



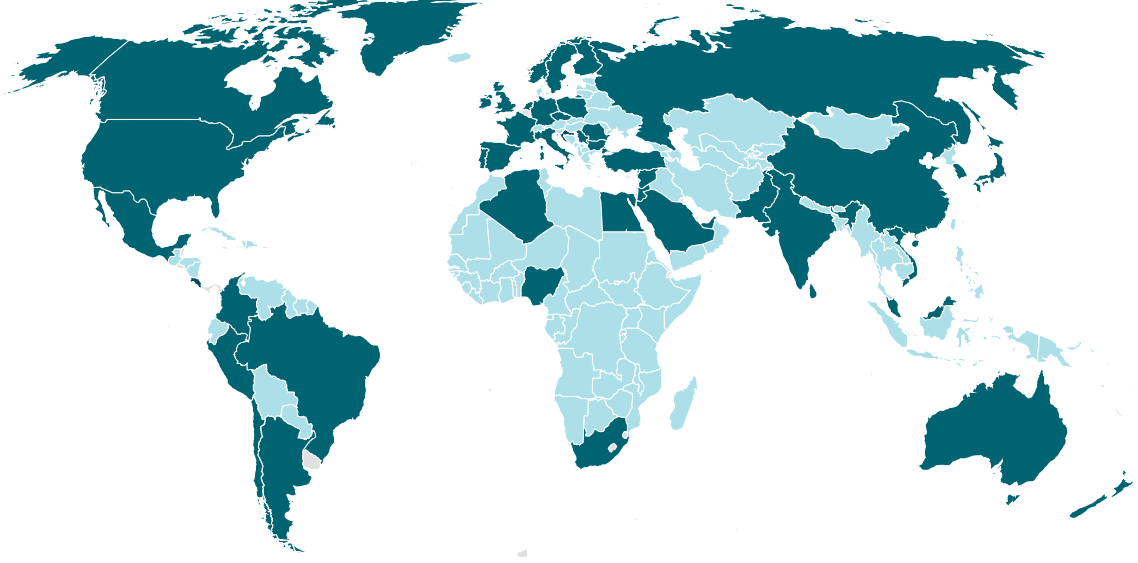
# ProQuest Dissertations & Theses

Predicting Usage of Dissertations and Theses Across the Globe: An Inferential Analysis of ProQuest Data

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Director of Partnerships  
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# PQDT Global - Connecting Global Scholarship



Over **5.6 million** records and

Over **3.2 million** full text

Collection + Research Tools

- **Graduate students**
  - Find a unique research topic for research
  - Build discipline expertise
  - Track research trends
- **Faculty/Researchers**
  - Source for text and data mining research
  - Stay current on a topic
  - Identify emerging research

**60+**

Countries represented  
in content

**4.1K**

Universities' content  
represented

**4M**

Subscribing users

**60+ languages**

represented in dissertation  
and theses records

# Presentation Overview

1. What is our study about?
2. Why did we do it?
3. What did we learn?
4. Discussion: what are the implications?

# What is the Study about?

... and WhoDunnit

A cross-sectional, multi-level regression analysis of dissertation and thesis usage in PQDT Global in 2021

**Independent expert: Alfred DeMaris**  
*Professor Emeritus Bowling Green University*

Performed Statistical modeling and analysis

- Author of Regression with Social Data: Modeling Continuous and Limited Response Variables. Wiley-Interscience: 2004.

**Clarivate Project lead: Gilia Smith, Ph.D.**

Including topical experts from ProQuest content acquisition, operations and TDM teams.

