

# Collection Analysis for the Social Sciences at UC Berkeley

Library Research Round Table  
ALA Annual Conference 2014

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# Questions:

How well do collections meet researchers' needs?

Do we own/license similar percentages of cited sources across related disciplines? By format?

Are there new research trends and/or formats that impact collections?

What is the mix of sources cited? How old are they?

# Background

Percent Citations Owned or Licensed (+/-4%)

	Journals	Books
Education	98%	88%
Psychology	99%	87%
Social Welfare	97%	73%

# RLG Conspectus: Collection Levels

**Research:** A collection that includes the major published source materials required for dissertations

**Comprehensive:** A collection which, so far as is reasonably possible, includes all significant works of recorded knowledge

# Methods

Citation analysis of dissertation bibliographies, 2008-2012:

Business

Economics

History

Political Science

Received citations on large data file from ProQuest. Hand-entered any not included (333 student/staff hours).

Verified each citation for ownership/licensing.

Systematic sample with a random start,  
confidence interval: 95% (+/-3)\*

# Sample Size

	Dissertations	Total Citations	Ratio	Citations Entered	Avg. Cites per Dissertation
Business	61	5,421	1:4	1379	89
Economics	139	11,184	1:7	1590	80
Political Science	88	23,127	1:12	2101	263
History	95	30,353	1:20	1528*	320

# Findings

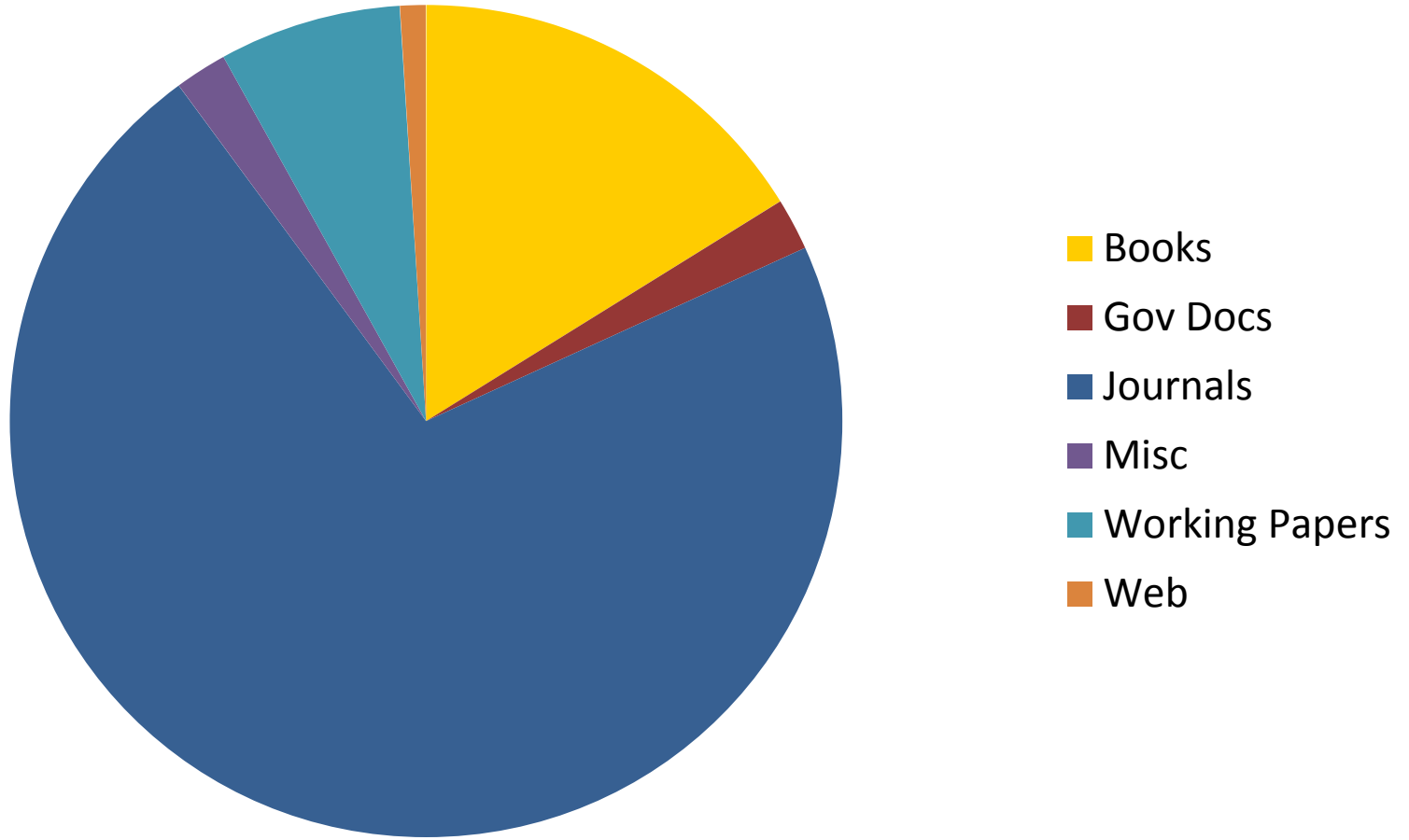
# What Are They Citing?

