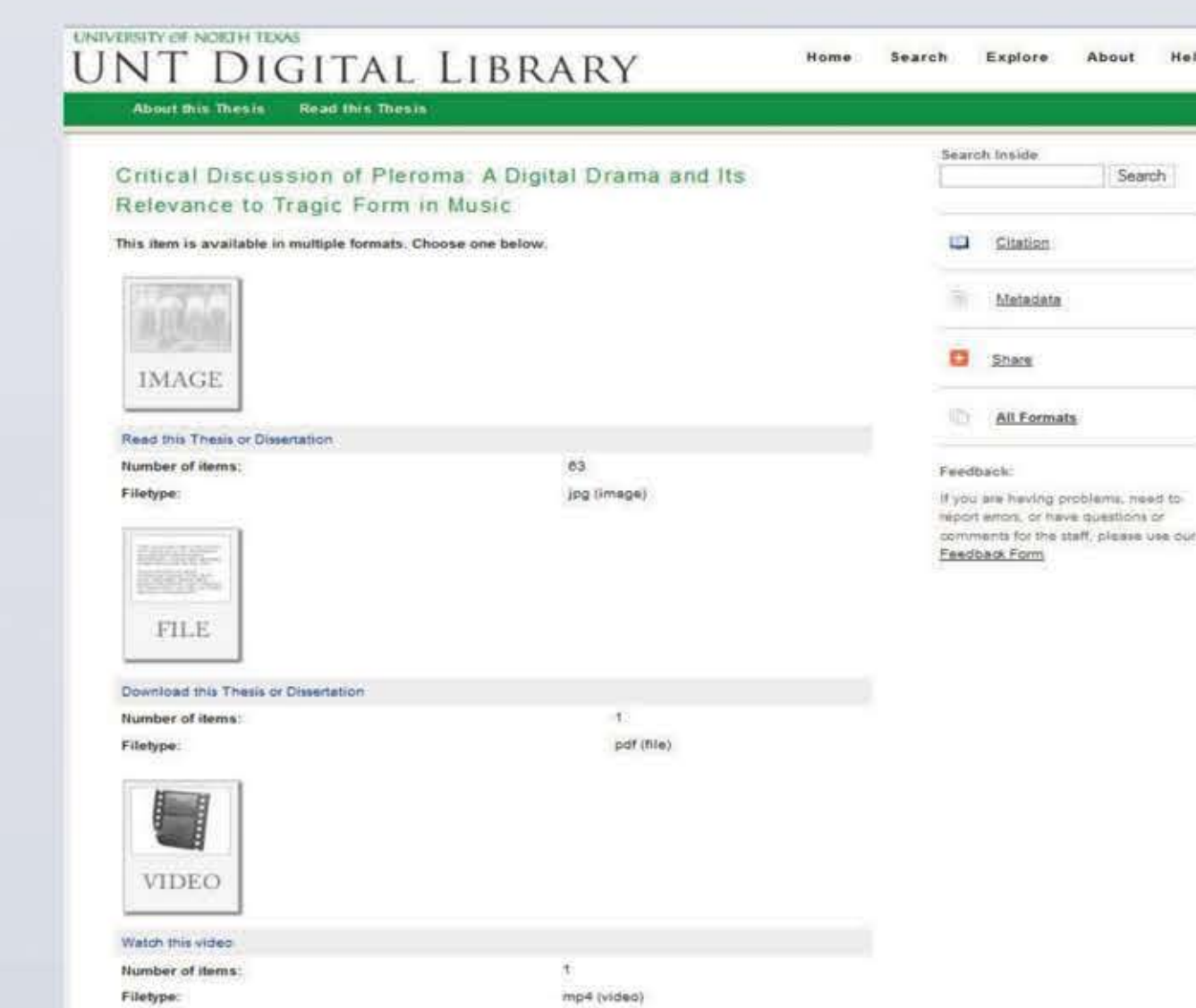


Figure 10 Facilitating Multiple format Access

Progress

- Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the project participants, we are more than half way in the project lifespan:
 - As of September 2014, about 9,000 items (62%) were already digitized, out of which about one third were still hidden (waiting for metadata and related processes to be completed).
 - If we continue at the current rate, we will be done in early 2016.

