

ETD-MS v2.0: A Proposed Extended Standard for Metadata of Electronic Theses and Dissertations

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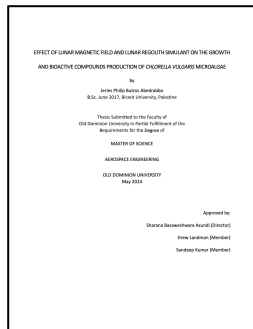
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Key Concepts: ETD, ETD Metadata, and Document Schema

What is ETD?

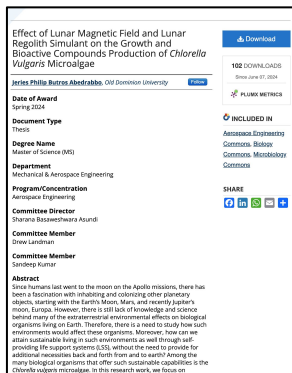
Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are electronic versions of theses and dissertations



ETD - <https://shorturl.at/utZiP>

What is ETD Metadata?

ETD metadata refers to the structured information that describes Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)



ETD Metadata - digitalcommons.odu.edu/mae_etds/378/

What is ETD Metadata Schema?

ETD Metadata Schema is a structured framework that defines the specific metadata elements and their relationships for ETDs

Example: ETD-MS v1.1

Related Work

- Dublin Core (DC)
 - Dublin Core metadata standard first proposed in 1995
 - A widely used metadata standard for describing resources of any type
 - 15 metadata elements
 - Cover fundamental aspects of a resource, such as title, creator, subject, and date
 - Goals [1]
 - Simplicity of creation and maintenance
 - Commonly understood semantics
 - Interoperability
- ETD-MS v1.1 [2]
 - A metadata standard for describing an ETD
 - 22 metadata elements
 - Uses DC metadata elements and new element specifically for theses

[1] Weibel, S., Kunze, J., Lagoze, C., & Wolf, M. (1998). Dublin core metadata for resource discovery (No. rfc2413)

[2] Hickey, T., Pavani A., Suleman, H. ETD-MS v1.1: Metadata standard for electronic theses and dissertations. <https://ndltd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/etd-ms-v1.1.html>

Related Work

- TDL Descriptive Metadata Guidelines for ETDs, Version 2.0 [3]
 - A detailed ETD MODS schema, later simplified into DC for broader compatibility
 - Provides basic interoperability
 - Detailed ETD descriptions with fields for Author, Thesis Advisor, Committee Member, Author Identifier (e.g., ORCID), and Embargo details
- Mining ETD Content with Advanced Techniques
 - Rich information in ETD content, including domain knowledge, scientific findings, and technical details
 - Recent Advancements to mine the content of ETDs
 - Multimodal models for ETD page classification [4]
 - YOLO-based methods for detecting figures and tables [5]
 - LDA for identifying core ETD themes [6]

[3] Rushing, A., Koenig, J., Mitchell, A., Moen, W., Strawn, T., & Thomale, J. (2008). Texas Digital Library Descriptive Metadata Guidelines for Electronic Theses and Dissertations, Version 1.0. Prepared for and published by the Texas Digital Library

[4] Choudhury, M. H., Salsabil, L., Ingram, W. A., Fox, E. A., & Wu, J. (2024, March). ETDPC: A Multimodality Framework for Classifying Pages in Electronic Theses and Dissertations. In Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (Vol. 38, No. 21, pp. 22878-22884). <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2311.04262>

[5] Kahu, S. Y., Ingram, W. A., Fox, E. A., & Wu, J. (2021). Scanbank: A benchmark dataset for figure extraction from scanned electronic theses and dissertations. arXiv preprint arXiv:2106.15320. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2106.15320>

[6] Lamba, M., & Madhusudhan, M. (2019). Mapping of ETDs in ProQuest dissertations and theses (PQDT) global database (2014-2018). Cadernos BAD, 1, 169-182. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3599788>

Why is ETD Metadata Schema Important?

