Data Acquisition and Preparation

The PQDT Global database is an official repository for dissertations and theses as provided by the Library of Congress. As of December 2014, the PQDT Global contains complete metadata records for 3.5 million dissertations and 2.5 million theses, in both electronic and non-electronic formats. Each dissertation record contains information such as the title, abstract, keywords, author, institution, and date of publication.

ProQuest Data Analysis and Visualization

Analyses were conducted and results visualized using a suite of R software tools and packages that allow researchers to perform complex data manipulations and visualizations.

Study 1: How much attention is my school’s dissertations getting?

A subset of dissertations (n=4,591) from the collection of a student’s own institution or the collection of a student’s advisor. These dissertations may or may not make up a larger institution or advisor data set.

Study 2: How do I analyze and visualize dissertation output across multiple peer institutions?

This study was focused on the visualization of dissertation output across multiple peer institutions. The goal was to identify patterns and trends in dissertation output across these institutions, and to use these patterns to inform decision-making.

Study 3: How can I quickly compare the number of dissertations and access activity across my institution?

This study was focused on the visualization of dissertation output across multiple peer institutions. The goal was to identify patterns and trends in dissertation output across these institutions, and to use these patterns to inform decision-making.

Study 4: How do I compare the performance of a school as a whole?

This study was focused on the visualization of dissertation output across multiple peer institutions. The goal was to identify patterns and trends in dissertation output across these institutions, and to use these patterns to inform decision-making.

Discussion

This section discusses the implications of the findings and the potential for future research in the field.

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References

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