(% of all citations by discipline)

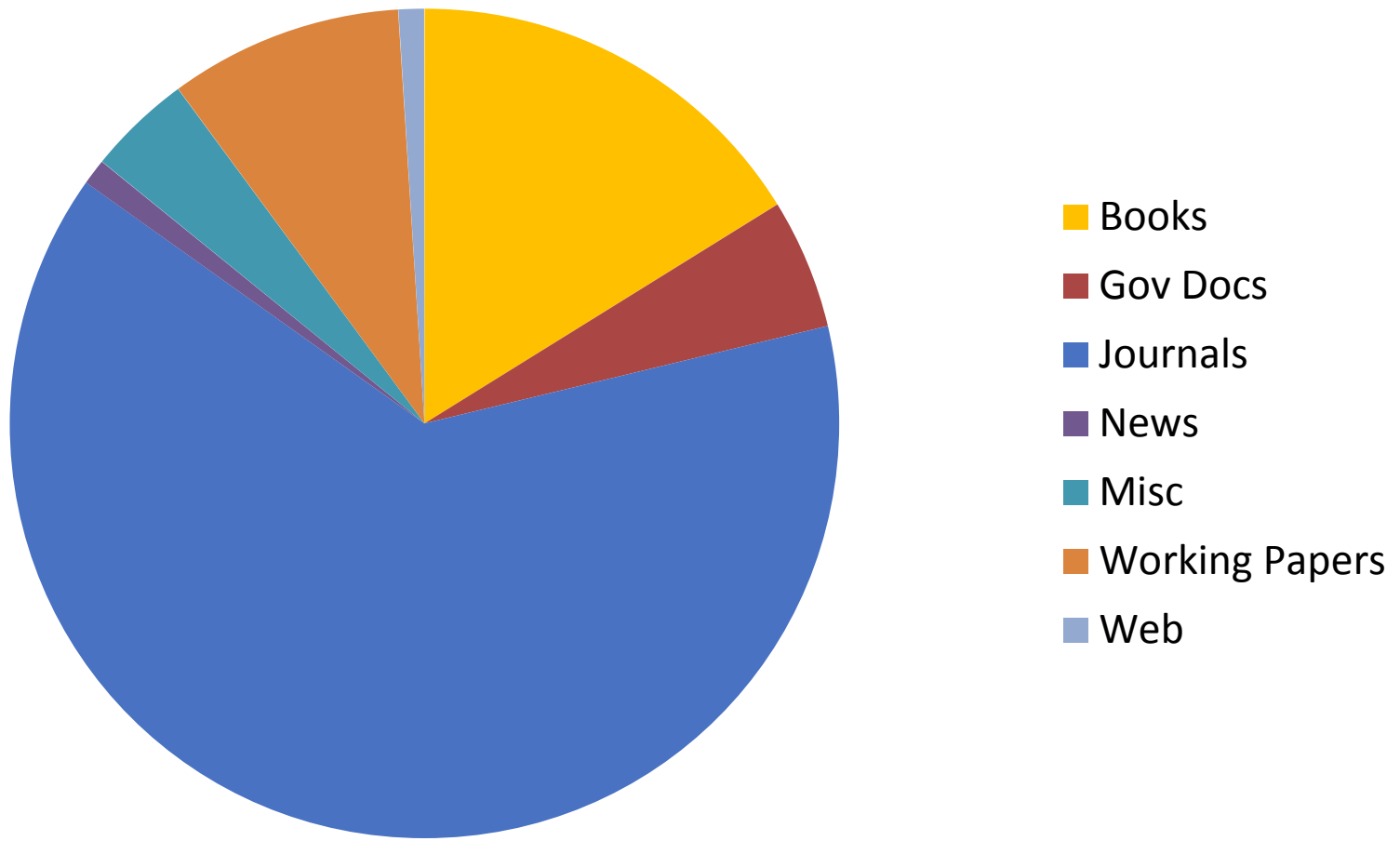
	Journals	Books	Working Papers	Other
Business	71	17	7	5
Economics	63	17	9	11
History	16	70	0	14
Political Science	32	46	1	21