Findability

Effective
search and
retrieval of
ETDs

Accessibility

Accessibility
and
management
of ETDs

Interoperability

Seamless data
exchange,
cross-repository
searches and
unified access

Reusability

Reusability and
validation of
research
findings

Comprehensive and robust schema for compliance with the **FAIR** (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) principles [7]

[7] da Silva Santos, L. O. B., Burger, K., Kaliyaperumal, R., & Wilkinson, M. D. (2023). FAIR data point: a FAIR-oriented approach for metadata publication. Data Intelligence, 5(1), 163-183. https://doi.org/10.1162/dint_a_00160

Limitations of Existing Metadata Schemas

Existing metadata schemas like Dublin Core lacks ETD-specific elements

Existing ETD schemas are insufficient to fulfill all aspects of FAIR compliance

3 major gaps

1

Incomplete representation

- “dc.rights” in ETD-MS v1.1 doesn’t support rich nuances of the rights information
 - only allows three values regarding accessibility
- “dc.format” assumes a single file format; ETDs often have multiple formats

2

Lack of elements describing parts of ETDs

Example: chapters, figures, tables

3

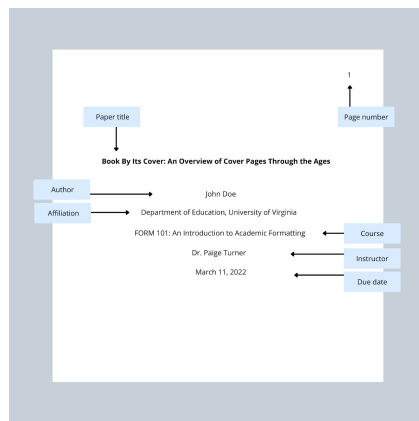
Lack of metadata elements added from sources other than those responsible for handling the ETD submission (e.g., authors, advisors, library catalogers)

- Needs provenance information for such metadata
- For example: For example, if we generate a chapter summary, the metadata must reference the process or model used

Need a More Descriptive Schema

1

Capture detailed document-level metadata for ETDs



Document-level metadata -

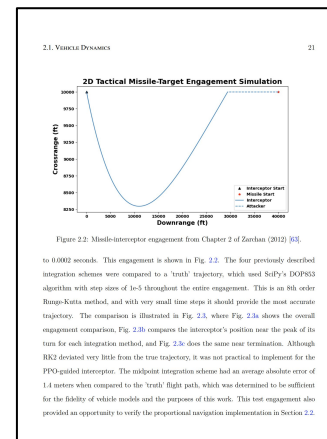
<https://getproofed.com.au/writing-tips/how-to-for-mat-an-apa-title-page/>

2

Fine-granular metadata standard to comply with FAIR principles

3

Capture detailed **content-level** metadata for ETDs



Content-level metadata -

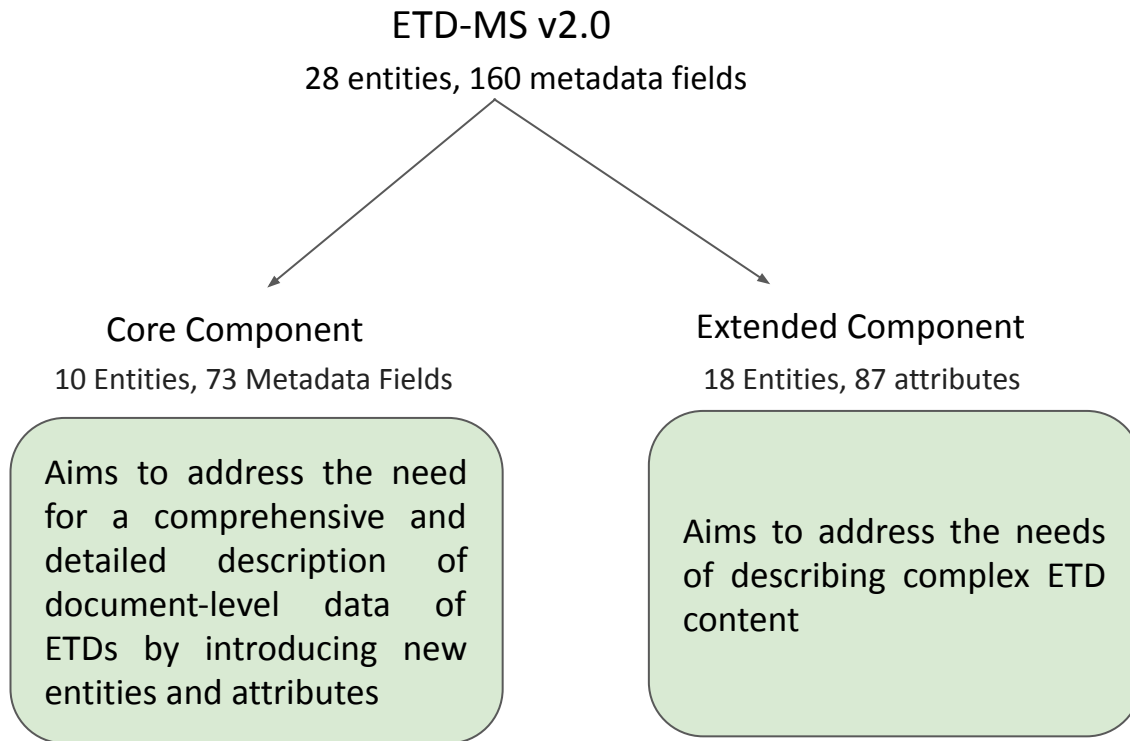
<https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/b95e2ae9-4cf8-41e4-86cc-2148099547a3/content>

