



**TEXAS McCombs**  
The University of Texas at Austin  
McCombs School of Business

# AUDIT RESEARCH INSIGHTS

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Jaime Schmidt

# About Me

## Education

BBA (Acc), MS (Acc), MS (Edu) –  
Kansas State

PhD (Acc) – Texas A&M

## Work Experience

BKD – Kansas City

## Academic Positions

Asst. then Assoc. then Full  
Professor at University of Texas at  
Austin

## Family

Kids – 2

Husbands – 1

Dogs - 1



# About My Work

## Research

Audit Archival (primary)

Standard-setting, regulation,  
litigation

## Teaching

Advanced Audit

## Professional

Associate Editor, AJPT

2017 – present

Director, CAS Center for Audit  
Education & Research

2023 – present

## Non-professional

Marathon runner



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# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

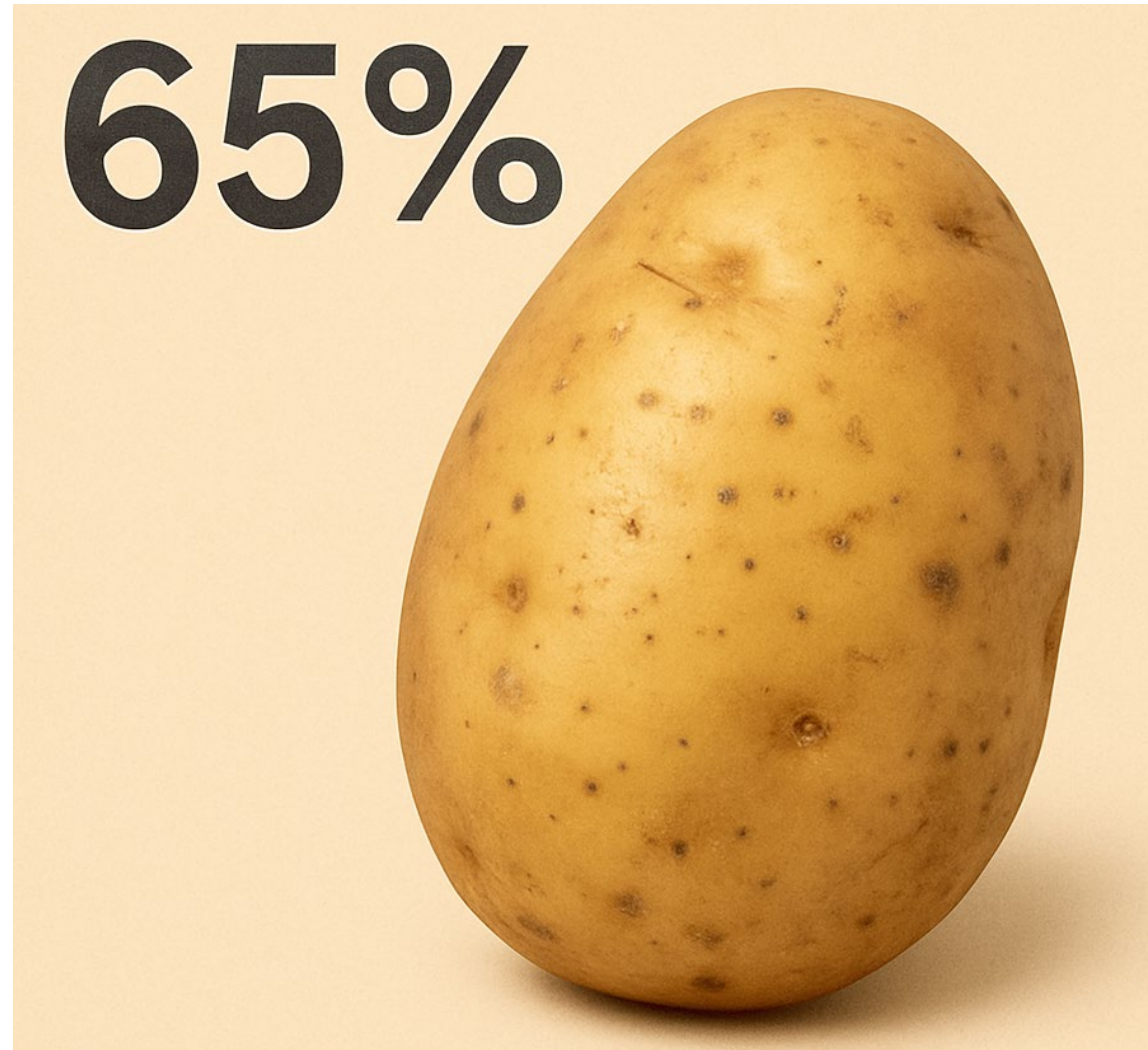
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Publications (and PhDs) aren't earned in moments of genius, but in years of just plain showing up.

