The University of Washington Library system currently holds a small collection of electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD) accompanying materials from the late 1980’s to 2011 on physical media. These materials will soon reach or have already exceeded the limit of their expected lifespans. This project looked at the digital preservation possibilities for this collection of materials using digital forensics as a model.

**Background**

A survey of library holdings revealed:

- 152 candidate items for the project.
- 3 items found in the catalog, but missing from the stacks.
- 24 items, mostly music CDs in standard CDA format, were outside the specifications of the project and rejected.

Ultimately, 125 items were used in this project.

**Impacts**

- Full inventory of ETD Accompanying Materials on physical media in the library collection.
- 105 Floppy Disks, CD-Rs and DVD-Rs were forensically imaged, analyzed, documented and packaged for future preservation by the University.
- Digital preservation computer station with BitCurator Environment up and running.
- Provided a pilot project for preserving born digital materials stored on physical media using digital forensics as a model of digital preservation.