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The Conundrum of Senior Thesis in the Library's Open Access Institutional Repository

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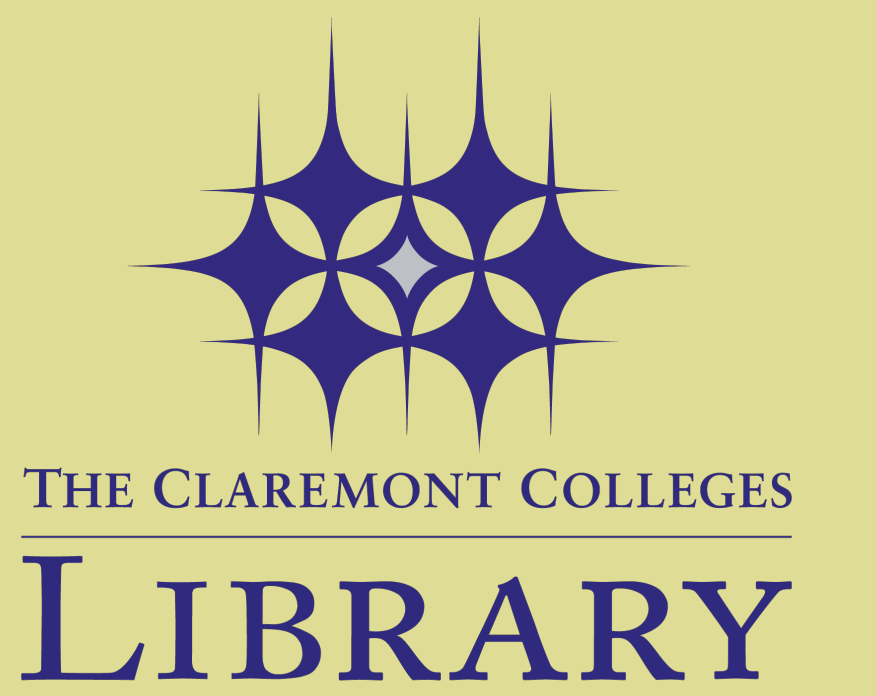
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The Conundrum of Senior Thesis in the Library's Open Access Institutional Repository



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Abstract

Scholarship@Claremont (S@C) is the official institutional repository for the Claremont Colleges Consortium (a group of seven library arts colleges in Southern California) and is managed by The Claremont Colleges Library. For more than ten years, library staff has been assisting Seniors with posting their undergraduate theses as a part of the ETD program, and they are some of the most downloaded items numbering in the 300,000-plus range. These are accessible via Open access and on the Campuses only. This poster will share some challenges in hosting and posting workflows for students, policies, and procedures for library staff and our campus partners. We will also share our pre-deposit support to students and faculty through education and advocacy. Finally, we would like to share and discuss pathways for moving forward with the Senior Thesis.

