

Appendix 1
Post Exam Interview Protocol Example

I. Introduction

1. You are a X year graduate student in the field of Can you tell me a little bit about your dissertation topic?
2. What expectations did you have about the graduate program when you started?

II. Dissertation preparation & process

3. What year did you stop taking courses?
4. What expectations did you have for your progress after finishing coursework? Have you had to adjust those expectations?
5. What expectations were articulated for you by your department or advisor when you became ABD/passed exams/defended your prospectus?
6. How do you organize your academic work, and your time, since you've completed your coursework/exams or defended your prospectus?
7. Did you have to submit a proposal/prospectus? Can you tell us about the proposal preparation?
8. You submitted your prospectus/proposal, and what happened afterwards? What would you change or do over?
9. Have you started working on your dissertation? How do you expect to proceed? Have you changed dissertation topics? How did that impact your timeline?
10. In an ideal world, how long would the dissertation take you to complete? What do you think will be/is the most challenging?

III. Research & Writing for prospectus/dissertation

11. In your research you mentioned you used[books, articles, microfilm].... Did you find most of these in our collections or visit other ones? Which primary or secondary resources have you used? How did you find out about them? Have you used collections in other countries?
12. What was of greatest assistance to you in this research process?
13. Have you written an MA thesis? How is that experience influencing your approach to your dissertation?
14. Is there an expectation to publish before you graduate? Have you published material based on your dissertation research? Congratulations! What did you publish? Can you tell us about this process?

IV. The Library, Writing, Research

15. When was the last time you were working on your dissertation? What did you do? Where were you? And, the time before that?
16. That last time that you were writing portions of your dissertation, how many hours in a day did you spend writing? And, the time before that?
17. When was the last time you went to the library?
18. What is it about the library that is conducive to accomplishing your work?
19. Where do you do most of your writing? Do you use the same place for studying? Where else do you like to write and/or study?

20. When was the last time you used the library What did you do?
21. When was the last time you used the library website/databases? And, the time before that? Where were you when you used the library website? (remote access?)
22. In the course of doing your research, have you had librarians assist you in this process? Can you tell us what it was for?
23. In the last year, which top three services of the library have been particularly helpful to you?

V. Technology Use

24. How do you feel about e-books? Do you own a reader? Do you use it for your research?
25. Do you use the computers on campus (library or elsewhere) to write your dissertation/do research? If not, what do you use?
What hardware or software do you wish you had access to, to help you with your research and writing?

VI. Teaching

26. In what way has the library helped you in your teaching responsibilities? Can you give us specific example(s)?
27. When you are teaching (TAing or serving as primary instructor), how do you organized your time to fit with your dissertation demands?
28. Are there any other significant demands on your time outside of your academic/research commitments?

VII. Overall Outlook

29. You have probably heard that some students have left the program without finishing. Why do you think that is? Have you ever considered not finishing?
30. If you had to articulate for someone else, say a prospective student, the strengths of your program, what would you say? What about the challenges?
31. In your estimate, what are the most important factors that will guarantee that you complete your program, and do so in a timely manner?
32. If the library gave you a magic wand to help you finish and graduate, what would you ask it to do for you?