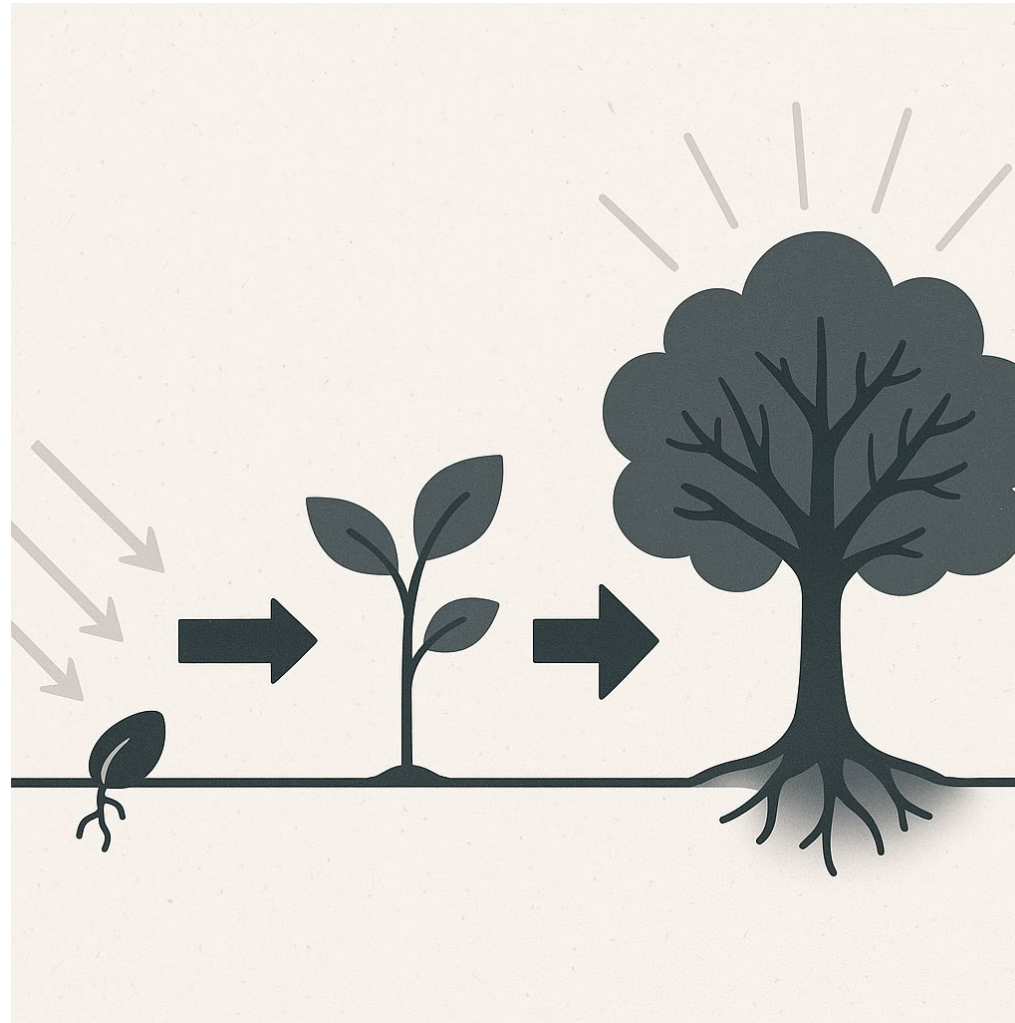




Don't waste time on little potatoes.