Metadata that describes the parts of an ETD, including various types of objects, their attributes and provenance

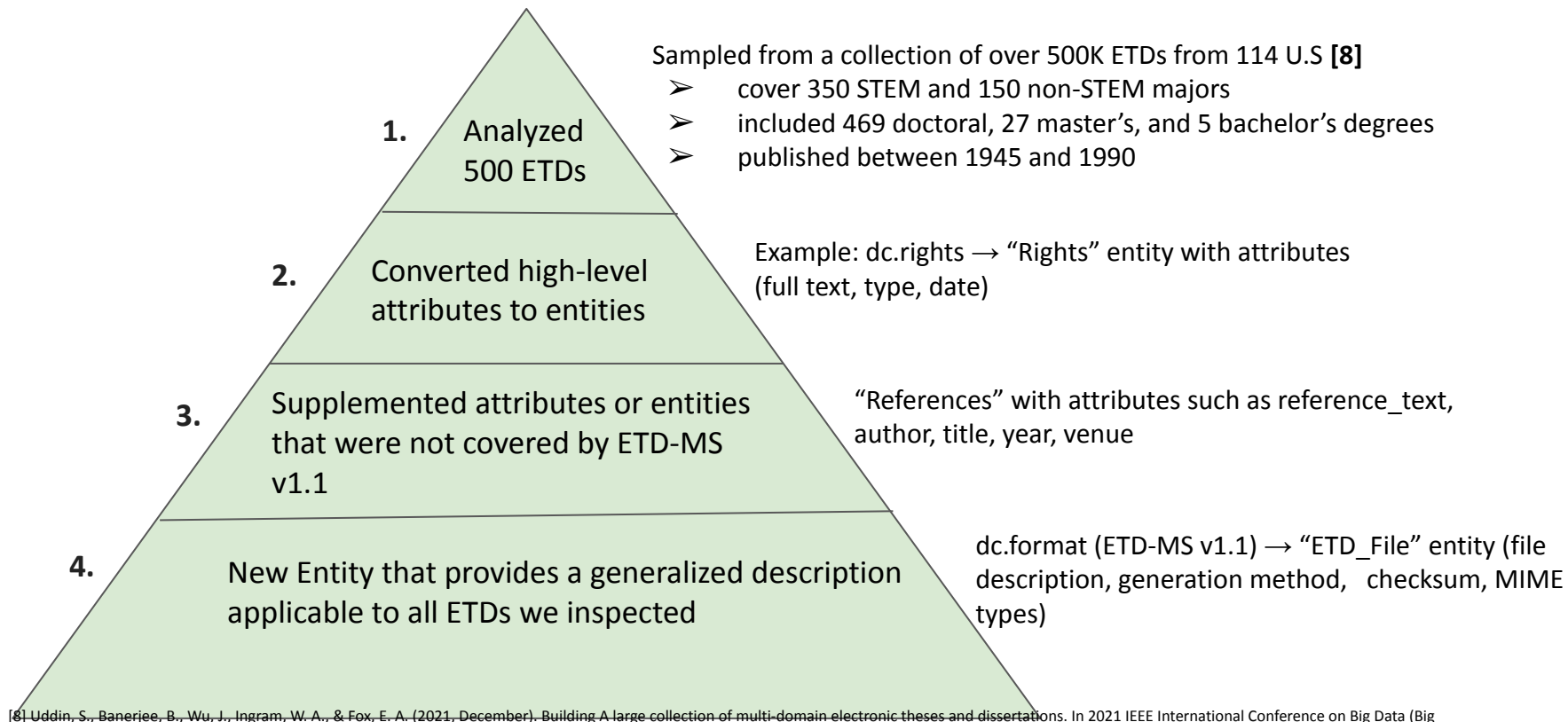
ETD-MS v2.0: Bridging the Gaps in ETD Metadata