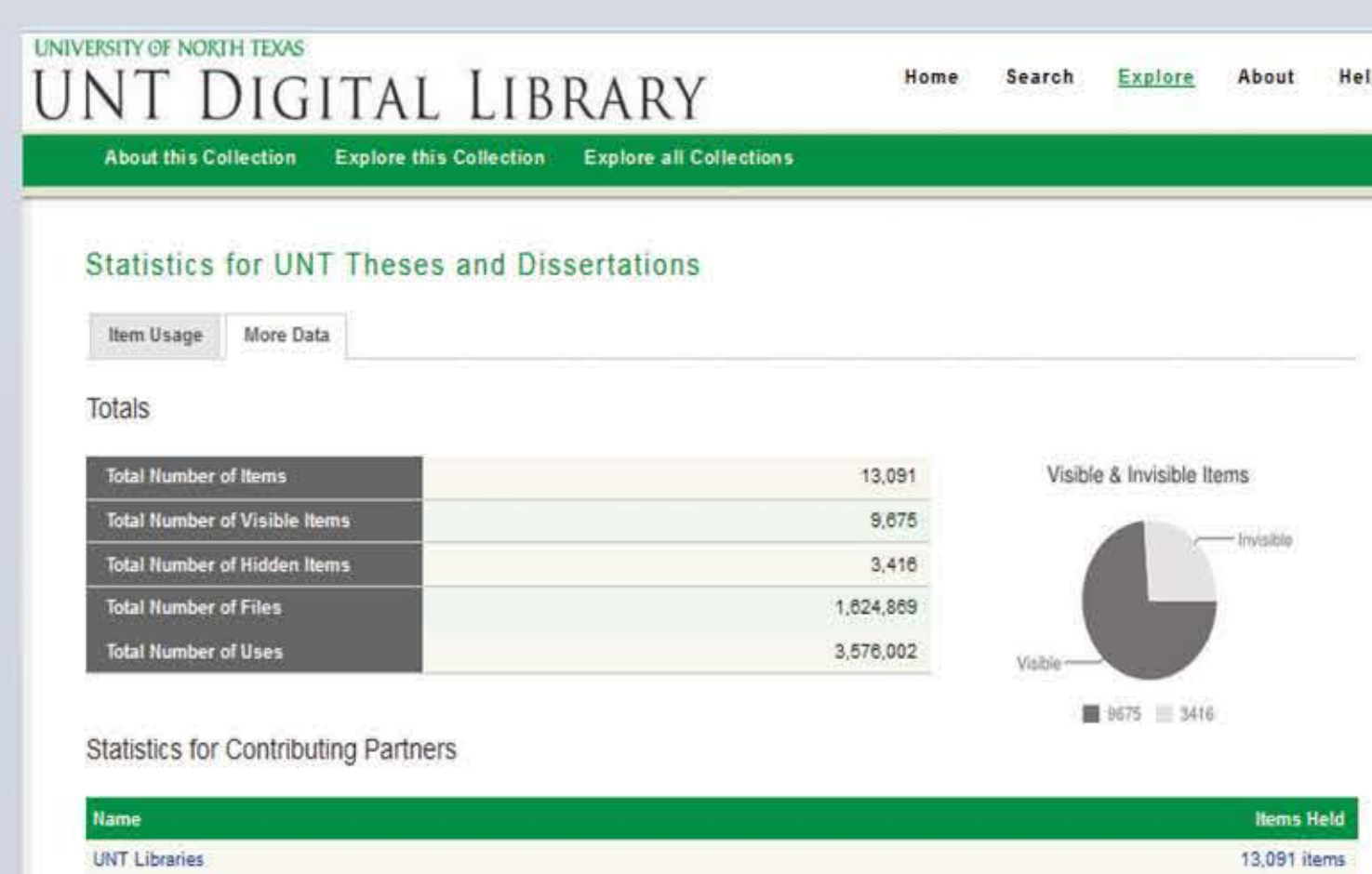


Figure 11 Theses and Dissertations Retrospective Digitization Progress as of Sept., 2014 (Source: <http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/UNTETD/stats/>)