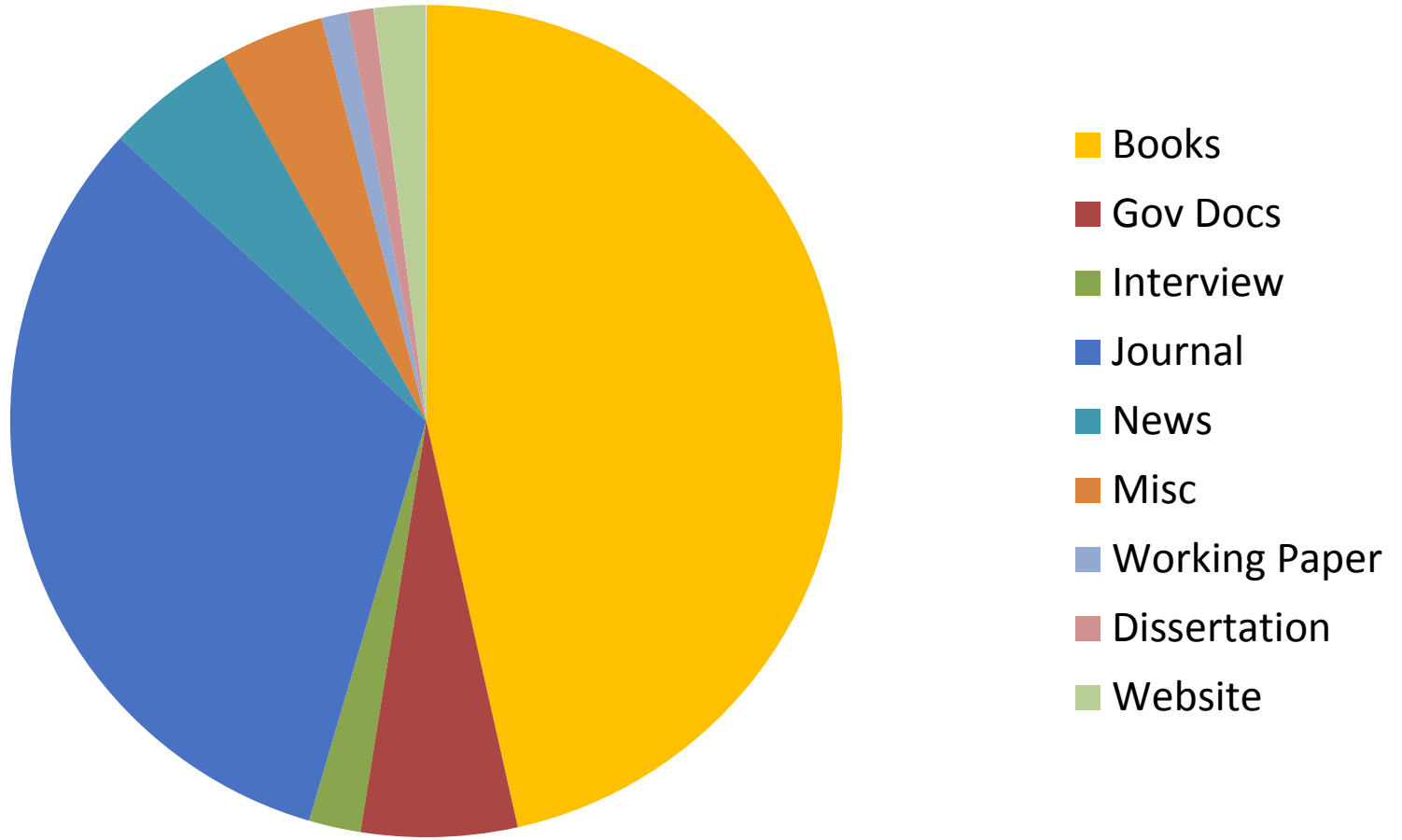
# What Does Business Cite?



