

Metadata Drives Special Collections Research: A Case Study of the University of Florida Electronic Theses and Dissertations Collection

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Overview

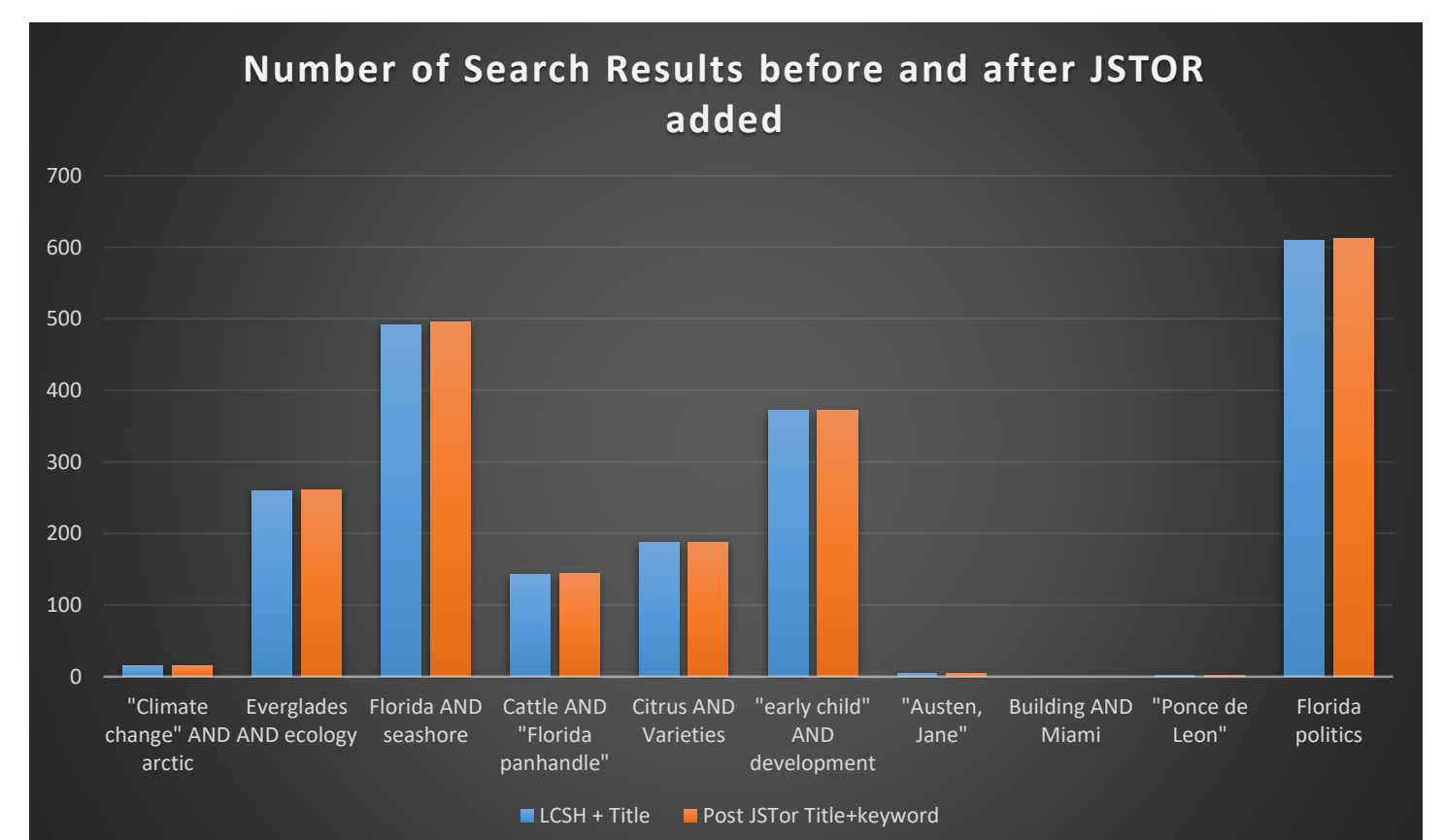
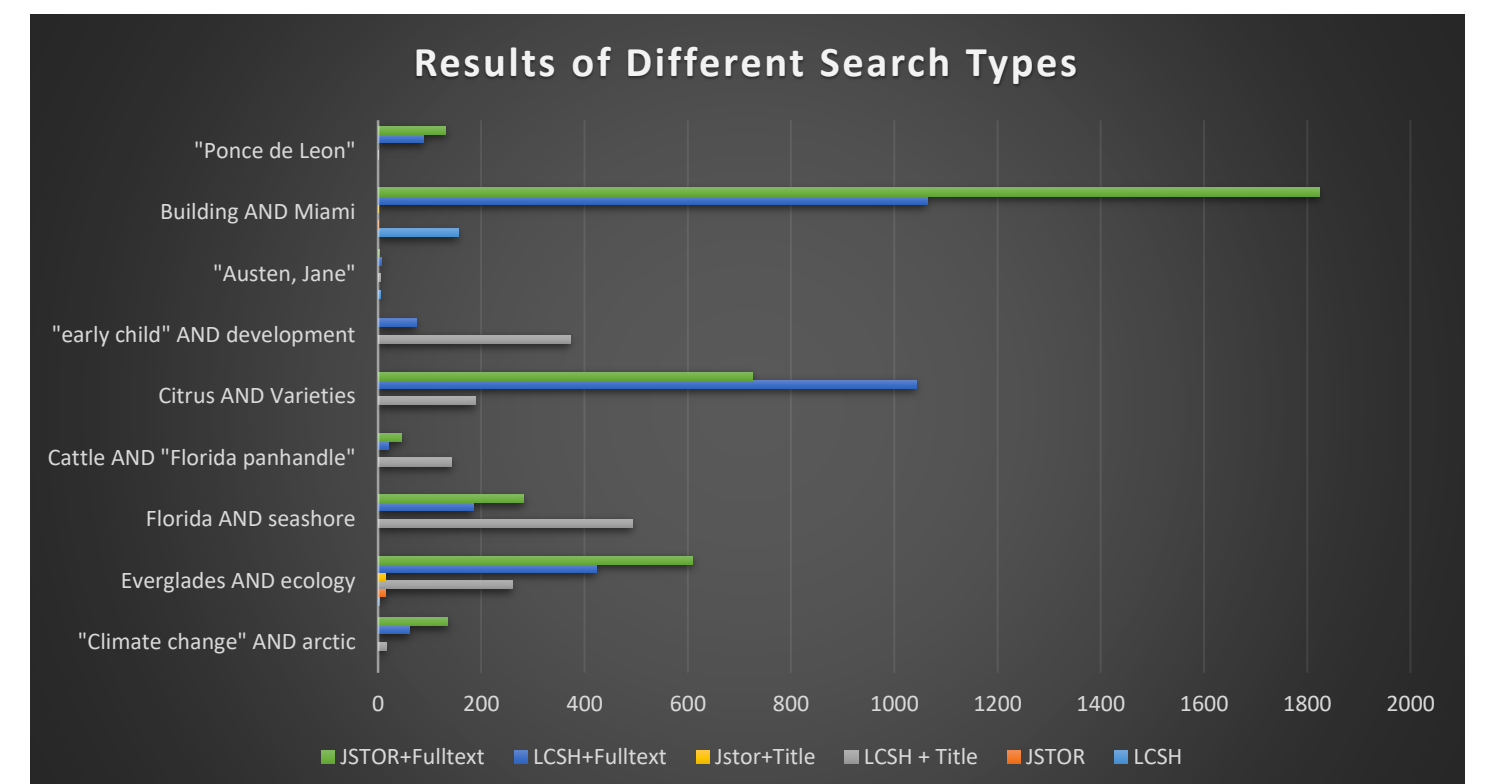
- 29,000 electronic theses and dissertations from University of Florida students held in the University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC)
- A mixture of born digital and retrospectively digitalized formats
- Heavily text-based collection, appropriate for machine assisted keyword enhancement
- Limited LCSH and local metadata was previously applied to those items over many years
- Broad subject areas covered by this collection
- If able to accurately identify appropriate subject terms in this collection, reasonable to assume that it will work on similar collections

