Embargo Periods and External Publication for History Dissertations

Midge Coates
Auburn University
Libraries

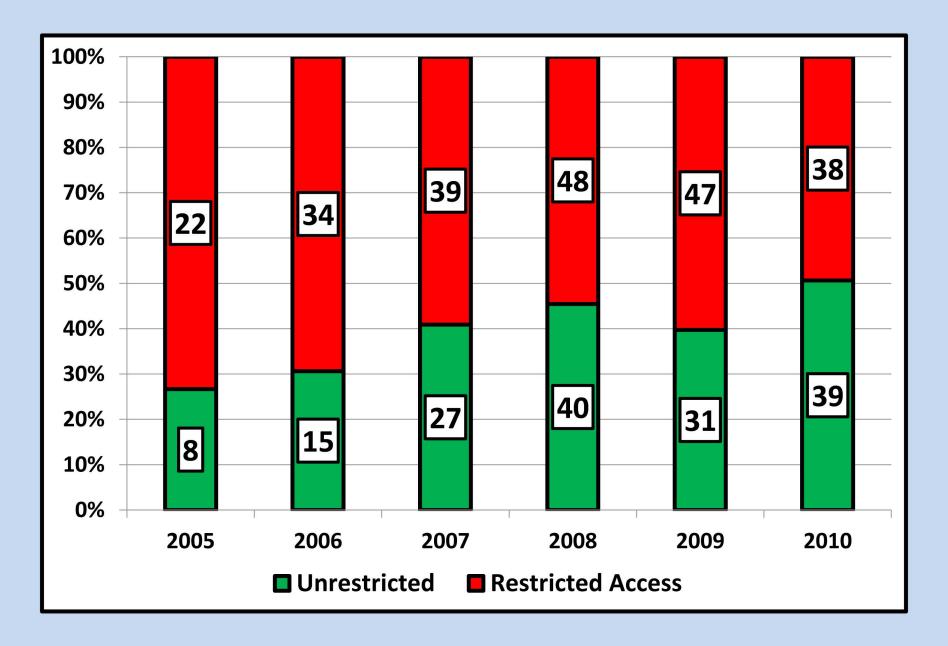
"The American Historical
Association strongly encourages
graduate programs and
university libraries to adopt a
policy that allows the
embargoing of completed history
PhD dissertations in digital form
for as many as six years. ... [Open
access dissertations are] a form
of distribution that publishers
consider too widespread to make
revised publication in book form
viable." (July 2013)

- This study compared numbers for access-restricted History dissertations at 16 USA universities in the years before and after the above policy statement was issued.
- It also compared publication numbers and time to publication for monographs based on unrestricted and restricted History dissertations from the same universities.

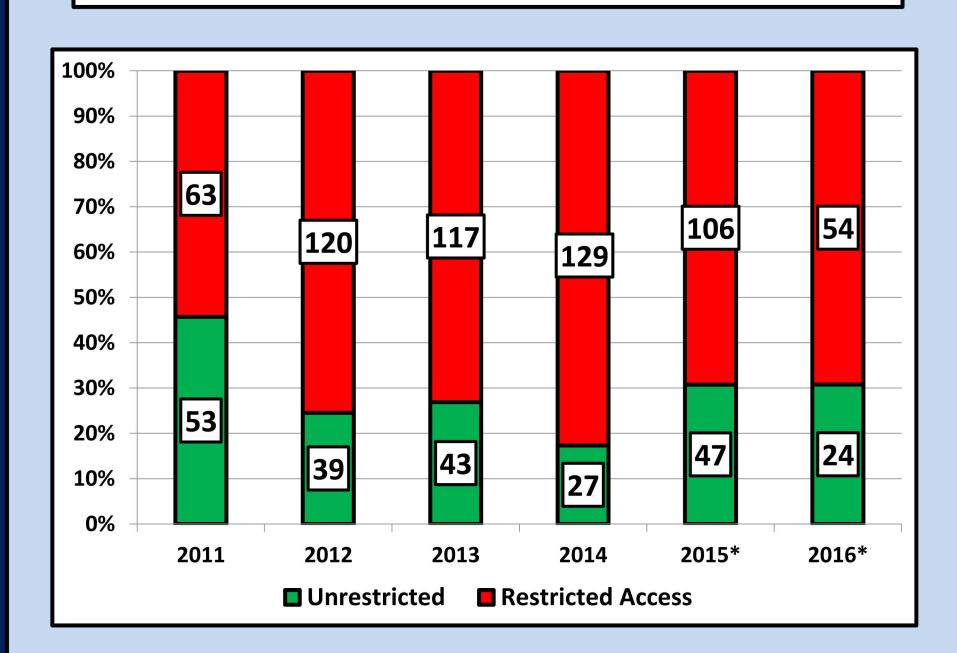
# **Access Restrictions**

This portion of the study compared access restrictions for 2005-2016 History dissertations at 16 USA universities. Access restrictions included: Delayed upload, Campusonly access, and Blocked access.

