The Google Books Digitization Project is one of the world’s largest online massive digital libraries. But how does it fare in terms of diversity of subject and traditionally under-represented groups? This study examines Google Books’ coverage with respect to a collection of Hawaiian and Pacific books housed at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in comparison to works found in its library’s general stacks collection.

1. METHODOLOGY

- **STEP 1** 3 random samples of 500 book records each were taken from 3 UH-Manoa collections: the Hawaiian, the Pacific, and the general stacks collections. 1,500 records in total.
- **STEP 2** Selected records were then searched for in Google Books.
- **STEP 3** Matching item records found in Google Books were evaluated for their level of access. The categories used were ‘Metadata Only,’ ‘Snippet,’ ‘Preview,’ and ‘Full View’.
- **STEP 4** Selected item records were recorded at their highest level of access. Selected item records not found in Google Books were recorded in the “No record” category.

*NOTE: Snippet = a few sentences are accessible; Preview = a few pages are accessible

2. RESULTS

- **Hawaiian collection books (N=500):**
  - 131 had no record in Google Books,
  - 317 had a metadata record only,
  - 35 had a snippet view available,
  - 11 were available for preview,
  - 6 could be fully viewed.

- **Pacific collection books (N=500):**
  - 116 no record,
  - 261 metadata record only,
  - 98 snippet view,
  - 17 preview,
  - 8 could be fully viewed.

- **General stacks collection (N=500):**
  - 40 no record,
  - 153 had a metadata record only,
  - 229 had a snippet view,
  - 66 were available for preview, and
  - 12 could be fully viewed.

3. DISCUSSION

- **68%** of sampled books have no record in Google Books or have only metadata records and are not accessible as texts, suggesting that these books have not been digitized;
- Accessible or partially accessible texts represent only **32%** of the collection, again suggesting lack of digitization;
- **Of those, 66%** of books accessible with at least a snippet view come from the General Collection, likely covered by Google’s main partners on mainland USA library collections;
- Only **175 of 1000 texts (17.5%)** from the Hawaiian and Pacific collections are accessible with at least a ‘snippet’ view;
- Of books in the public domain, **61%** in the General Collection are accessible; significantly less for Hawaii and Pacific Collections.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- **Acute differences in accessibility in Google Books between a general collection & Hawaii/Pacific books;**
- Most books in H/P collections are likely not digitized; a result of Google’s partnering primarily with mainland U.S. universities;
- Further studies of Public Domain books and their accessibility in Google Books are warranted;
- Further studies of accessibility for other traditionally under-represented groups are warranted;
- Comparative studies of accessibility in Google Books, Internet Archive, and the Hathi Trust are warranted;