

Do Long Embargo Periods Facilitate External Publication of Electronic Theses and Dissertations?

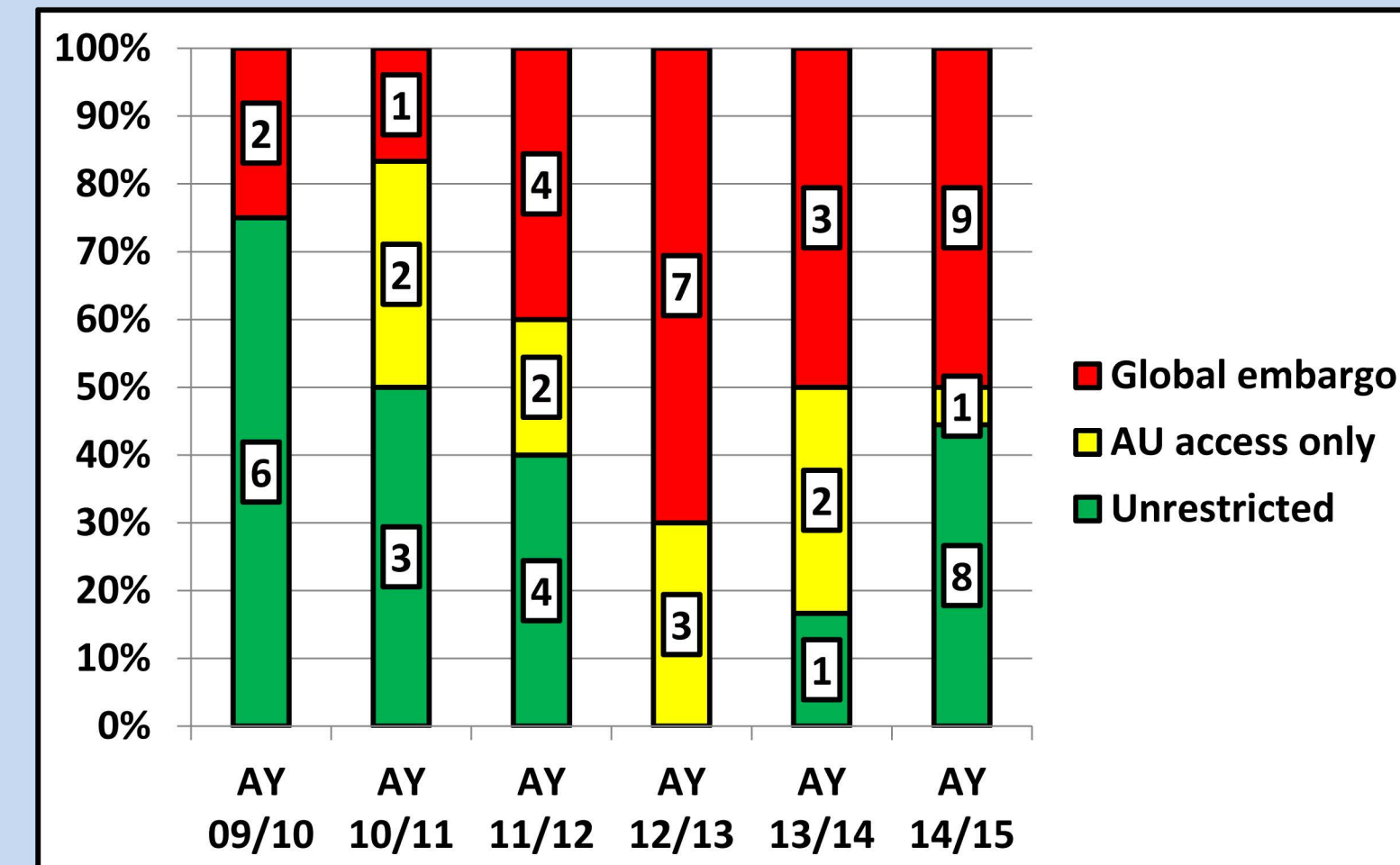
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“The American Historical Association strongly encourages graduate programs and university libraries to adopt a policy that allows the embargoing of completed history PhD dissertations in digital form for as many as six years.” (July 2013)

- This study compares embargo selections of History & Political Science PhD candidates at Auburn University in the years before and after the above policy statement was issued.
- It also compares publication rates for monographs based on unrestricted and embargoed dissertations in History & Political Science at AU.