# Why Do It?

...and why now

**Use rigorous social science methods and our global data cache to investigate how academic researchers use ETDs on the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT) Global platform**

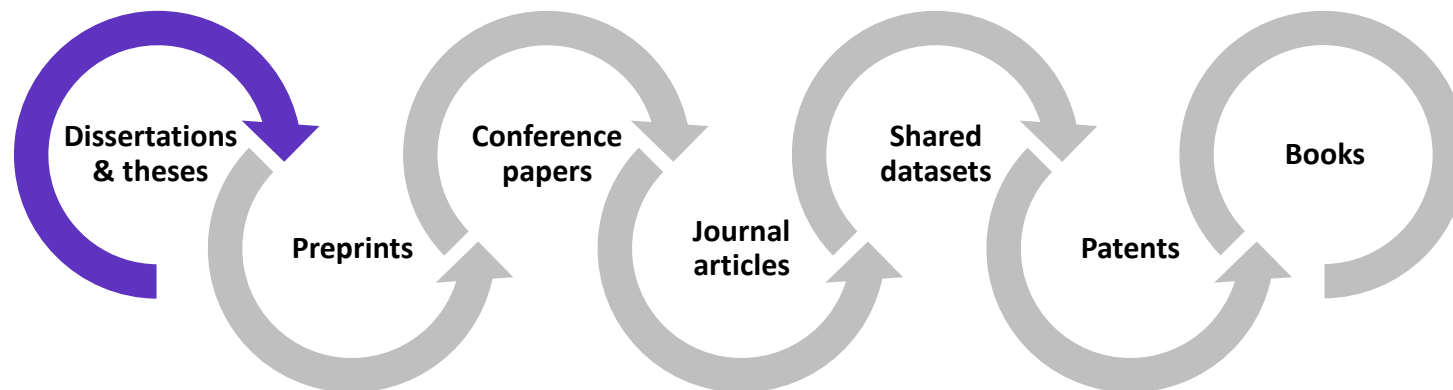
## Two levels of analysis

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- **Level 1:** How background characteristics of *the ETD itself impact usage*
- **Level 2:** How background characteristics of *the institution where the ETD was produced impact usage*

## COMING THIS MONTH! ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Citation Index on the Web of Science

Research with a platform that now provides the most comprehensive view of how ideas have evolved, from dissertations and theses to patents and books.



ProQuest  
Dissertations & Theses



Clarivate  
Web of Science™

# Dissertations and theses provide foundational knowledge to researchers

Web of Science users explain why graduate work is important for understanding the background of a topic

*“Sometimes theses reveal **results that are not yet published** in peer-reviewed literature”*