# 2005-2010 dissertations



# 2011-2016 dissertations



Every year, a substantial number of History PhD candidates at these 16 universities selected some form of access restriction.

Least restricted: 2010, 49% restricted Most restricted: 2014, 88% restricted (year after AHA policy was issued)

\* Values for 2015 and 2016 are not final, as "delayed upload" numbers were not available as of 6-15-2017.

# Publication of History Dissertations as Monographs

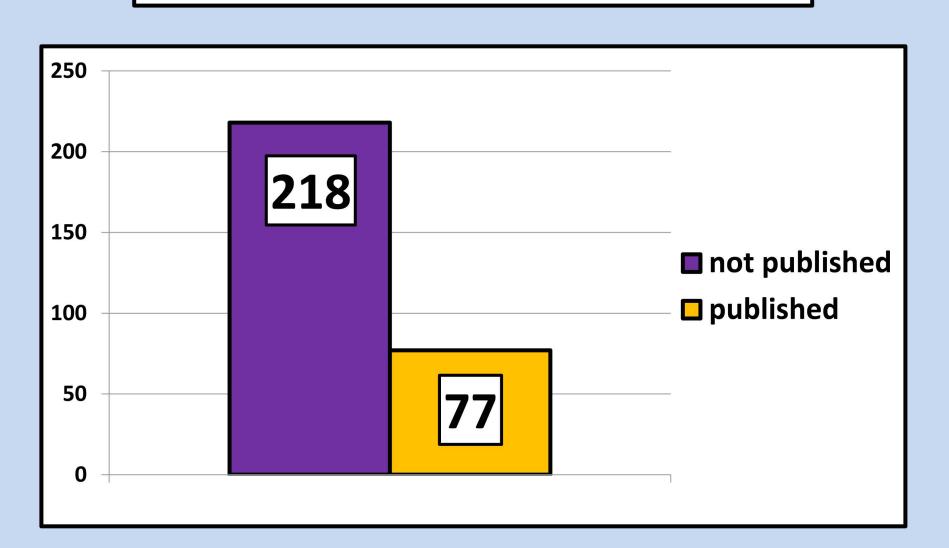
This portion of the study compared publication rates and time to publication for monographs based on unrestricted and restricted History dissertations, 2005-2013.

WorldCat was searched for authors' names, and monograph titles were compared to dissertation titles.

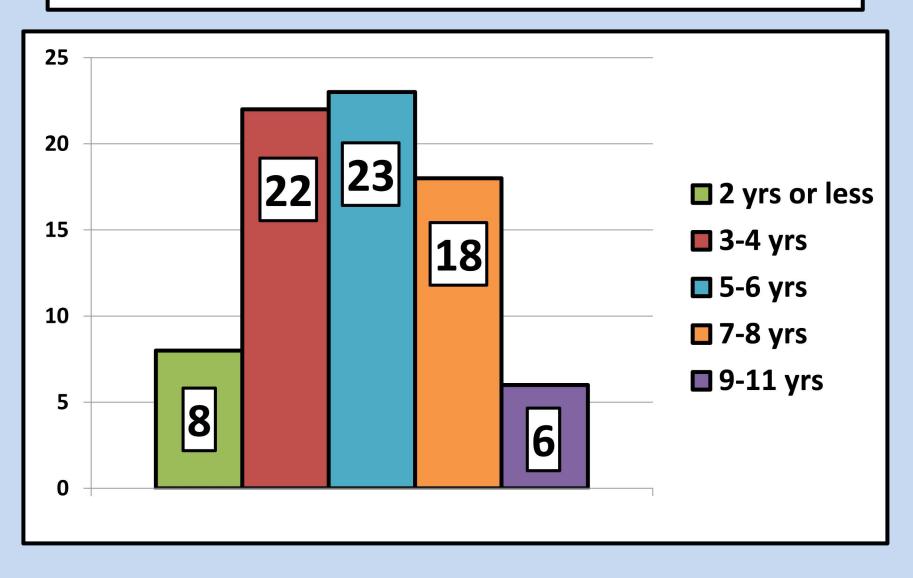
# Conclusions

- During the study period, restricted access dissertations were published at a <u>slightly</u> higher rate than unrestricted dissertations.
- Times to publication were similar for both groups. In addition, both groups had a number of monographs that were published well after the 6 year restriction period that the AHA recommended.

