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 compares embargo selections of History PhD candidates at Auburn University in the years before and after the above policy statement was issued by the AHA.

It also compares publication rates and time to publication (as of 8/15/16) for monographs based on unrestricted and embargoed History dissertations, AY 05/06 through AY 10/11.

**Embargo Selections**

Significant change occurred for embargo selections for History dissertations in AY 12/13, presumably a result of public discussion. This was far less pronounced for total dissertations. Since then, all History dissertations but one have been embargoed.

**Embargo Lengths**

Significant change occurred for embargo lengths selected for History dissertations in AY 12/13. This was observed to a much lesser extent for all dissertations. Since AY 12/13, all embargo lengths selected for History dissertations have been the longest allowed (5 yrs).

**Publication of Unrestricted Dissertations**

As of 8-15-2016, 42% of unrestricted History dissertations from AY 05/06 through AY 10/11 had been published as monographs. Time to publication varied from 1 year to 10 years.

**Publication of Embargoed Dissertations**

As of 8-15-2016, 29% of embargoed History dissertations from AY 05/06 through AY 10/11 had been published as monographs. Time to publication was 4-5 years.

**Conclusion**

Embargo provided no noticeable publication advantage during the study period.