ETDs Embargos: Are There Discipline-Based Differences in Candidates’ Selections?

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What impact have recent statements by disciplinary organizations had on the embargo selections of degree candidates?

Some examples:

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. (2013)

Students and their mentors should be aware that posting of thesis and dissertation material on the Web prior to submission ... to an [American Chemical Society] journal may affect publication in that journal [and will] be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the journal’s editor. (2014)

Embargo requests for five colleges of Auburn University are compared for the academic years of 09/10 through 14/15. Available options: (1) no restrictions, (2) access only for AU users, and (3) global restriction.

Agriculture & Human Sciences and Sciences & Mathematics had increases in embargo requests in AY 11/12 and every year since. Engineering and Education had increases in AY 12/13 and decreases in subsequent years. Liberal Arts had a dramatic increase in AY 12/13 and has remained at that level.

Lengths of embargos requested by students in the same colleges are compared for the same time period. Available length options have been combined: (1) 6 months to 1 year; (2) 2 to 3 years; and (3) 4 to 5 years.

Liberal Arts students request the longest embargos and have since AY 11/12. Sciences & Mathematics students consistently request the shortest embargos, followed by Agriculture & Human Sciences and Engineering. The largest change is for Education students, with a dramatic increase in requests for longer embargos in AY 14/15.