#### **Unrestricted Dissertations**



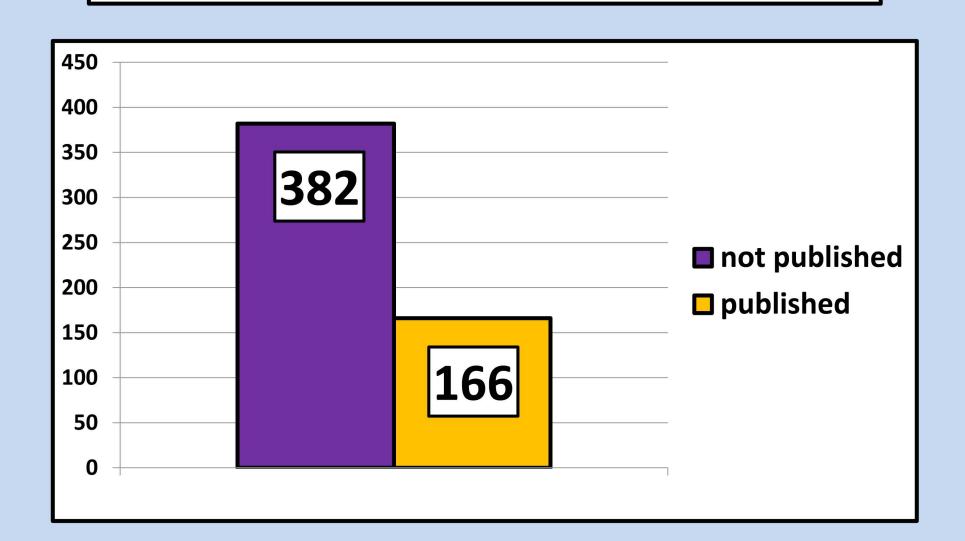
## Years to monograph publication



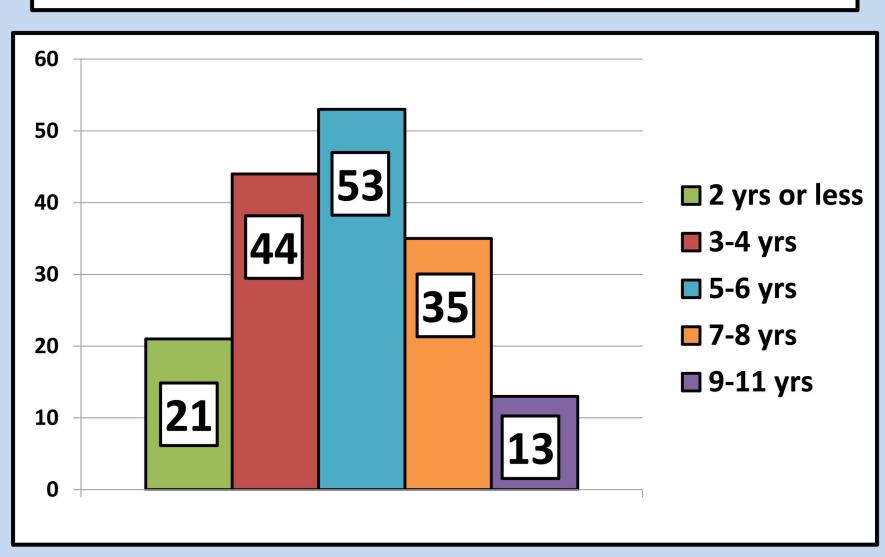
Unrestricted Dissertations:
As of 6-15-2017, 26% of unrestricted
History dissertations (2005-2013) had
been published as monographs.

Time to publication: 0-11 years

### **Restricted Access Dissertations**



## Years to monograph publication



Restricted Access Dissertations:
As of 6-15-2017, 30% of embargoed
History dissertations (2003-2013) had
been published as monographs.

Time to publication: 0-11 years