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Bindings, Blades, and Bottlenecks: Finding Equilibrium in an In-House Digitization Project

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BINDINGS, BLADES, AND BOTTLENECKS

FINDING EQUILIBRIUM IN AN IN-HOUSE DIGITIZATION PROJECT

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University of Rhode Island Libraries

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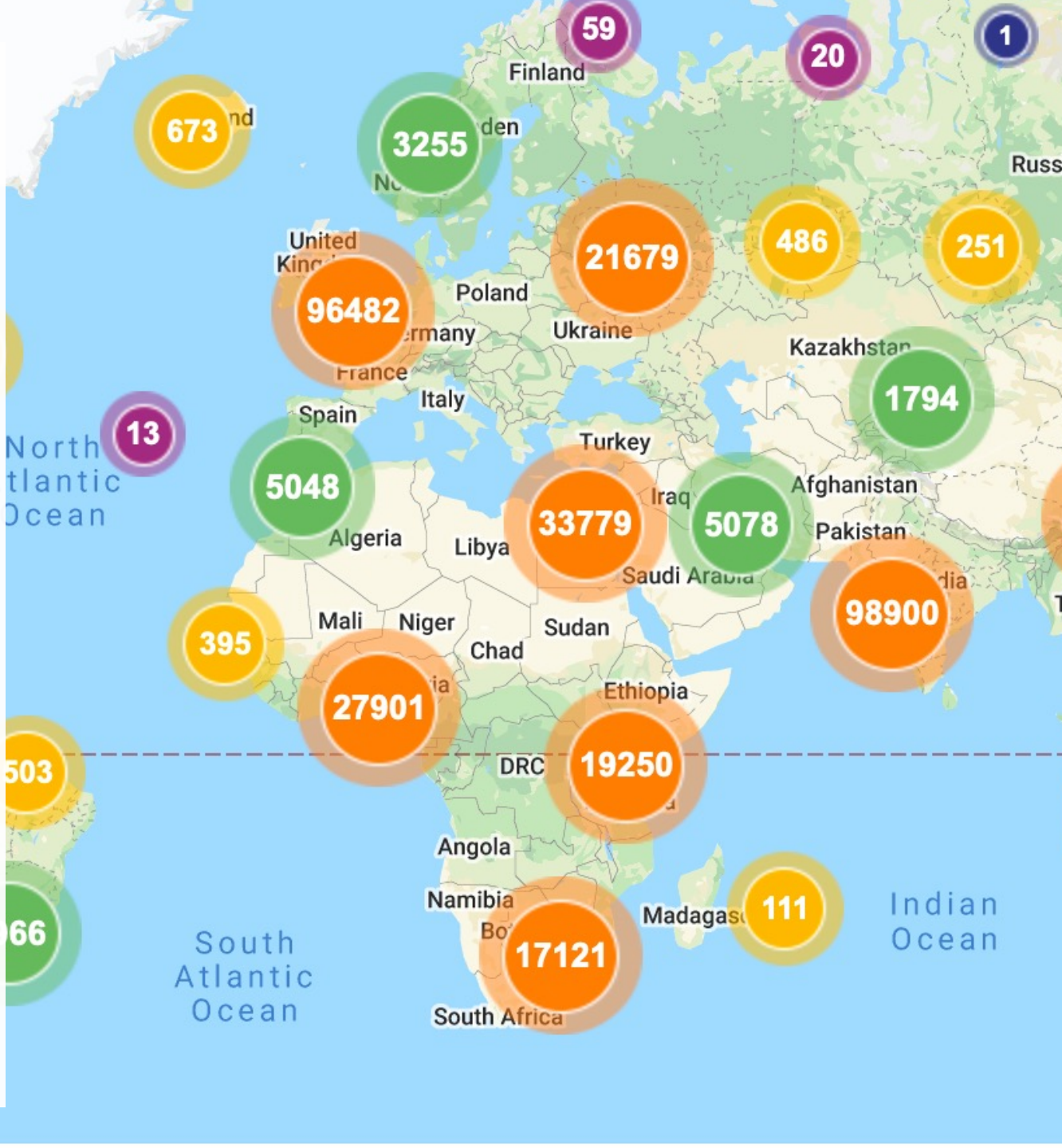
Why digitize theses and dissertations?