Background

Five Undergraduate Campuses ~500 Deposits per academic year

Two with mandated deposit

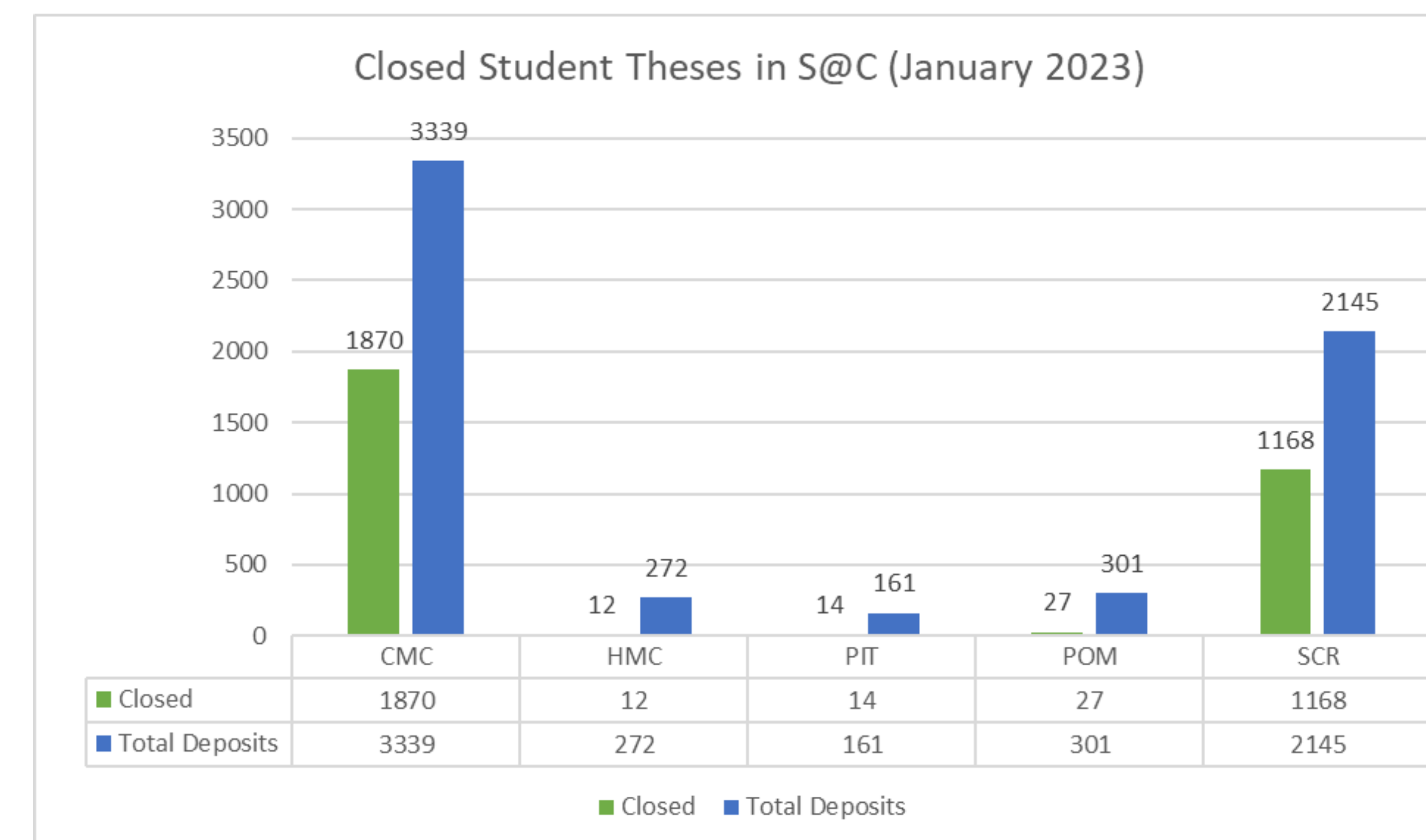
Three with optional deposit

- Must have registrar/faculty reader approval - (if no approval then sits on the backend and is removed)

Students self-deposit and choose to post theses in one of THREE ways:

