Using SRU to Create Dissertation Mashups
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Most, if not all, academic libraries collect the doctoral dissertations and master's theses that are written by their institutions' students, and these comprise some of their most unique and scholarly collections.

With the emergence of digital libraries in the last fifteen years, it is no surprise that many librarians have viewed their collections of theses as “low-hanging fruit” to be picked for digitization and inclusion in online institutional repositories.

Standardization in the thesis submission and production processes has resulted in uniformity in description and format across the body of work. Exposing structured, high-quality metadata from electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD) repositories provides an opportunity to create new points of access to these collections.

In this paper, the development and application of a Search/Retrieve-via-URL (SRU) interface by the Purdue University Libraries is described that provides the capability for users and applications to remotely search and "mash-up" dissertation metadata.

Provisioning the metadata as XML records allows it to be manipulated using XML Transformations (XSLT) and their presentation to be customized by the client. The results can be dynamic data-feeds that are machine-processed or XHTML Web pages that are displayed to an end-user.

We provide three example mash-ups that demonstrate how the SRU interface has increased the visibility and value of the collection by exposing our ETDs to be used outside of a library context for:
(1) recruiting new students
(2) helping faculty maintain their vitae, and
(3) facilitating new research collaborations.