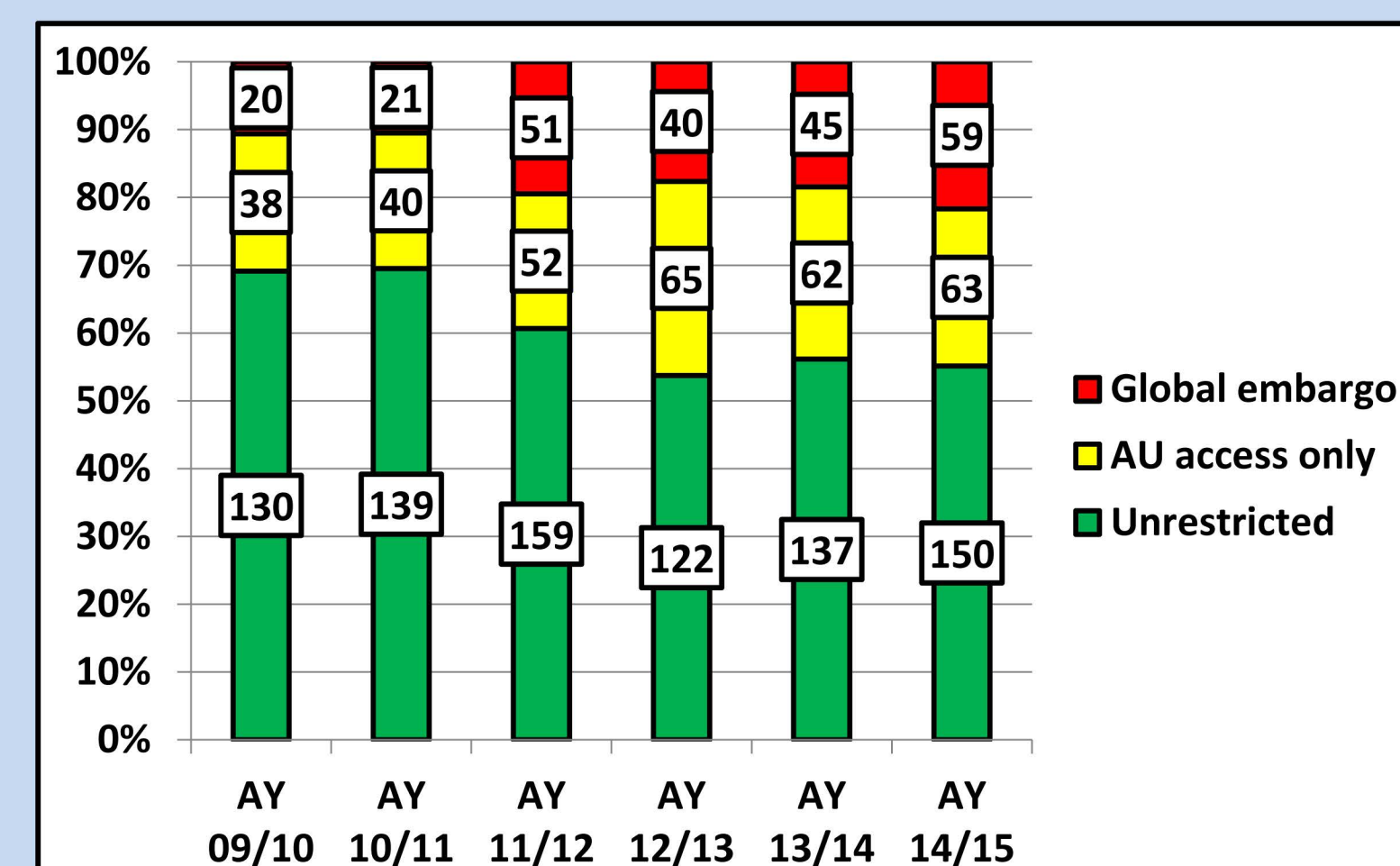
Embargo Selections, AY 09/10 – AY 14/15

Hist./Poli. Sci. diss.