- Extends the existing metadata standard
- Core Component provides a comprehensive and detailed representation of document-level metadata
 - New entities to describe the ETD document itself and its relationships with other documents
 - For example:
 - Entities: “Rights”, “ETD_File”, “References”
 - Attribute for various abstracts
 - “abstractgeneral” for General Abstract
- Extended Component captures detailed content-level metadata
 - Metadata elements for describing parts of an ETD, such as chapters, figures, and tables
 - Provenance information for metadata
- Enhances *findability* and *reusability* of ETD at document and content levels

ETD-MS v2.0 Overview



Core Component Development



Core Component Description

10 Entities, 73 Metadata Fields, 2 Entity Categories

Category C.1

Describing the ETD
document

Entities: “ETDs”, “Rights,”
“ETD_file,” “Subjects,”
“ETD_classes,”
“ETD_topics”

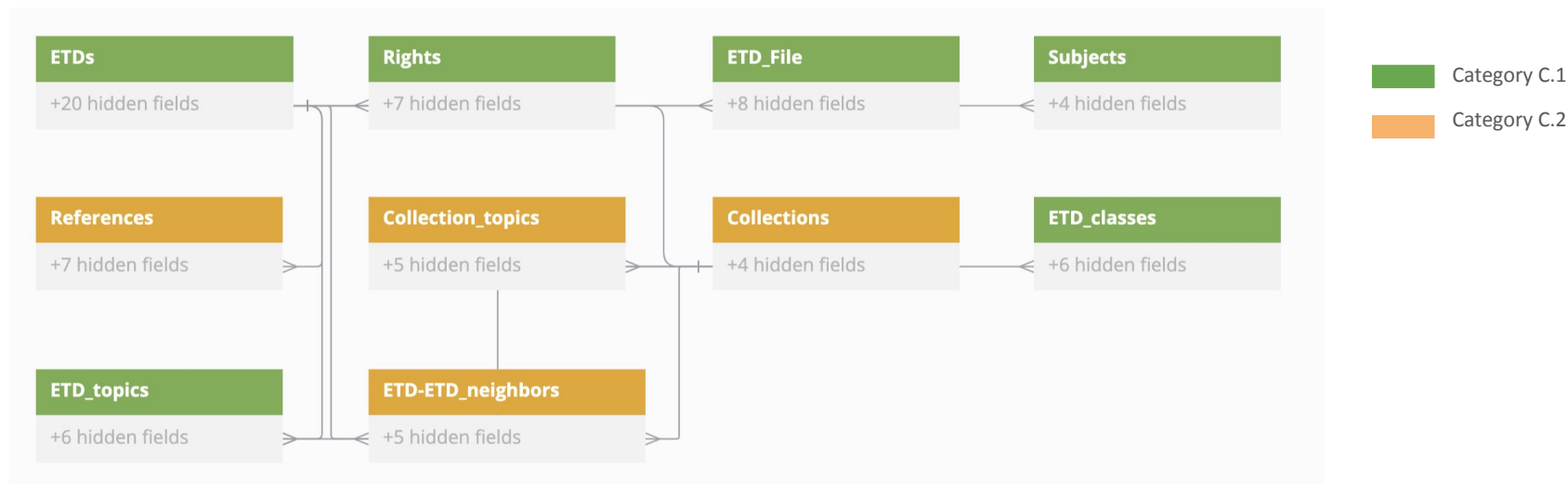
Category C.2

Describing the ETD’s relationship
with other documents

Entities: “References,”
“ETD-ETD_neighbors,”
“Collections,”
“Collection_topics”