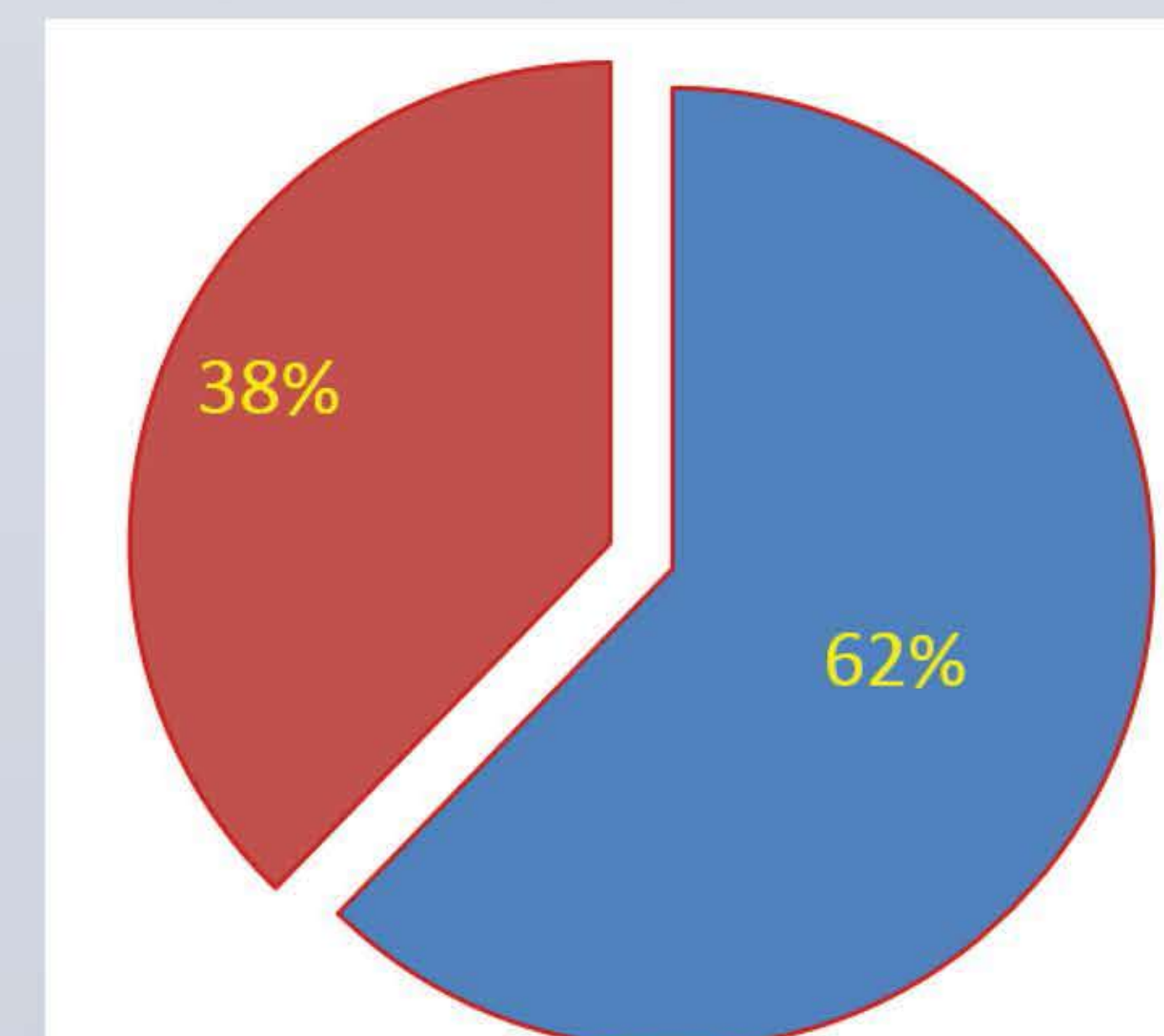


Figure 12 Theses and Dissertations Retrospective Digitization Progress as of September 2014,

Summary

The successful management of T&Ds retrospective digitization requires a concerted effort and long-term commitment from all players across the entire life-cycle to ensure that all ETDs and parts are integrated and made accessible seamlessly.