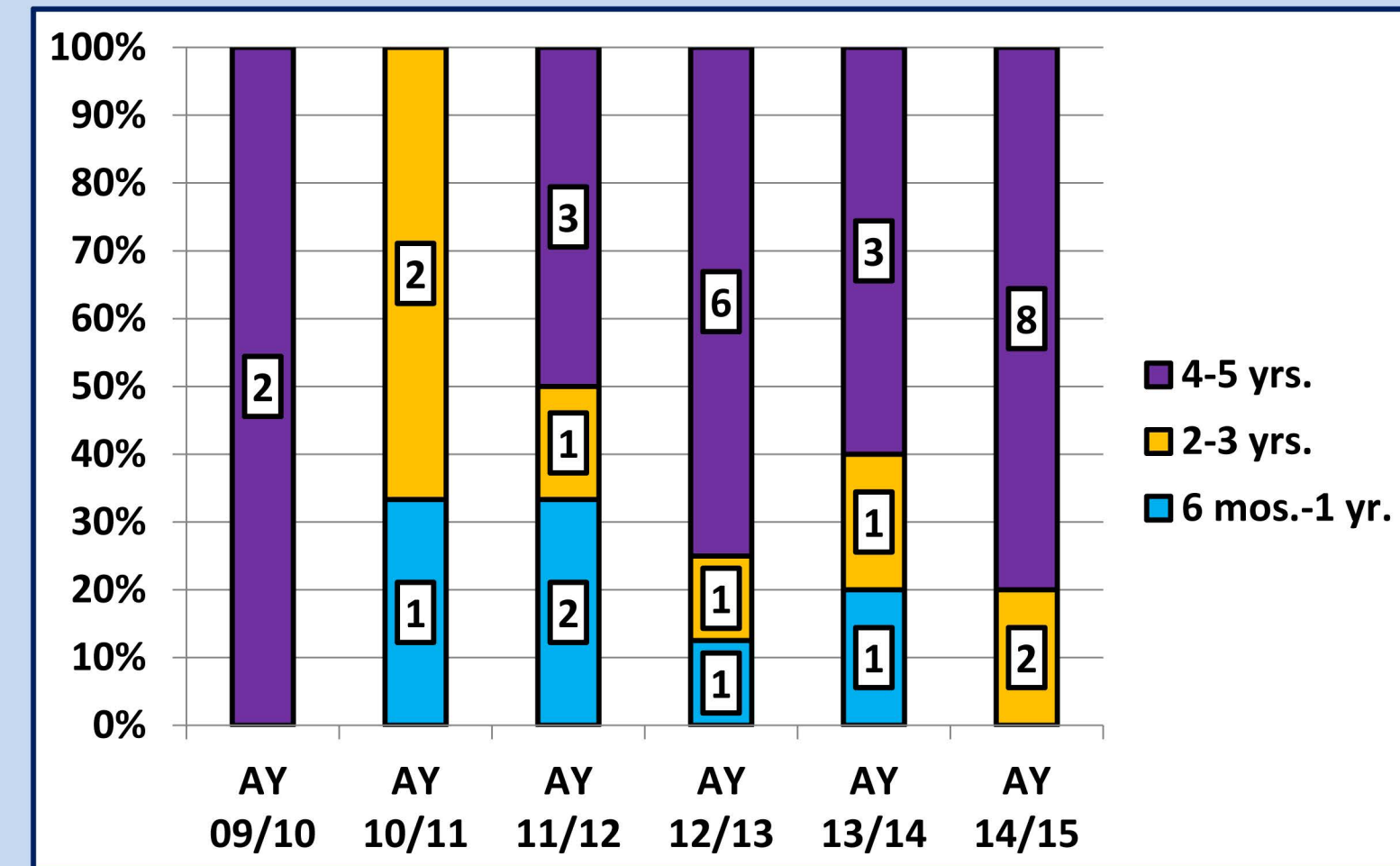
Significant change occurred for Hist./Poli. Sci. in AY 12/13 (above), presumably a result of public discussion. This was less pronounced for total dissertations (below). Two years later, most History submitters still embargoed, while most Political Science submitters did not.