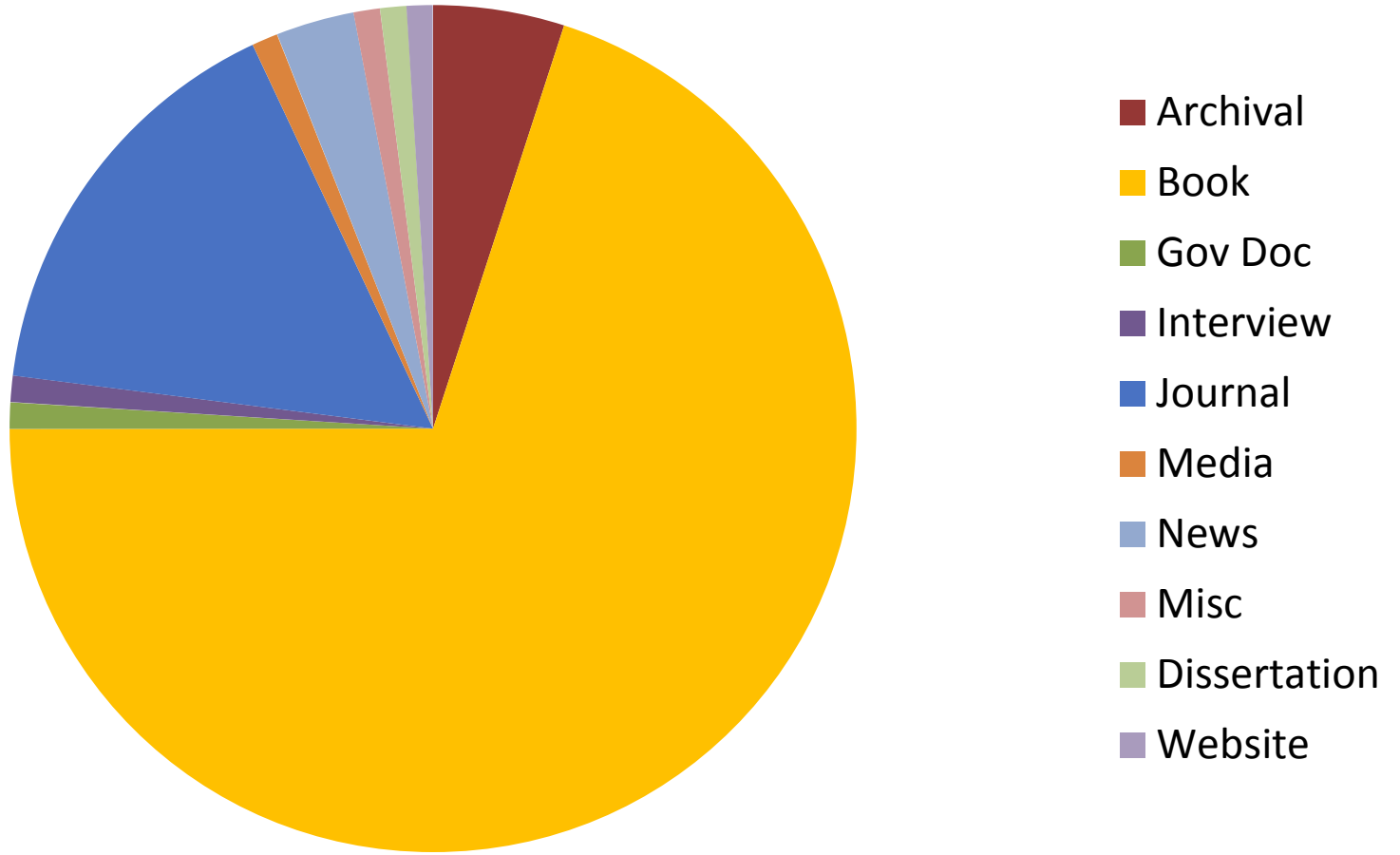
# What Does Economics Cite?