The University of North Texas is committed to actively managing or curating theses and dissertations and making them more accessible and useful in research processes. The final product is worth the work. In addition to providing new methods of access to the T&Ds, we believe that the long-term preservation and accessibility of these documents is being improved. Multiple formats also facilitate access using mobile devices.

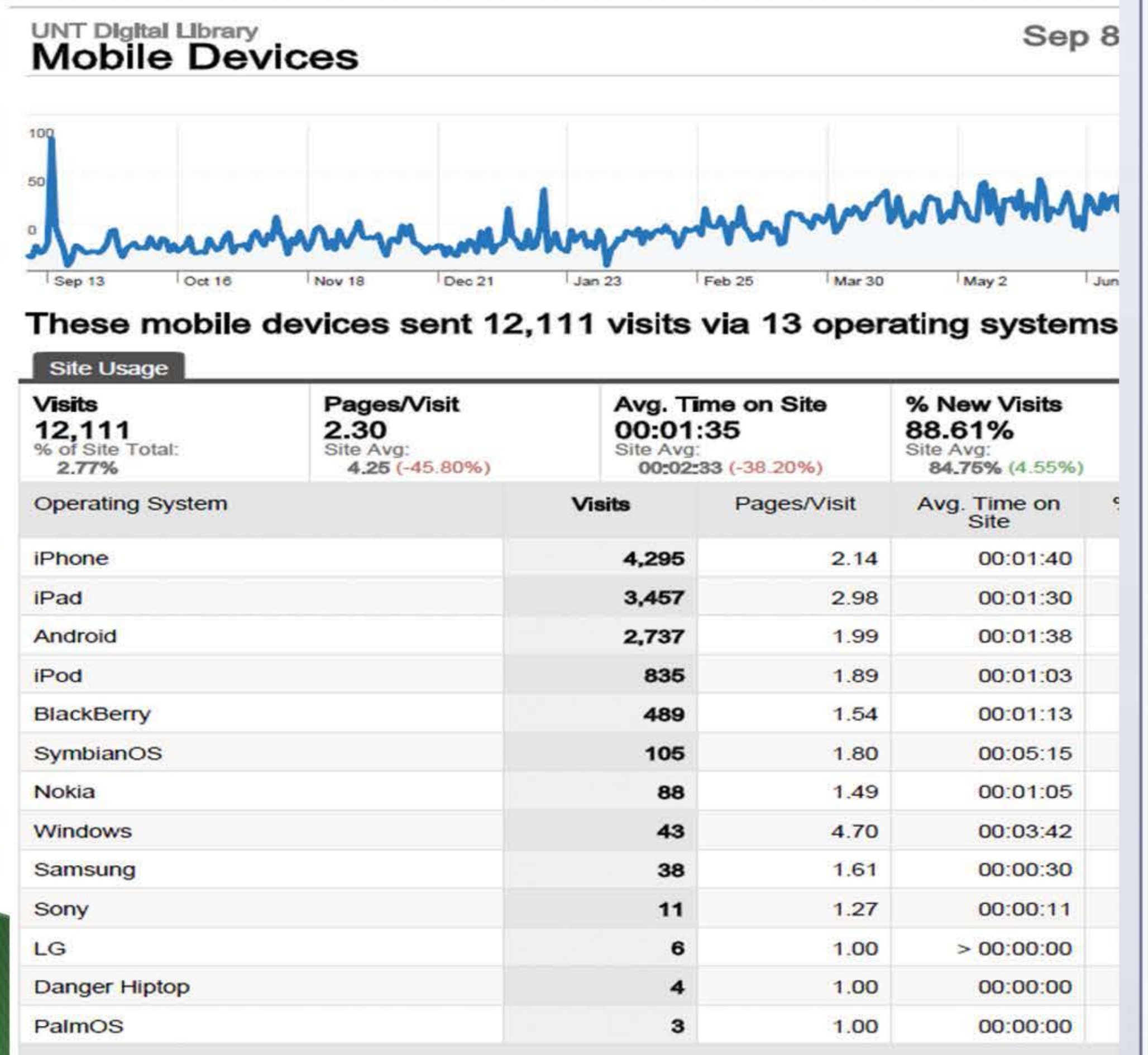


Figure 13 Access via Mobile Devices

Our statistics show that users from more than 200 countries have visited the UNT Digital Libraries to engage and interact with "new forms" of scholarly output in unique and meaningful ways.