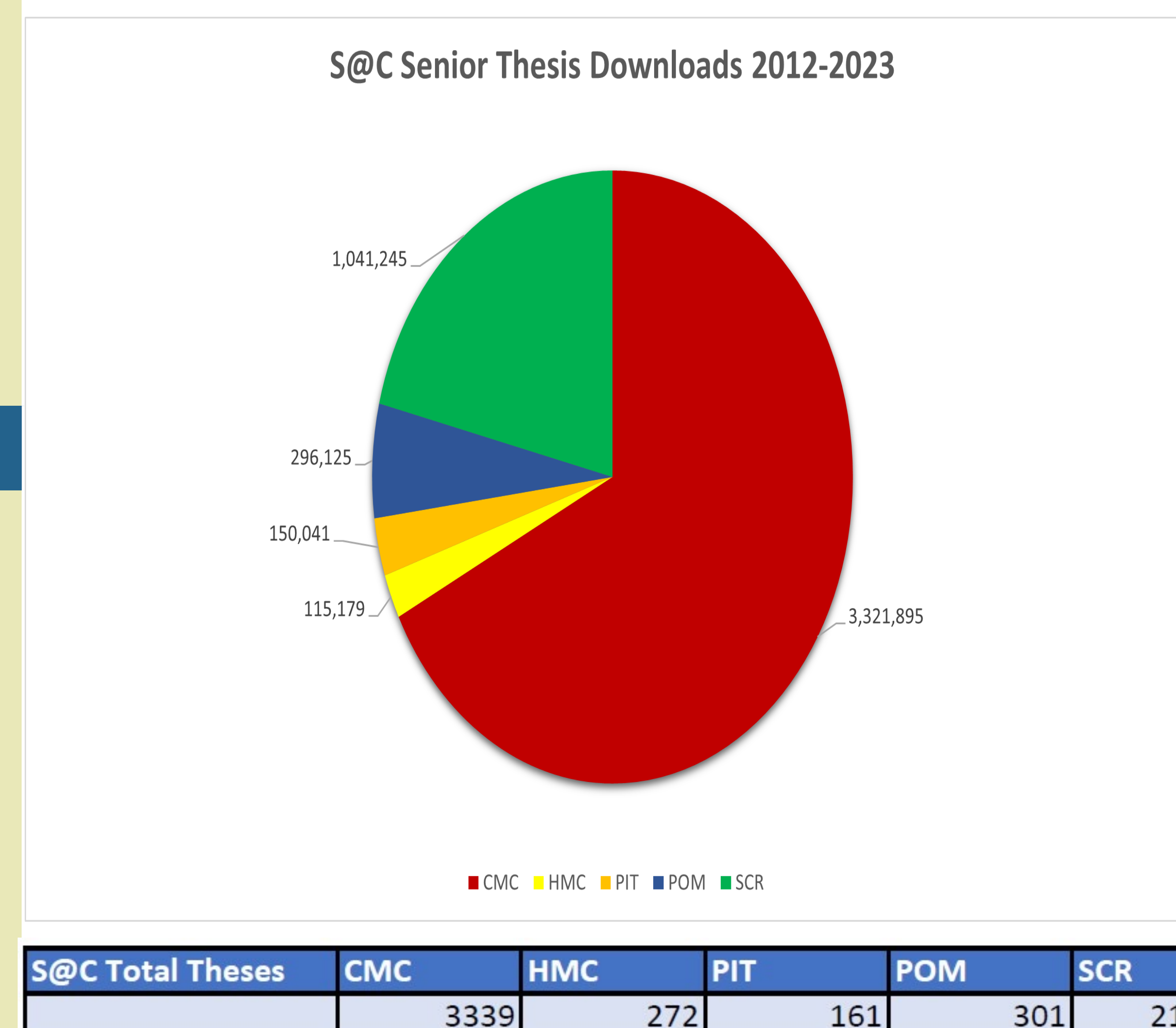
- **Open Access:** a bibliographic citation with the full-text PDF of the work, made openly accessible by Google Scholar or,
- **Campus-Only Access:** a bibliographic citation (discoverable on Google Scholar), with the full-text PDF of the work, made only available to current staff, students, and faculty at The Claremont Colleges campuses, or
- **Embargoed:** a bibliographic citation (discoverable on Google Scholar) while the full text is uploaded to S@C it is unavailable during the duration of the embargo period length of embargo can be requested by the student and/or faculty member)
- No dark archive of thesis (exemptions)

Open Vs. Closed



6218 deposits/3091 restricted or closed items
49.71% closed submissions

Downloads



S@C Total Theses	CMC	HMC	PIT	POM	SCR
	3339	272	161	301	2145

Labor and Infrastructure

1.6 Full-time employees (1 librarian / 1 staff)

- Provide instruction on copyright
- Uploading support and materials
- Support throughout the posting process
- Digital Commons platform purchased in 2012 /not intended to be a closed platform - Open Access

Challenges and New Pathways

- 8 - 10 weekly requests for access to a closed thesis.
- We say we are an open repository - 49% not open.
- Embargo status is confusing to students, faculty, and registrars (still shows metadata).
- Average of 25 monthly requests for closed items Assist students:
- Students request to postpone posting their thesis indefinitely due to the possibility of publication in a journal.
- We can't move platforms with 40% missing full text items.
- The growing rate of students depositing their thesis closed only means a steady continuation of non-open access (Pomona and Pitzer Colleges).