Core Component Entities, Attributes, and Relationships

Figure 3: Relationships among Entities in the Core Components of ETD-MS v2.0.



Extended Component Development

- Bootstrap Approach
- Identified objects (e.g., chapters, figures, tables) and their attributes (e.g., text, object classes, object summaries).
- Added entities to describe object provenance and relationships
- Examples:
 - "Classifications": Classification systems (e.g., ProQuest Subject Categories)
 - "Classification_entries": Specific subject categories (e.g., "Library Science", "Web Studies")
 - "Classifiers": Models to classify ETDs or objects relative to a classification
 - User Interactions: Entities like "Users", "User_classes", and "User-user_neighbors"

Extended Component Description

Represent objects within ETDs, their provenance, relations, and user interactions
18 Entities, 87 attributes, 3 Entity Categories

Category C.1

Describing objects

Entities: "Object," "Text,"
"Object_classes,"
"Object_summaries,"
"Object_metadata,"
"Object_topics"

Category C.2

Describing provenance

Entities: "Classifications,"
"Classification_entries,"
"Classifiers,"
"Topic_models,"
"Summarizers"

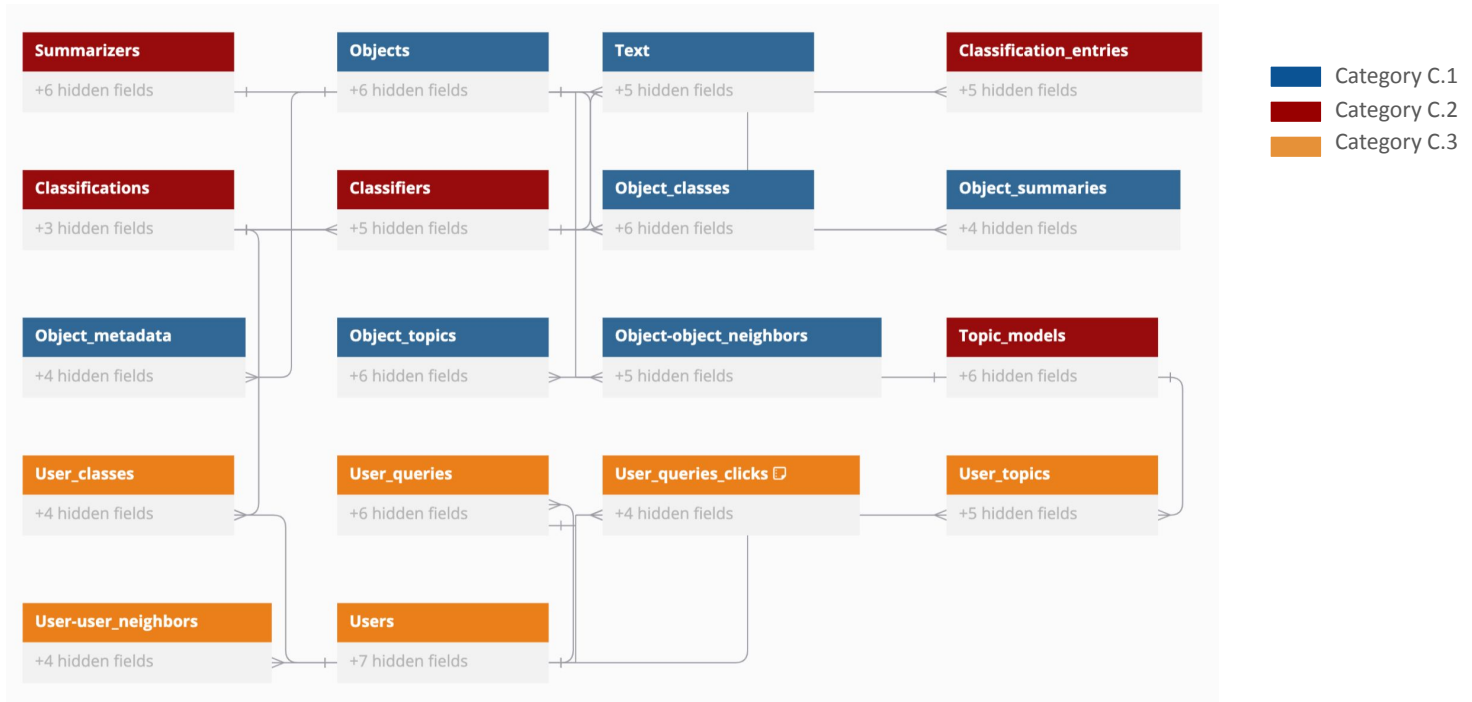
Category C.3

Describing user interactions

Entities: "Users," "User_classes,"
"User_queries,"
"User_queries_clicks,"
"User_topics,"
"User-user_neighbors"

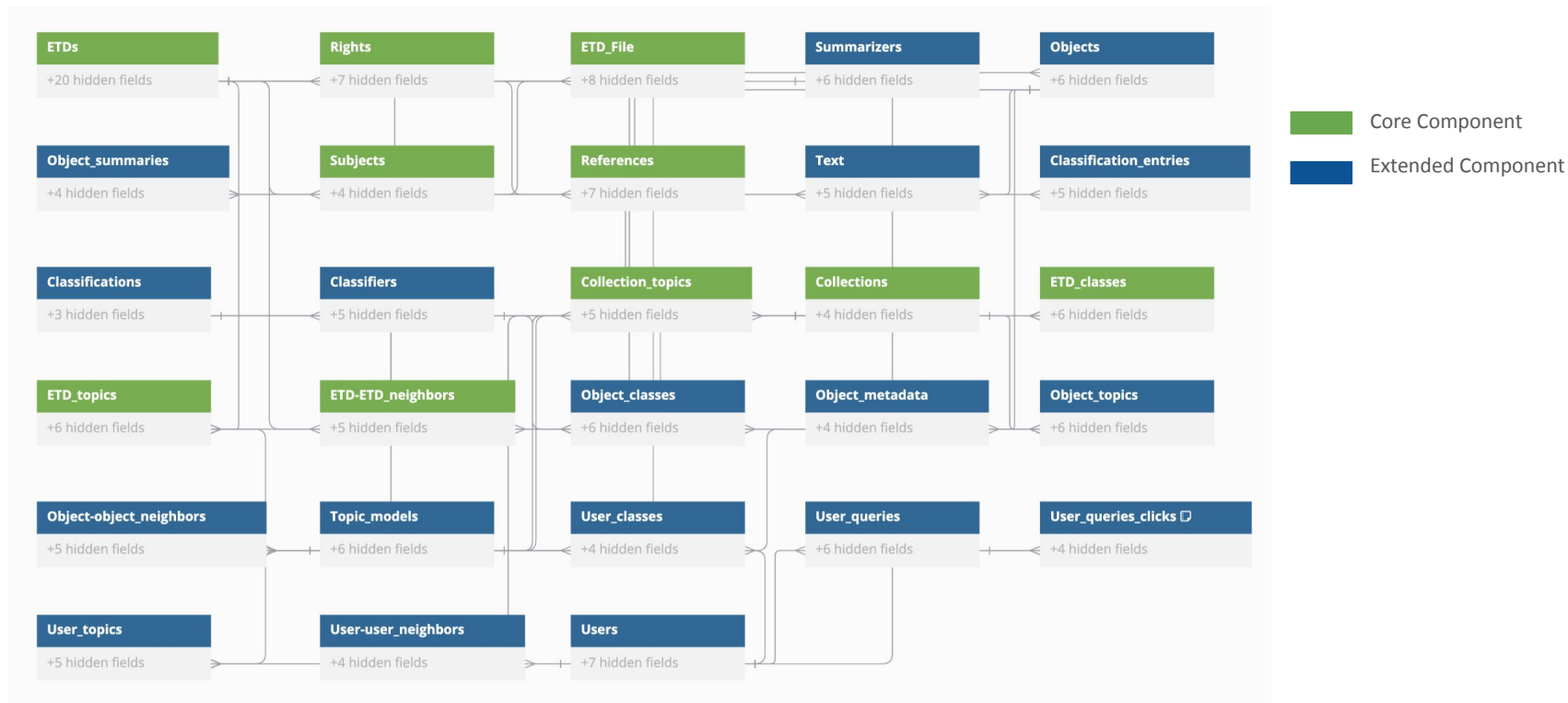
Extended Component Entities, Attributes, and Relationships