# What Does Political Science Cite?



# What Does History Cite?



# Percent Citations Owned or Licensed (+/-3%)

	Journals	Books
Business	99	94
Economics	99	91
History	82	78
Political Science	94	87

Unexpected findings

## Non-English Language Sources (100%, not sample)

**Business**

**.04%**

**Economics**

**1.2%**

**History**

**28%**

**Political  
Science**

**15%**

## Citing Older Material (median age)

### All Formats

**Business**

**12**

**Economics**

**8**

**History**

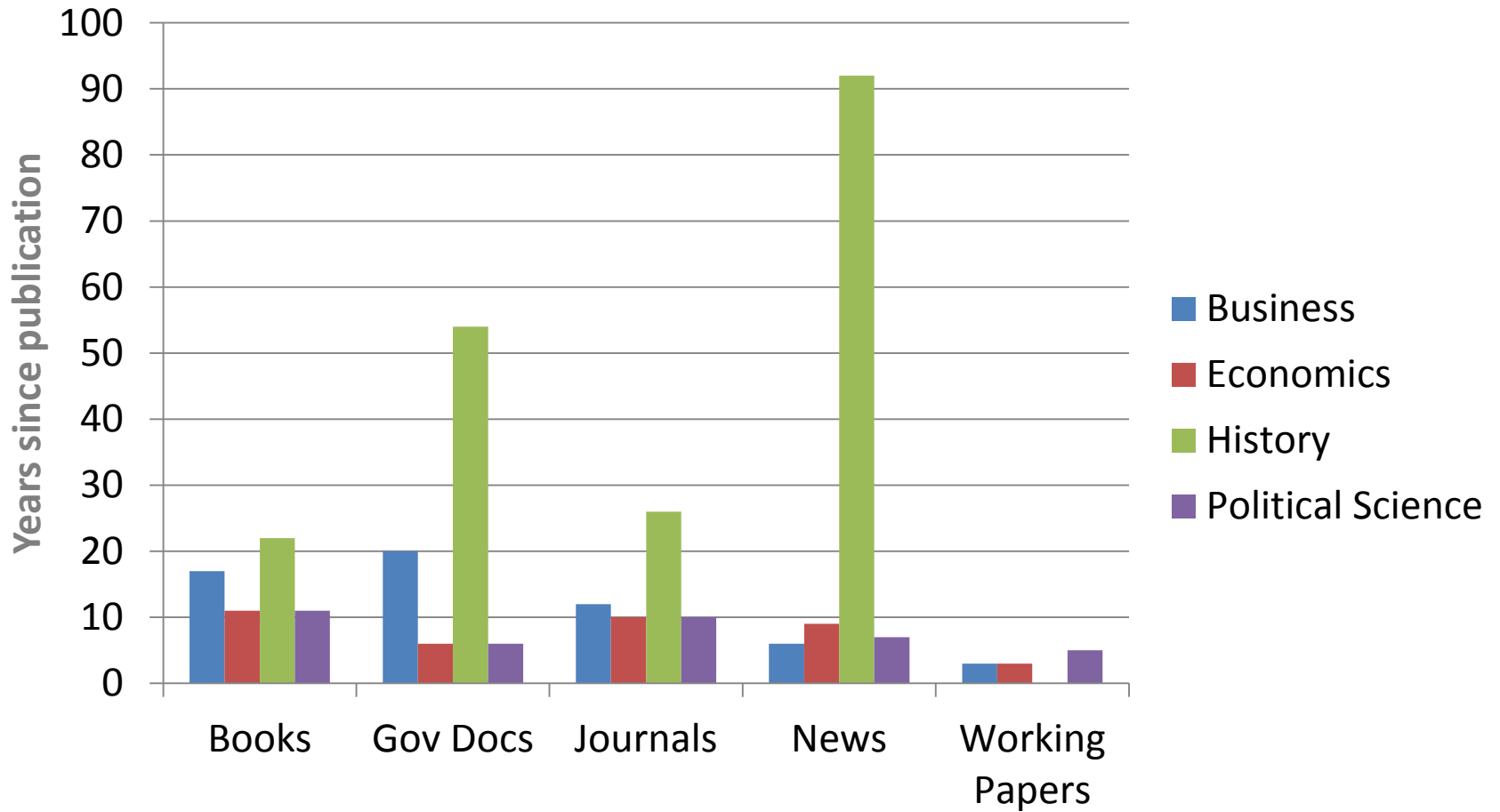
**24**


**Political  
Science**

**9**



# Median Age by Format



 Business	Economics	History	Political Science
Journal of Finance	American Economic Review	Historical Journal	American Political Science Review
Journal of Political Economy	Quarterly Journal of Economics	<i>Mennonite Quarterly Review</i>	American Journal of Political Science
American Economic Review	Econometrica	Agricultural History Americas Hispanic American Historical Review	International Organization
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	Journal of Political Economy	International Journal of Middle East Studies	World Politics
Journal of Financial Economics	NBER Working Paper*	Lancet Science <i>Schenbao</i>	World Development <i>Hammer : Blätter für deutschen Sinn</i>