Analysis

- Results were mixed. Some searches yielded more results for JSTOR and some were greater with LCSH
- This can be partly explained by searches being run in two different systems. LCSH searches were run on the UFDC platform while JSTOR searches were run on the XIS platform
- The XIS system was not set up to handle complex searches
- Searches were built from terms used by UFDC visitors. Users do not search on controlled vocabulary terms
- Improvement was seen in some results once JSTOR terms were added to records

Search Results

Terms	LCSH + Title	JSTOR+Title	JSTOR added Title+keyword
"Climate change" AND arctic	16	0	16
Everglades AND ecology	260	15	261
Florida AND seashore	492	0	496
Cattle AND "Florida panhandle"	143	0	144
Citrus AND Varieties	188	0	188
"early child" AND development	372	0	372
"Austen, Jane"	5	0	5
Building AND Miami	0	1	0
"Ponce de Leon"	1	0	1
Florida politics	609	8	613



Sample Enhanced Metadata



Next Steps

- Currently, heavily dependent on Access Innovations for analysis
- Need to progress to handling these processes internally
- Complete testing of software to update records in SobekCM and export to OCLC
- Update ETD metadata in SobekCM and OCLC
- Complete testing and implement workflows for existing collections
- Test and implement a workflow for new materials
- Begin retrospective conversion of other collections in the University of Florida Digital Collections