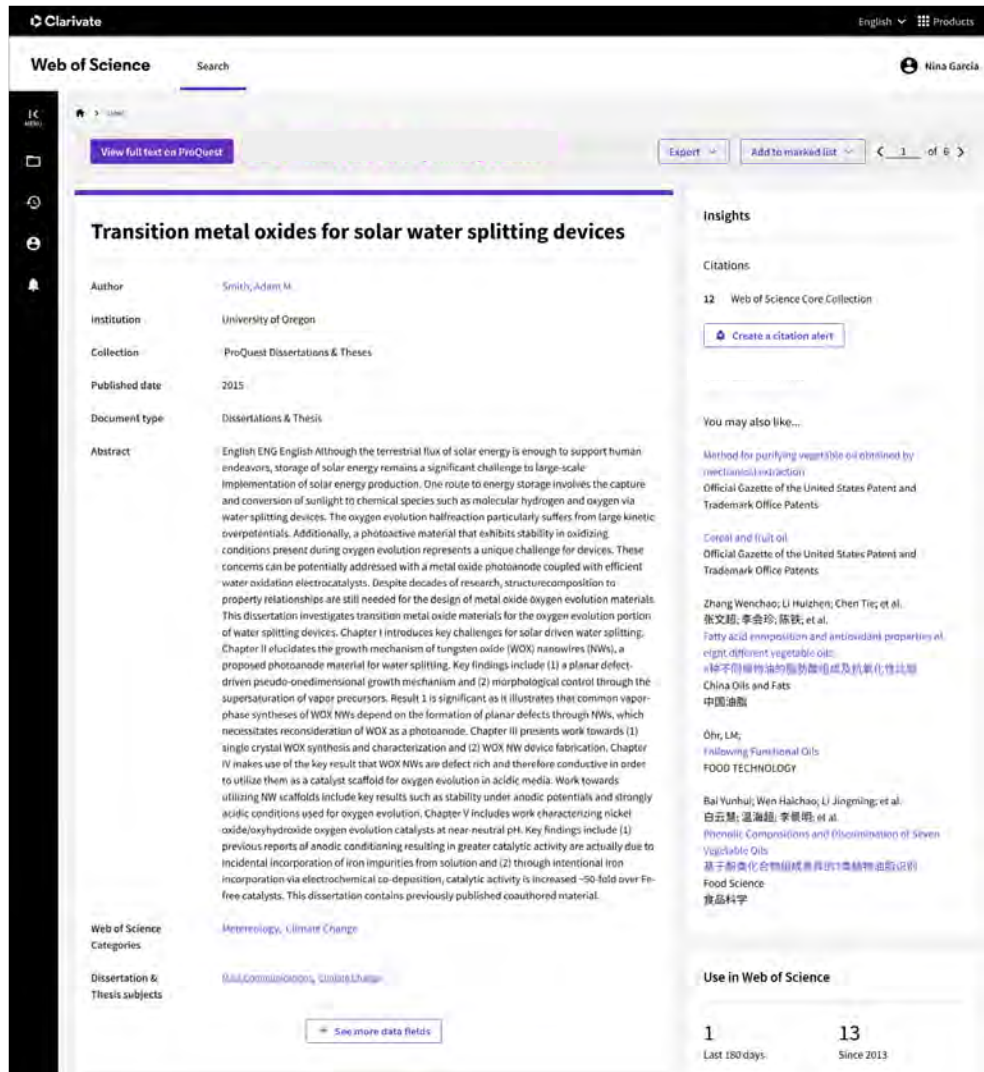
*“Look to dissertations for more details than can be found in journal articles, especially **experimental details.**”*



*“They are often a good resource for **detailed materials and methods**, and also unpublished results that may nevertheless be interesting and trigger further investigations.”*



# Embedding discovery of dissertations and theses into existing research workflows



## Phase 1: Features released in July 2023

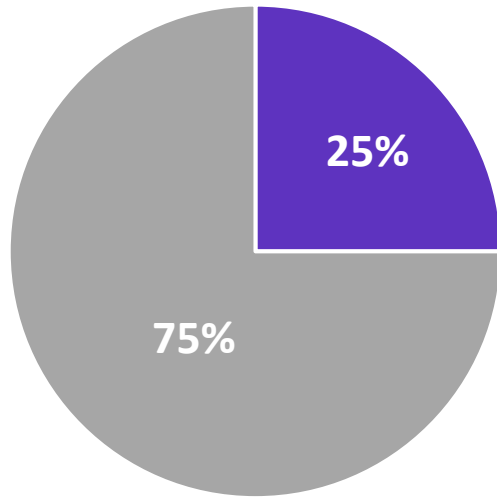
- Discovery of 5.7M+ metadata records for dissertations and theses in a standalone database
- Graduate works from 4K+ universities in 60+ countries around the world
- Add dissertation to Web of Science Author Profile
- For PQDT Global subscribers, links to 3M+ full text documents that provide detailed insights into methodologies, experimental outcomes and unpublished findings found only in the dissertation.

## Phase 2: More features coming soon

- Cited reference indexing and linking will be available to further connect dissertations and theses to the Web of Science network



# ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Citation Index on the Web of Science platform



## Tap into a trove of graduate research only available in PQDT

One study of psychology dissertations found **that only 25%\*** turn into published journal articles. This integration opens discovery of unpublished work not currently available on the Web of Science platform.