Print collection: **near zero circulation**

Digital collection in IR: **1.9 million downloads**

Unique collections showcasing the research output of URI students over the years



Lovett and Parker Lightning Talk, ACRL NEC 2021

What is “destructive” digitization?

Take apart	the bound volume
Digitize	loose pages using a sheet feeder scanner
Discard	the print version after scanning
Upload	the digitized work to the IR

Why destructive digitization?

Can use in-house staff and equipment

Low-cost approach that yields reasonably fast results

At least two copies of all printed URI theses and dissertations; can afford to transform one into digital

Project Prep

Staffing and Roles

- 3 undergraduate students to do scanning and prep work
- Erin managing the daily operations, supervising students, and uploading digitized ETD's to the IR
- Julia creating documentation and overseeing the project
- Cataloger withdrawing and editing records

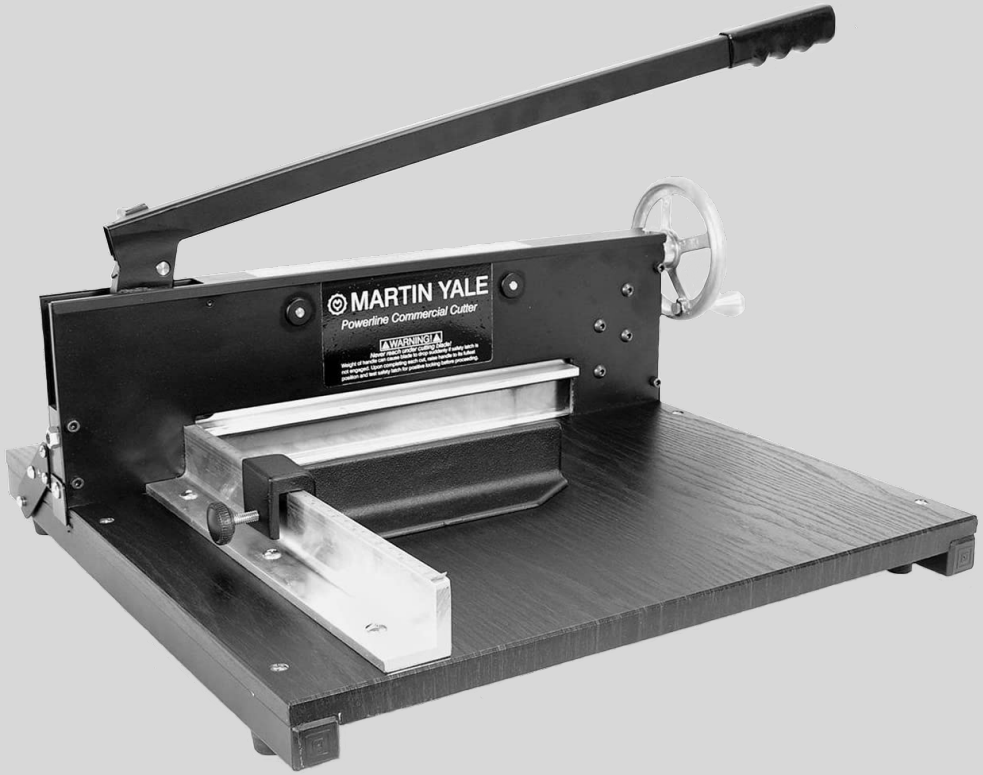
Copyright clearance / Permissions to digitize

- URI blanket policy granting the University permission to make theses/dissertations available upon graduation

