

# Texas Digital Library

## Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Metadata Working Group: Update + Initial Findings

### Problem statement

In 2008, the Texas Digital Library (TDL) published a metadata standard for Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs). Since then, we have seen the development of Vireo, the extension of metadata that has been built into (and come out of) Vireo, changes to ETDs themselves, and developments in the tools and systems used to manage, steward, and publish ETDs .

### Our approach

The TDL ETD Metadata Working Group is updating the guidelines and working with the Vireo User Group to integrate these recommendations into Vireo, and to provide ongoing support for any changes to Vireo with implications for metadata.

### Steps to the process:

- + Conduct literature review, analyze current & related standards, identify and interview relevant stakeholders
- + Identify questions that will require deeper research and pursue this work
- + Whenever possible, iteratively report findings and progress to stakeholders and community members [this means you!]
- + Distribute draft recommendations to Task & Finish Group, and Vireo User Group, with attention to areas that will require changes to Vireo
- + Publish and publicize the new standard
- + Continue to iterate on the standard, as community needs shift

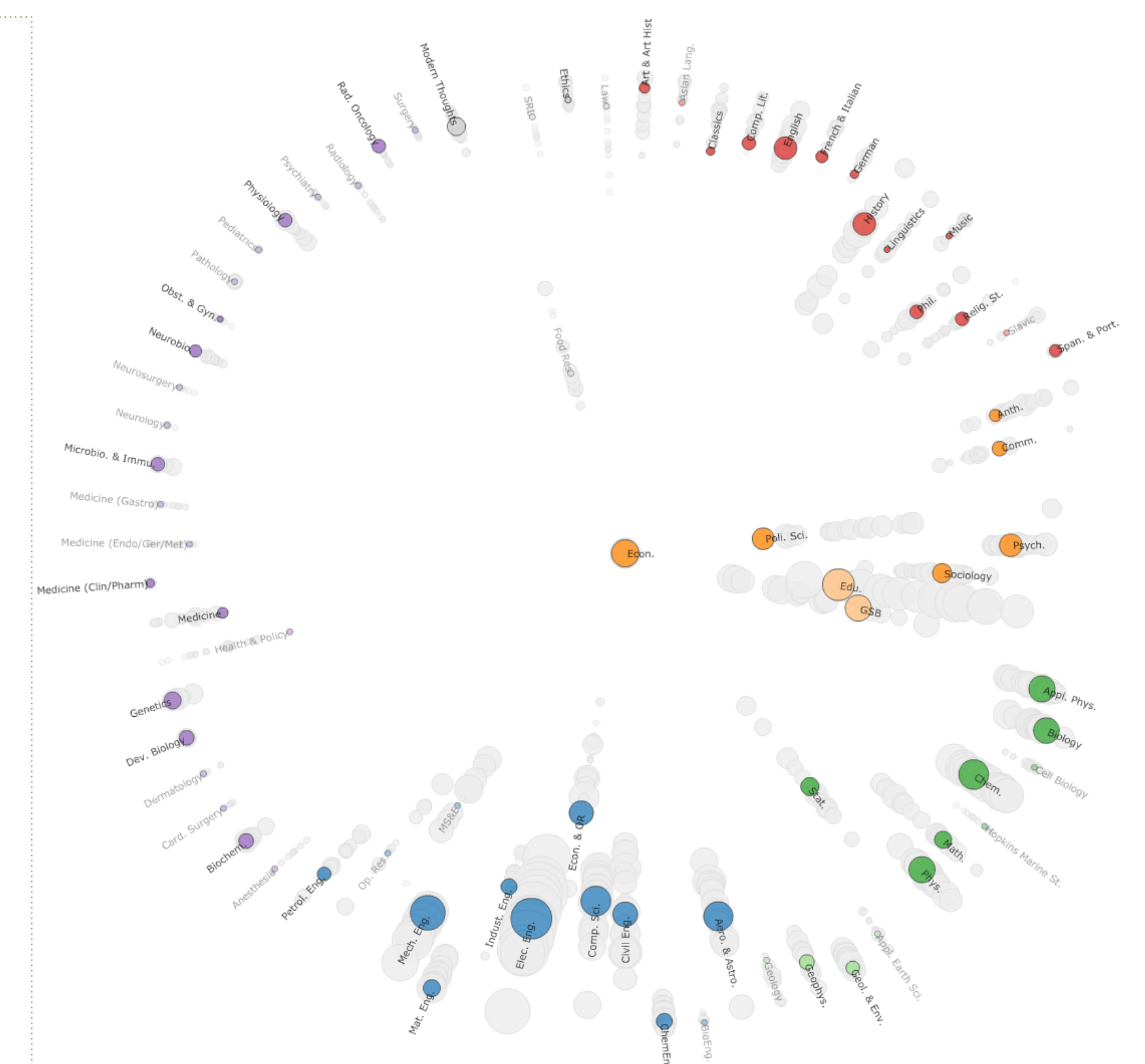
*A thesis is both an academic work validated by peers, an intellectual work subject to the law of intellectual property and an administrative document which governs the grant of a national diploma.*

-Theses Electroniques Francaises 2.0



*Metadata is not simply a description of the information contained in a work or web page; the choice of a metadata scheme also signifies community membership. Every aspect of metadata-- from how it is obtained and verified to the expectations of how it will be used by humans or computer systems-- stems from the practices of a particular community.*

-Cathy Marshall and Frank Shipman, "Which Semantic Web?" 2003



Stay tuned:  
Guidelines will  
be finalized by  
Fall 2015!

We have pursued deeper research into how metadata can be developed/ applied to:

- + Specify who holds the rights to the work
- + Indicate that a Creative Commons license has been applied
- + Indicate who can access the ETD
- + Specify what date the author graduated
- + Keep track of administrative actions performed on the ETD
- + Disambiguate author names
- + Enable harvested into aggregated collections
- + Support complex ETDs that include supplemental files

+ Santi Thompson + Monica Rivero + Sarah Potvin  
+ Kristi Park + Colleen Lyon + Kara Long