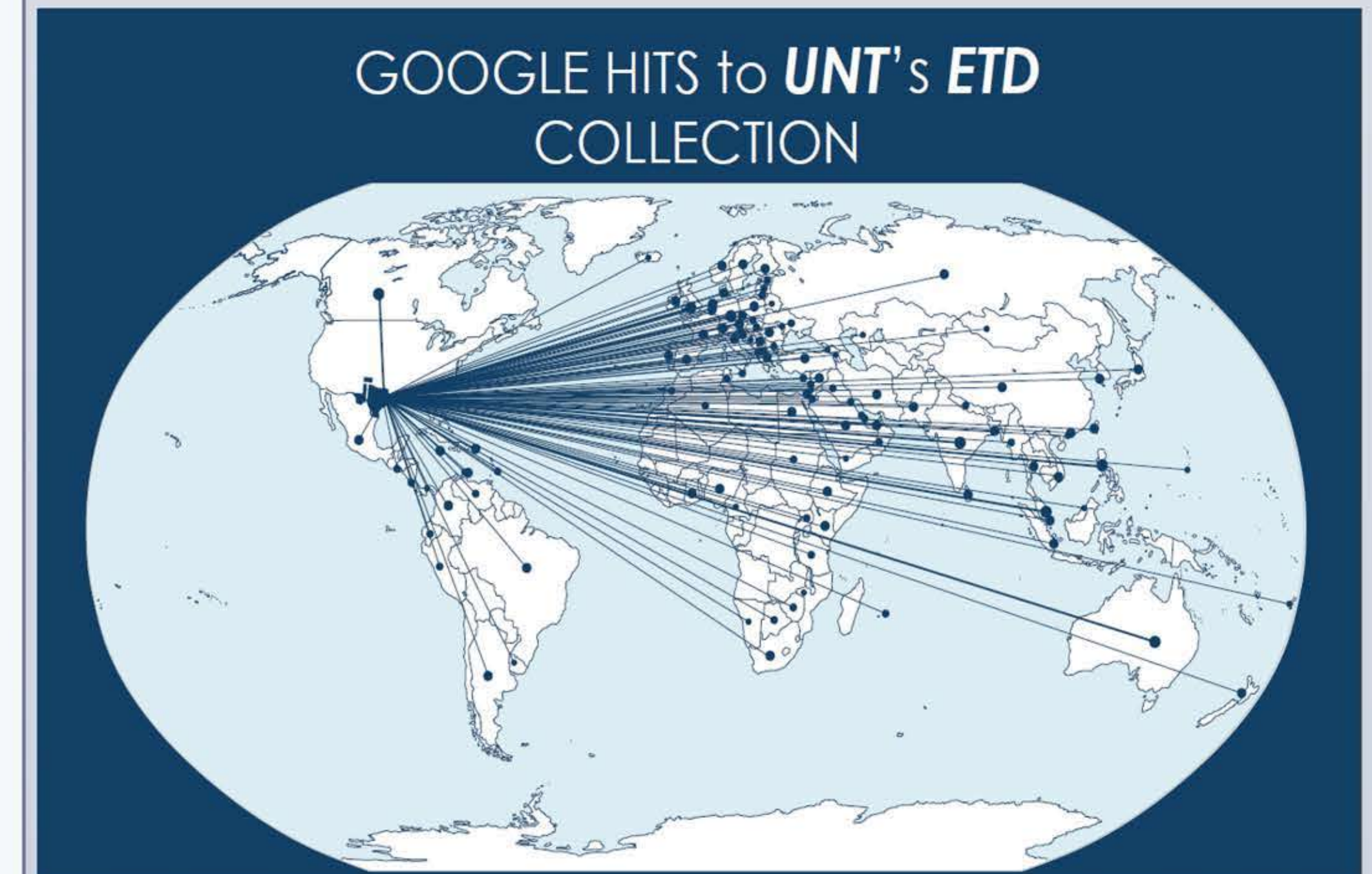


Figure 14 Actual Usage Statistics Via Google