Researched and purchased equipment

- Book arts listservs and YouTube for information on stack cutters

Equipment

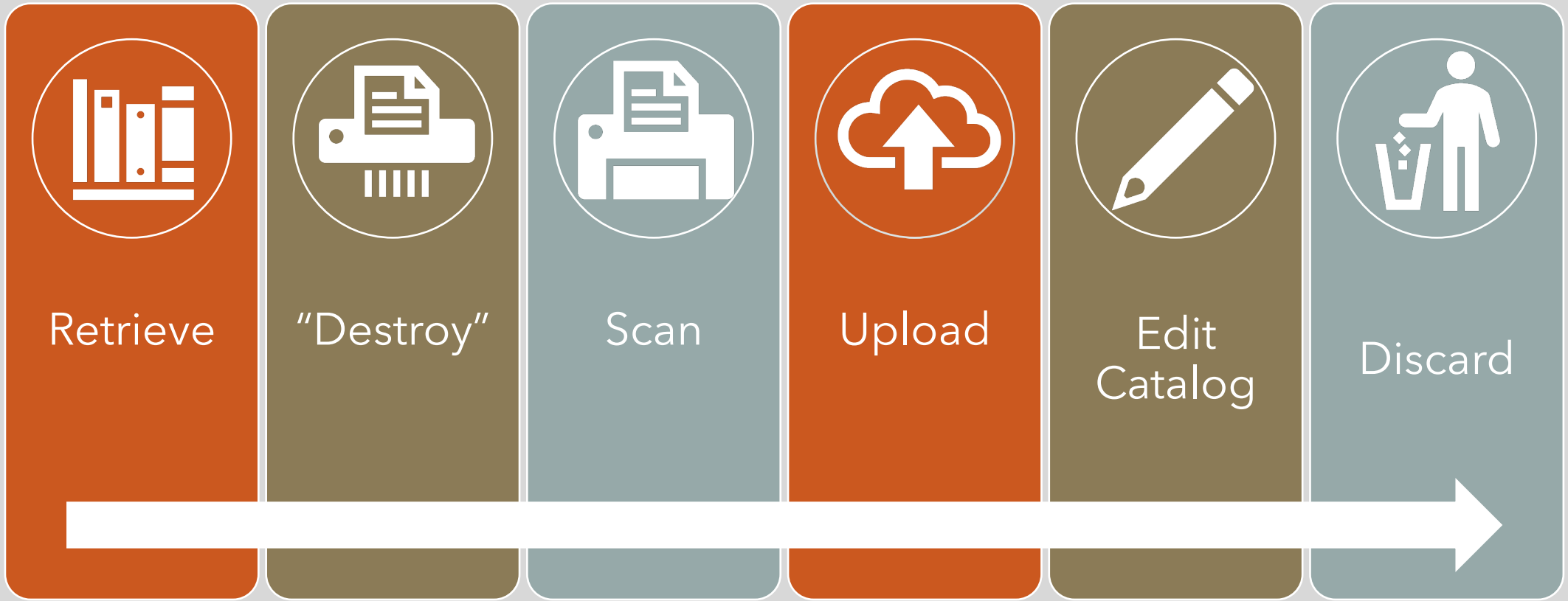


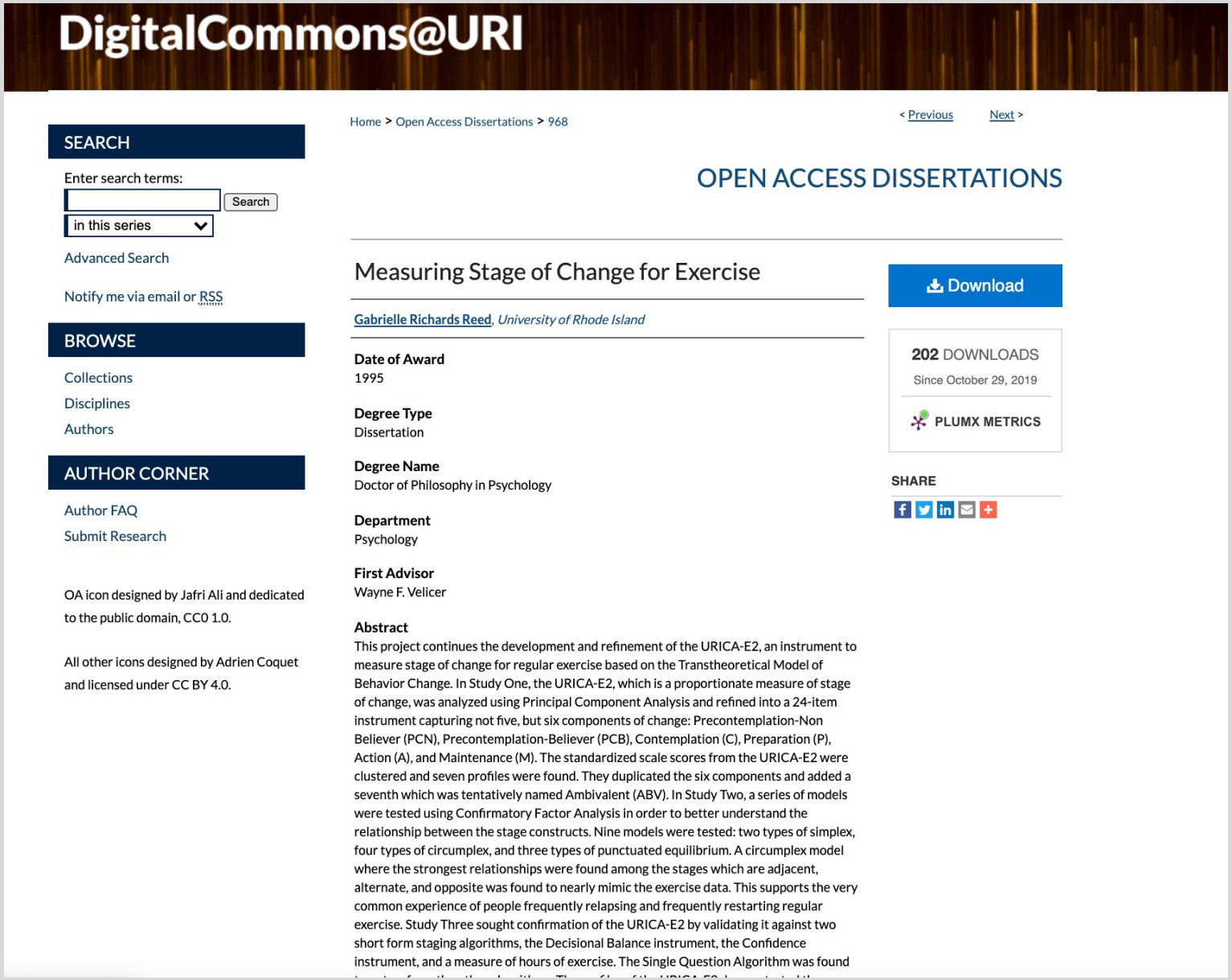
Martin Yale 7000e

HP Scanjet Pro 3000 s3

X-Acto Knife

Workflow





FINAL PRODUCT

Unexpected bottleneck… uploading and cataloging

(And this is smaller than during the semester when our students were working on the project.)

Too much work makes a dull blade…

Laury, our resident Systems expert and jack of all trades trying to replace the blade →

What now? Resuming the project

The project was put on hold due to COVID, and we hope to restart in Fall 2021

Reconsidering equipment and will try to purchase a semi-automatic stack cutter

Lessons learned: Test out the components of your project and readjust for time!

Project stats so far

498 scanned out of 8,763 total

Questions?

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