Administrative Science Quarterly	Journal of Finance	Journal of Modern History Modern Asian Studies	American Sociological Review Asian Survey China Quarterly

# Freely Available Sources

**Business**

**7.7%**

**Economics**

**10.2%**

**History**

**3%**

**Political  
Science**

**10.2%**

# The “Others”

- **Economics cites the most working papers (8.6%) and unpublished papers ( 3%).**
- **Political Science cites the most documents (6.3%) and newspapers (5%).**
- **History cites the most archival sources (4.8%).**
- **No one cites many “web sites” – the highest was 1.7.**

# Next Steps

- Numeric data not cited in bibliographies.
- Analyze ownership by English vs. non-English by format by discipline.
- Investigate ownership rate for books vs. journals – does it vary by publication year? (Has there been a decline in monographs purchasing relative to journals over time).
- Qualitative assessment of different information seeking behaviors by discipline.

# Credits:

- Business: Hilary Schiraldi
- Economics: Jim Church
- History: Jennifer Dorner
- Political Science: Susan Edwards
- Jon Stiles, Statistics
- LAUC Research Grant
- Lynne Grigsby, Dark Archive
- Austin McClean, ProQuest (45,000 dissertations)
- Nicole Waugh, David Galvez-Costigan
- Student Employees: data entry, initial verification