## Uncover hidden opportunities to advance research

- Identify emerging areas of research and the graduate programs that are engaged in this research.
- Understand the evolution of a topic or discipline by making connections between early career, emerging, and established research.
- Uncover innovative research methodologies not published in peer-reviewed literature.
- Execute more comprehensive, balanced literature reviews by including unpublished scholarship and more diverse perspectives.

# Sample Size

**N = 3,548,714  
observations**

- Model built with extremely high levels of precision
- $p < .01$  = alpha level for significance
- 95% Confidence Levels

## Outcome Variables

- 1. Total Usage:** indicates researcher viewed metadata, citation, abstract, print preview or full-text document—or perhaps one or more of the above.
- 2. Abstract/Citation Usage:** indicates the end-user accessed the abstract and/or citation
- 3. Full-text Usage:** indicates the user viewed or downloaded the full-text document

# What did we learn?

- Degree Type Masters -17%
- Full-text +15%
- Subjects
  - Social Sci +14%
  - Arts & Humanities +13%
  - Interdisciplinary +10%
  - Professional Fields +8%
  - Earth Sci +1%
  - Math & Physical Sci -5%

Holding all other variables constant...

Solution for Fixed Effects			
Main Effects L1 (ETD Level)			
Effect	Estimate	t Value	Pr >  t
<i>Intercept</i>	1.0508	61.3	<.0001
<b>Masters Thesis</b>	-0.1874	-80.86	<.0001
<b>Full text</b>	0.1401	44.16	<.0001
<b>Social Sciences</b>	0.1311	32.86	<.0001
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>	0.1184	27.82	<.0001
<b>Interdisciplinary</b>	0.09467	14.16	<.0001
<b>Professional Fields</b>	0.07445	19.32	<.0001
<b>Earth Sciences</b>	0.01343	3.35	0.0008
<b>Math &amp; Physical Sciences</b>	-0.05276	-12.25	<.0001

# What did we learn?

- Degree Age
- Language of ETD
  - Other -9%
  - Chinese +10%
  - German -5%
  - French = English
  - Swedish = English
  - Spanish = English

Holding all other variables constant...

Solution for Fixed Effects			
Main Effects L1 (ETD Level)			
Effect	Estimate	t Value	Pr >  t
<i>Intercept</i>	1.0508	61.3	<.0001
<b>Degree Age</b>	-0.00753	-26.04	<.0001
<b>Other Language (x51)</b>	-0.09186	-5.49	<.0001
<b>Chinese</b>	0.1046	4.19	<.0001
<b>German</b>	-0.05057	-2.74	0.0061
<b>French</b>	-0.02635	-2.55	0.0107
<b>Swedish</b>	-0.06975	-2.42	0.0157
<b>Spanish</b>	-0.02074	-1.68	0.0938

# What did we learn?

- Current ProQuest Contributor +23%
- Quantity of ETDS produced -1.3%/1,000
- Region/Country –UK less use than rest of world
- Shanghai Rank -.2%/each drop in rank

Solution for Fixed Effects			
Main Effects L2 (Institutional Level)			
Effect	Estimate	t Value	Pr >  t
<i>Intercept</i>	1.0508	61.3	<.0001
<b>Current PQ Contributor</b>	0.2091	14.99	<.0001
Rank	0.00043	3.69	0.0002
CurrentContributor*Rank	-0.00274	-21.68	<.0001
United Kingdom	-0.17	-11.15	<.0001
APAC	-0.05363	-2.1	0.0359
Africa	-0.1167	-1.55	0.1212
Latin America	0.1071	1.06	0.2915
Carribbean & West Indies	-0.2256	-0.97	0.3335
Europe	-0.00798	-0.48	0.6335
Middle East	0.008486	0.15	0.8839
Australia/NZ	-0.00418	-0.08	0.9341



# Discussion

What implications might this study have for practice at *your* institution?

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**Thanks for Attending our Breakfast!**

Questions about the study for Al DeMaris?  
Email him directly at [ademari@bgsu.edu](mailto:ademari@bgsu.edu)

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