The sooner you invite critique, the sooner  
your ideas graduate from good to great.



# Big ideas fall flat when wrapped in bad writing.

*ISSUES IN ACCOUNTING EDUCATION*  
Vol. XX, No. XX  
MONTH YEAR  
pp. 1–10

American Accounting Association  
DOI: [10.2308/ISSUES-2024-009](https://doi.org/10.2308/ISSUES-2024-009)

## COMMENTARY

### Writing Introductions: A Framework and Commentary

**Chris E. Hogan**

*Michigan State University*

**Linda A. Myers**

*The University of Tennessee*

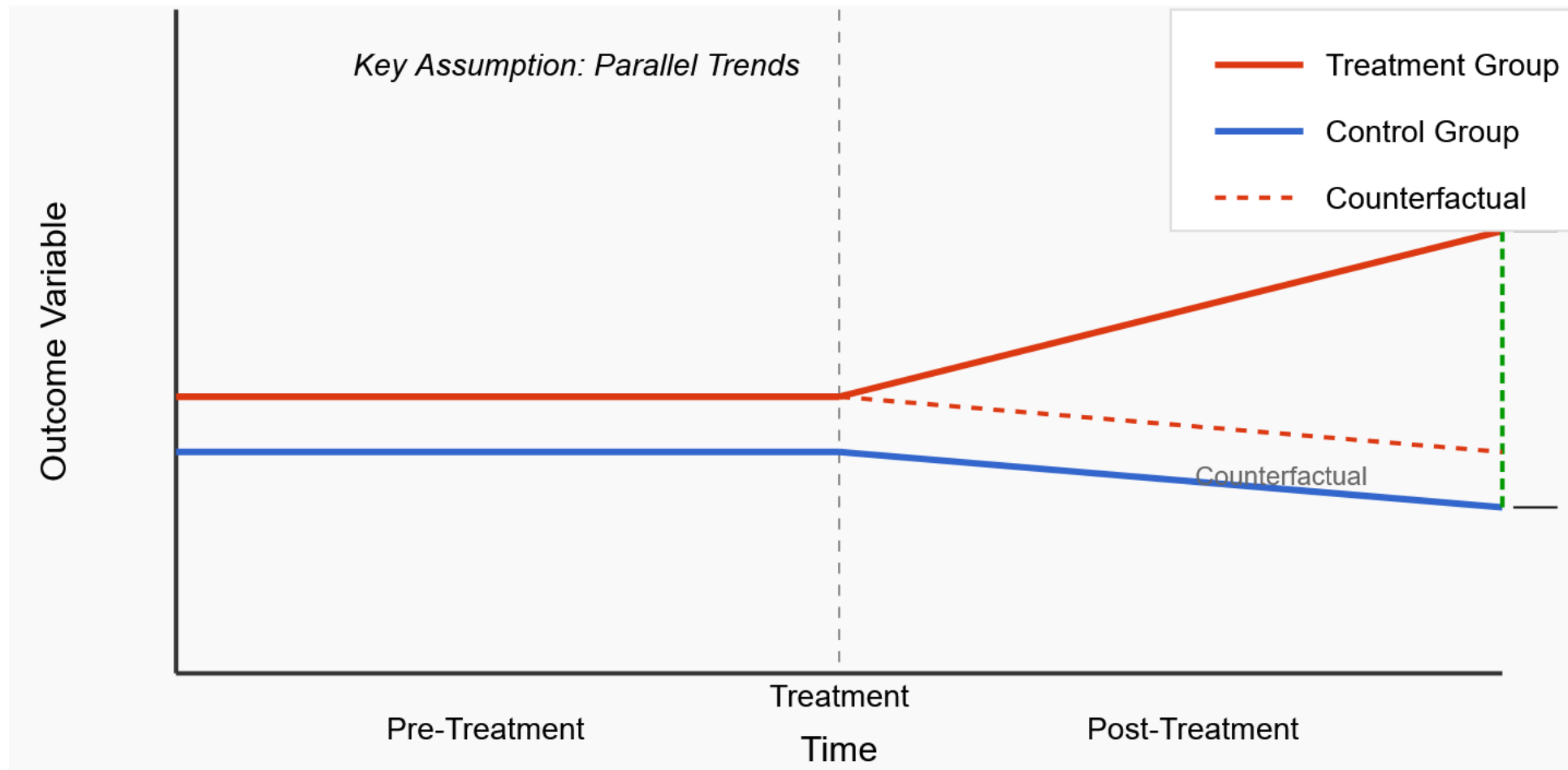
**Michael S. Wilkins**

*The University of Kansas*

**ABSTRACT:** The introduction is the most important part of an academic paper. Beyond summarizing a paper's findings, it is also the author's first and best opportunity to "sell" the paper to readers with varying levels of interest. Our purpose in this commentary is to provide a framework for writing high-quality introductions. We present a specific structure and also provide guidance regarding content—both what to include and what not to include. Finally, we offer recommendations for revising the introduction as a paper evolves and present additional suggestions for writing in general. Although our primary intended audience is Ph.D. students and early assistant professors, experienced faculty members may benefit as well.



## Look for shocks





# AUDIT RESEARCH TRENDS

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# BY THE NUMBERS

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**Prior 5 years**

## Top 6 + AJPT (2020-2024)

1926 total papers

439 audit papers (23%)

- Archival – 259 (59%)
- Experimental – 105 (24%)
- Qualitative – 41 (9%)
- Analytical – 13 (3%)
- Methodological – 7 (2%)
- Other – 14 (3%)

Courtesy of Mike Wilkins

| Journal      | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Total |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| AJPT         | 32   | 28   | 32   | 35   | 25   | 152   |
| AOS          | 9    | 12   | 8    | 8    | 6    | 43    |
| CAR          | 22   | 28   | 18   | 13   | 13   | 94    |
| JAE          | 4    | 4    | 4    | 3    | 4    | 19    |
| JAR          | 2    | 4    | 8    | 2    | 4    | 20    |
| RAS          | 5    | 4    | 2    | 8    | 8    | 27    |
| TAR          | 15   | 16   | 24   | 17   | 12   | 84    |
| <b>Total</b> | 89   | 96   | 96   | 86   | 72   | 439   |

