Introduction
The UMD Graduate School has required electronic submission of theses and dissertations since 2003 and all graduate research is automatically deposited in the Digital Repository at the University of Maryland (DRUM) and made freely available over the web, promoting open access to the diverse body of research created by UMD graduate students.

Benefits of DRUM
- Research widely available.
- Greatly increases the chances of the research being cited.
- Research is quickly and easily available from any computer at any location.
- No need to maintain files or changing URLs on personal web sites.
- Easy to deposit works along with associated content.
- Research is easily and quickly available from any computer at any location.
- Number of downloads shows impact of research.

Response to Concerns
To address these concerns, graduate students now have the option of requesting an embargo period of either one year, six years, or indefinitely.
- A one-year embargo is appropriate for students seeking patent protection for their work or publishing an article in a journal.
- A six-year embargo can be requested in cases where a student plans to publish a book based on their dissertation.
- Indefinite embargoes must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Displaying Embargoed Items
Clicking on the View/Open link displays a message explaining that the document is not available. For one-year and six-year embargoes, the date that the PDF will become available is also displayed.

Requesting an Embargo
To request an embargo, the student must submit the "Thesis and Dissertation Electronic Publication Form" to the Graduate School prior to submitting their document electronically. Even if the student is not requesting an embargo, they must submit the form to authorize immediate access to their work via DRUM. By signing the form they also acknowledge that they have discussed the electronic delivery options with their academic advisor and the advisor must also sign the form.

Embargo Trends
UMD students have had the option of requesting an embargo since 2006. Initially the number of requests fluctuated between 250 and 300 per year but from 2009 to 2012, there was a steady increase in the number of embargo requests, leveling off in 2012. Currently, 9089 embargo requests have been approved with the greatest number of 6-year embargoes, which you would expect since this was the longest embargo period available until recently.

As far as breakdown by subject area, the College of Arts & Humanities, specifically the English Department, has the greatest number of 6-year embargoes, which you would expect since this would give them enough time to publish that all important book, but surprisingly, the sciences that have the greatest percentage of embargo requests overall with the Chemistry Department leading the pack with almost 70%. Overall, embargo requests have been averaging around 40% for each semester.