All dissertations



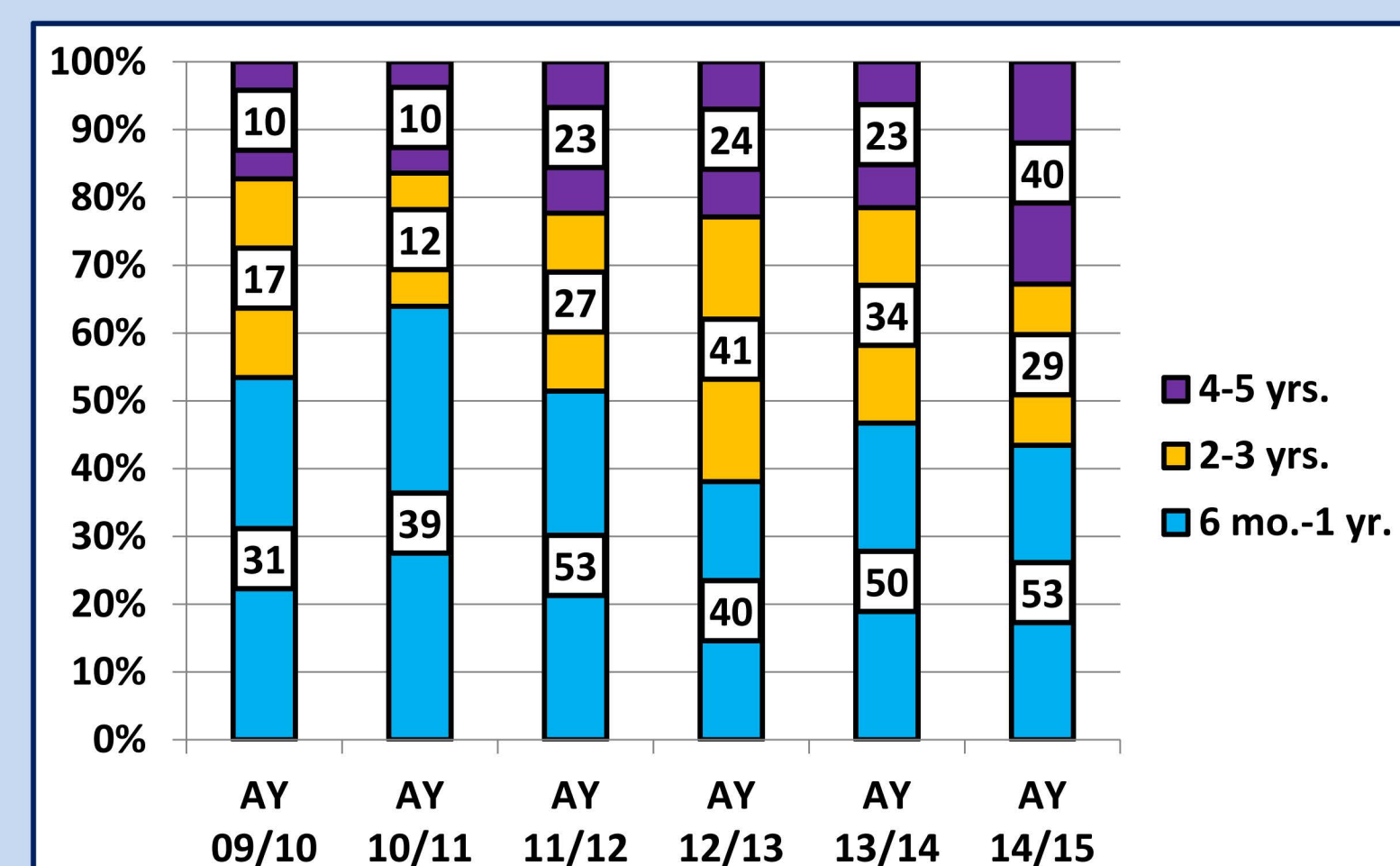
Embargo Lengths, AY 09/10 – AY 14/15

Hist./Poli. Sci. diss.



