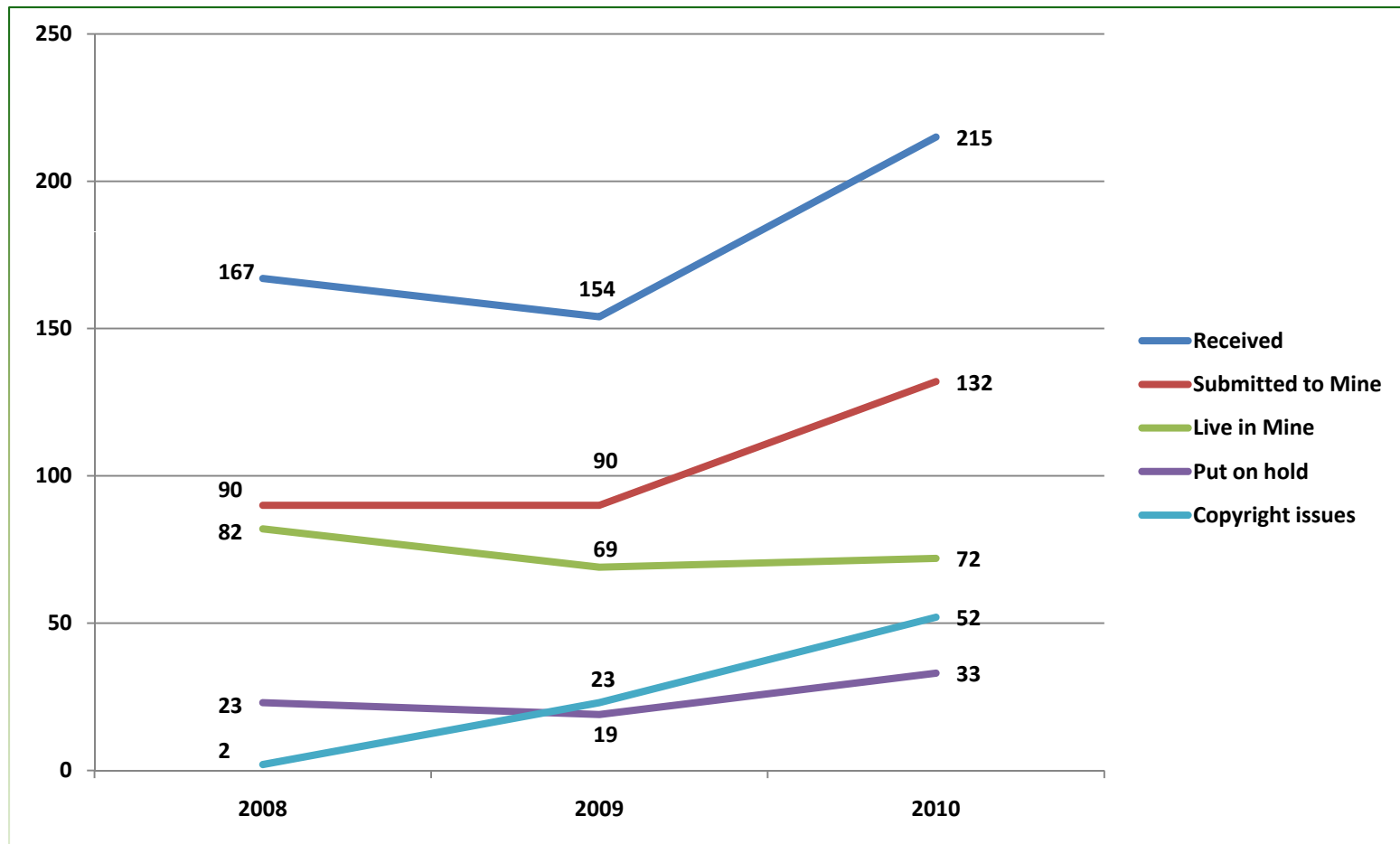


Improvements Coming to  
Thesis & Dissertation Processes  
at  
Missouri S&T

## Current Challenges

- Submission of theses and dissertations to Scholars' Mine is optional. Research is less accessible and preservation is more costly.
- We have no time limit for withholding theses and dissertations from the public.
- Copyright clearance, which is mandated in the specifications, is not being done up front.
- There is no automated submission process.

# The Numbers: Trends



## The Numbers: Behind the Trends

- Submission to the Mine has increased 7% . Some students have been told by their advisor not to submit.
- Low ratio of releases to holds reflects a larger trend – we still have 173 holds dating back to 1995, most dated 2007-current.
- Hold process does not require informing students that their work is on hold, and thus does not respect their copyright and does not properly protect the research.
- Uptick in copyright issues reflects increased use of the publication option. Most publishers treat theses as pre-prints and allow them in repositories.

# Comparison with Peer Institutions

	Have ETDs	Mandated Submission	Automated Submission process	Embargos have defined periods
Missouri S&T	Yes	No	No	No
MIT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CalTech	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rensselaer #	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a
Georgia Tech	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stevens #	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a
Michigan Tech	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# Embargo policy cannot be determined

# Comparison with Regional Institutions

	Have ETDs	Mandated Submission	Automated Submission process	Embargos have defined periods
Missouri S&T	Yes	No	No	No
UM-Columbia *	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
UM-Kansas City #	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a
UM-St. Louis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
U Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
U Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\* Research is required to be open to public disclosure  
 (<http://gradschool.missouri.edu/policies/thesis-dissertation/guidelines/basics-ch1.php#public-research>), automated submission planned

# Embargo policy cannot be determined

## **Change 1: Mandate Submission to Scholars' Mine**

- Bring us in line with our peers and the system
  - 100% of our peer institutions
  - 100% of the UM System schools
- Make easily accessible a record of knowledge unique to Missouri S&T for the benefit of the public and fellow researchers.

## **Change 2: Change embargo process to require limits on hold length**

- Set limits will be established for materials. Students will be informed of the hold to ensure they understand their rights and responsibilities.
- An appeals process will be in place should a patent or publication not be ready before the limit is reached.
- The process will remain completely secure. Nothing will be released without giving notice to the advisor, or in his or her absence, the department chair.



## Change 3: Process and Practice

- Online submission process will be implemented. This could include review of drafts, completion of forms, and much more. Mandated submission and changes in hold limits can begin prior to the new online process.
- Library/Tech Transfer/OGS will provide workshops to advise graduate students and faculty, and the library will have a copyright specialist available for consultation.

**We need your input!**

**Thank you**