On Elective Double-Submission: Data Points from the Early Years of Optional

In 2010, a new policy went into effect at the University of Texas at Austin. Doctoral candidates were no longer required to submit their dissertations to the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT) database; instead, these dissertations were submitted to the Texas Digital Library (TDL).

With the requirement lifted, which students chose double-submission to TDL and PQDT? Are double-submission rates linked to discipline?

Fall 2010-Summer 2011.
The dissertations of 8.53% of doctoral candidates can be found in PQDT. Source: PQDT Database; February 2012; University of Texas Statistical Handbook; Office of Information Management and Analysis; N=844. Note: This graph compares dissertations appearing in PQDT as of 2/2012 with graduation data. Due to a potential lag in dissertations being sent to and appearing in PQDT, these numbers do not provide a true proxy for submission rates.

Fall 2011.
10.6% of dissertation submissions to TDL went to PQDT, as well. Source: UT Thesis Office; N=217. Note: Graph revised July 2012 to reflect improved data.

Spring 2010: UT-Austin begins to upload all dissertations to TDL.

Fall 2009: Final semester that UT-Austin doctoral candidates are required to submit to PQDT.

Fall 2010: Requirement that UT-Austin Master’s Theses and Reports be published through TDL goes into effect.

Fall 2011: 10.6% of doctoral candidates submit their dissertations to PQDT.

Some disciplinary links were discerned. Schools with a comparatively high presence in PQDT (>8.53% of doctorates awarded) included:
- Communications: 22.86%
- Education: 15.54%
- Fine Arts: 11.63%
- Liberal Arts: 9.82%
- Nursing: 28.57%

No dissertations from the Schools of Architecture, Geosciences, Information, or Public Affairs, or from Intercollegial Programs, in the academic year 2010-2011 can be found in PQDT. Only 1.78% of doctoral candidates from the School of Natural Sciences currently have dissertations in PQDT.

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Source: PQDT Database; University of Texas Statistical Handbook.

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