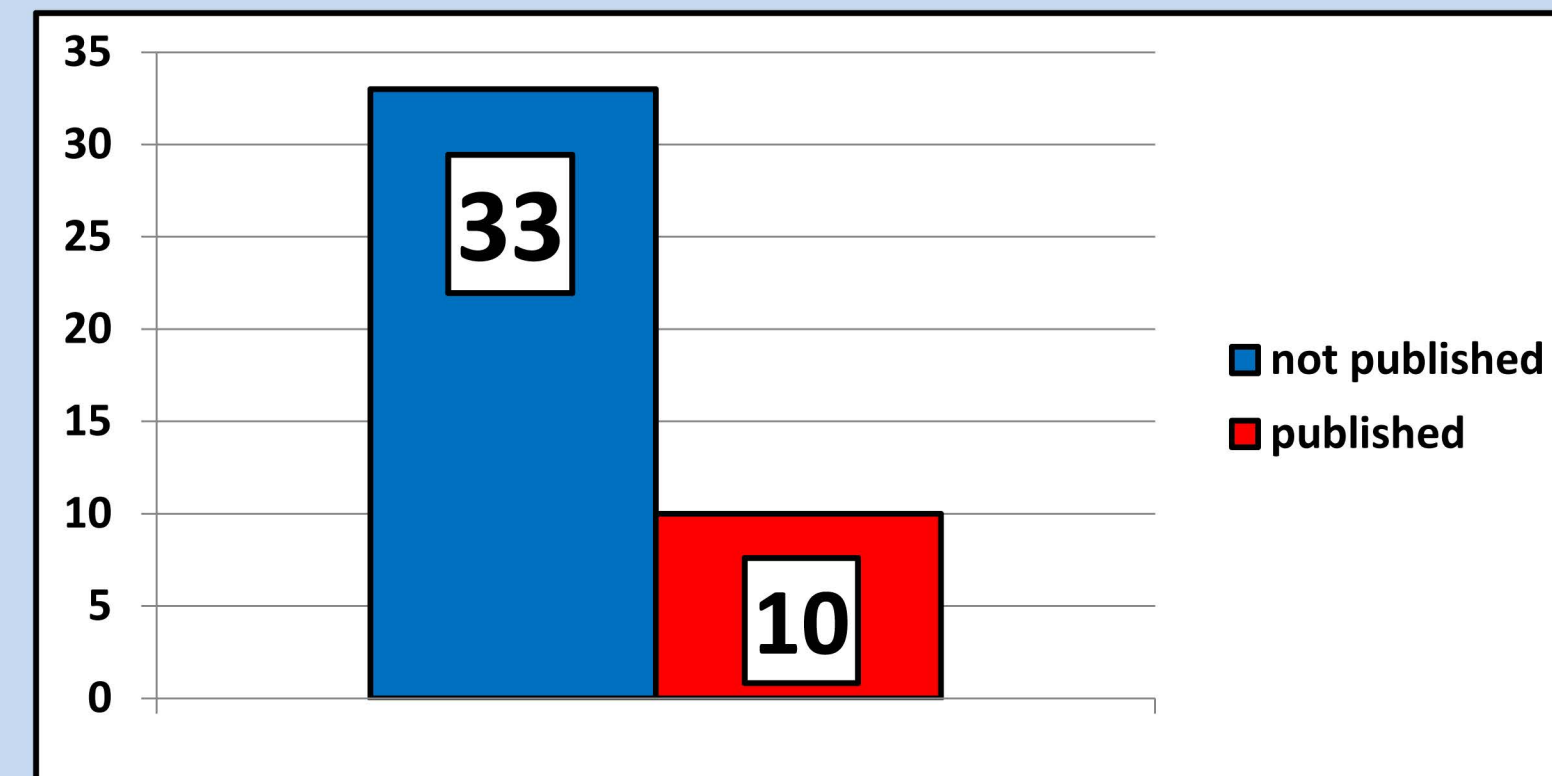
Again, significant change occurred for Hist./Poli. Sci. in AY 12/13 (above). This was observed to a lesser extent for total dissertations. (below). Two years later, History embargoers selected the longest period available (5 yrs), while Political Science embargoers varied.

All dissertations



Hist./Poli. Sci. diss.