Figure 4: Relationships among Entities in the Extended Components of ETD-MS v2.0.



Entity Relationships in Core and Extended Components

Figure 5: Relationships among Entities in the Core and Extended Components of ETD-MS v2.0.



Proof of Concept Database Implementation for Evaluation



Step 1: Database Design

- MySQL for database
- 28 tables each mapping to an entity in the ETD-MS v2.0 schema



Step 2: Data Population

- Selected 1,000 ETDs from a collection of over 500K ETDs
 - 50 U.S. universities, Year: 2005-2019
 - No overlaps with the 500 ETDs used for schema development
- Extracted 17 metadata fields (e.g., title, year, author)
- Scraped HTML files for additional metadata such as copyright details
- AI-based methods to derive content-level metadata
 - Classification: GPT-3.5 for ProQuest subject categories
 - Summarization: Fine-tuned T5-Small [9] and Pegasus [10] models
- NULL values for the unavailable metadata
- Dummy data for user-related tables

[9] Raffel, C., Shazeer, N., Roberts, A., Lee, K., Narang, S., Matena, M., ... & Liu, P. J. (2020). Exploring the limits of transfer learning with a unified text-to-text transformer. *Journal of machine learning research*, 21(140), 1-67.

[10] Zhang, J., Zhao, Y., Saleh, M., & Liu, P. (2020, November). Pegasus: Pre-training with extracted gap- sentences for abstractive summarization. In *international conference on machine learning* (pp. 11328-11339). PMLR.

Proof of Concept Database Implementation for Evaluation

- Performance and Scalability
 - Populated 1,000 ETD entries in ~11 minutes on a virtual machine (32 CPUs, 125 GB RAM)
 - Results demonstrated reasonable scalability
 - Most metadata fields successfully map to our new schema
 - Missing fields like “Peer-reviewed”
 - Missing different dates for ETD addition and accessibility

ETD-MS v2.0 Enhances FAIR Principles

Finability	Accessibility	Interoperability	Reusability
Improves ETD data findability through content-level metadata in digital library search engines	Improves accessibility through detailed rights information and ETD format	Interoperability is slightly reduced by new fields.	Reusability through collection subsets used for individual projects
Entities: “ETD_topics,” “ETD_classes,” “Object_metadata”	Entities: “Rights,” “ETD_File”	Mitigate this issue by mapping fields in the new schema to equivalent fields in the existing metadata schema. .	Entities: “Collections,” “Collection_topics,”

Example Mappings Between Metadata Schemas

Table 1: Mapping Between Simplified Dublin Core, ETD-MS v1.1, and the Core Component of ETD-MS v2.0.

Simplified Dublin Core	ETD-MS v1.1	ETD-MS v2.0
dc.title	dc.title	ETDs.title
dc.creator	dc.creator	ETDs.author
dc.description	dc.description.abstract	ETDs.abstract
	thesis.degree.grantor	ETDs.institution
		Rights.rights_uri

Limitations and Future Work

- Limitations
 - Based on 500 ETDs; limited scope
 - Missing fields like “Peer-reviewed”
 - Missing different dates for ETD addition and accessibility
- Future Work
 - Incorporate more fields for comprehensiveness
 - Collect feedback from ETD users

Resources

- For detailed documentation, schema design, and mapping information, visit our repository:
<https://github.com/lamps-lab/ETDMiner/tree/master/ETD-MS-v2.0>