Unrestricted dissertations, AY 05/06 – AY 09/10



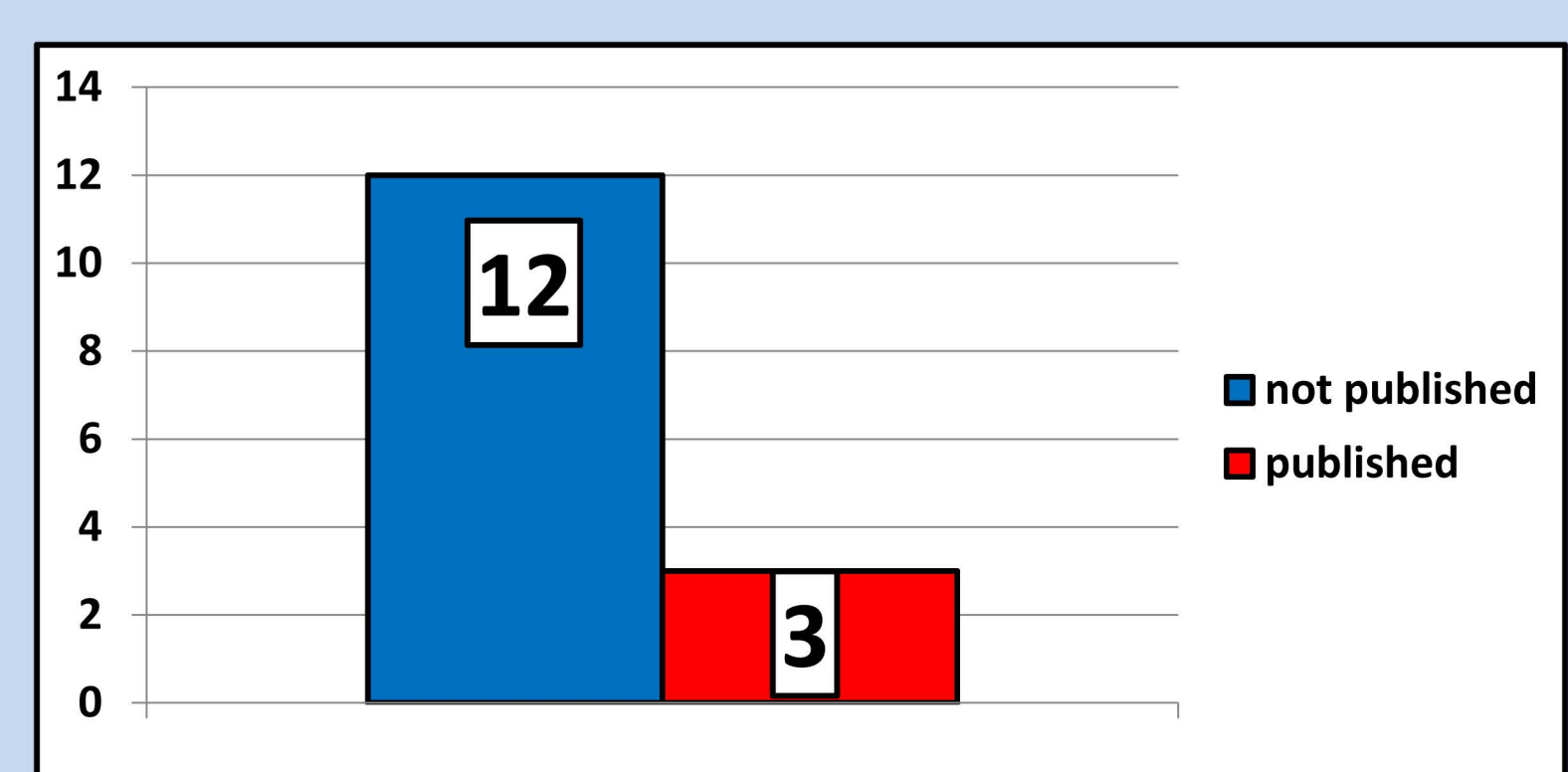
Dissertation to Monograph

	Dissertation date	Monograph date	Yrs. to publ.
Dissertation 1	2005	2010	5
Dissertation 2	2006	2009	3
Dissertation 3	2006	2007	1
Dissertation 4	2006	2009	3
Dissertation 5	2007	2012	5
Dissertation 6	2007	2014	7
Dissertation 7	2008	2011	3
Dissertation 8	2009	2015	6
Dissertation 9	2009	2012	3
Dissertation 10	2010	2012	2

As of 8-15-2015, 23% of unrestricted dissertations from AY 05/06 through AY 09/10 had been published as monographs. Time to publication varied, but 3 years and 5 years were the most common.

Hist./Poli. Sci. diss.

Embargoed dissertations, AY 05/06 – AY 09/10



Dissertation to Monograph

	Dissertation date	Monograph date	Yrs. to publ.
Dissertation 11	2008	2008	0
Dissertation 12	2008	2013	5
Dissertation 13	2010	2014	4

As of 8-15-2015, 20% of embargoed dissertations from AY 05/06 through AY 09/10 had been published as monographs. Time to publication was consistent with that for the unrestricted dissertations. **Conclusion:** Embargo provided no noticeable publication advantage during the study period.