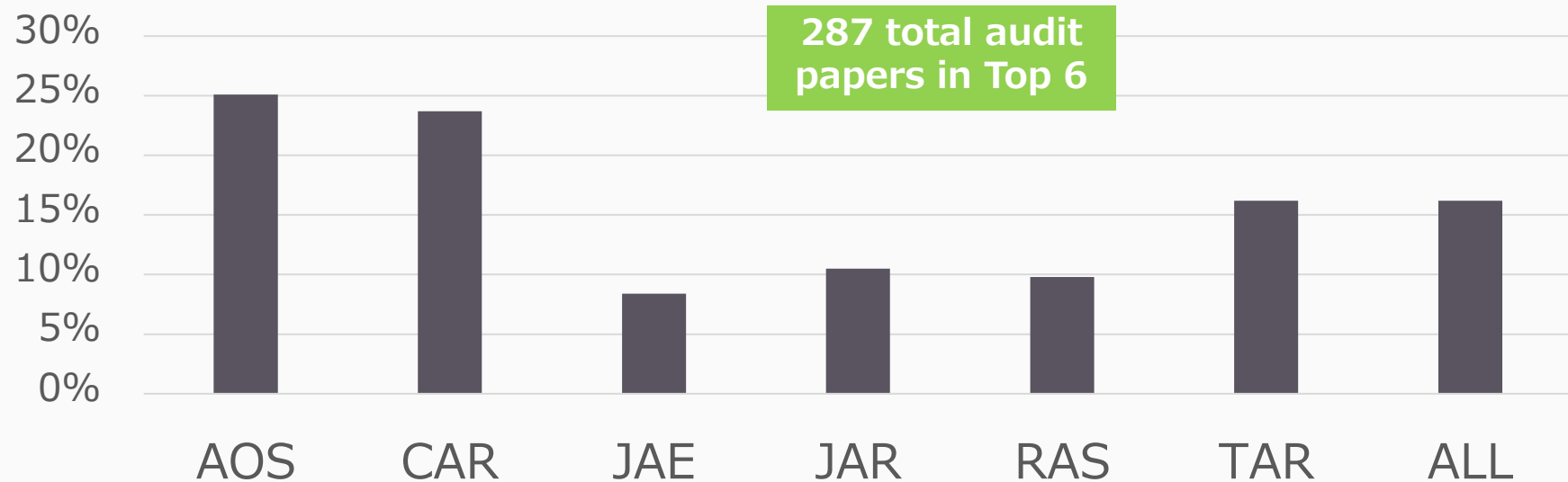
**Number of Audit Papers – Top 6 + AJPT**

**Courtesy of Mike Wilkins**



**Audit Articles as % of Total Articles in Top 6: 15%**

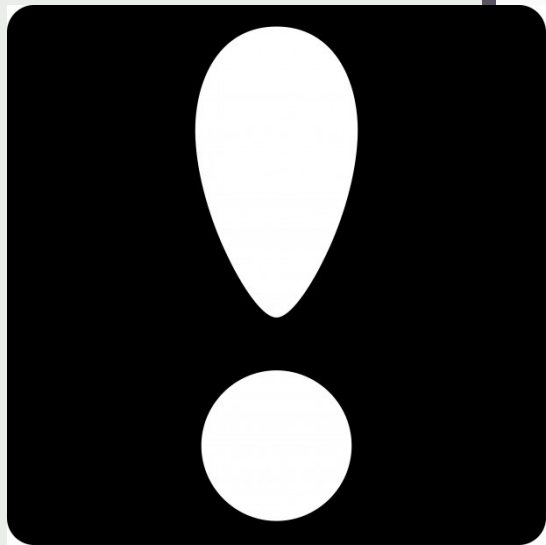
**2020 - 2024**



**% Audit Articles in Top 6**

**Courtesy of Mike Wilkins**

## % Articles w/a Prior Top 6 Author



| Journal | Top 6 = 1 | Top 6 = 0 | % with Prior Top 6 Author |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| AJPT    | 135       | 17        | 89%                       |
| AOS     | 40        | 3         | 93%                       |
| CAR     | 92        | 2         | 98%                       |
| JAЕ     | 18        | 1         | 95%                       |
| JAR     | 19        | 1         | 95%                       |
| RAS     | 26        | 1         | 96%                       |
| TAR     | 78        | 6         | 93%                       |

Courtesy of Mike Wilkins

# Digging Deeper ...

How many **different** people have hit the Top 6 since 2020?

- a. 137
- b. 296
- c. 384
- d. 543

**786 different  
people**

**have hit the Top 6  
+ AJPT since 2020**

| # Top 6 Papers | # People |
|----------------|----------|
| 10             | 2        |
| 9              | 2        |
| 8              | 2        |
| 7              | 1        |
| 6              | 5        |
| 5              | 6        |
| 4              | 21       |
| 3              | 34       |
| 2              | 82       |
| 1              | 388      |
| Total          | 543      |

Courtesy of Mike Wilkins

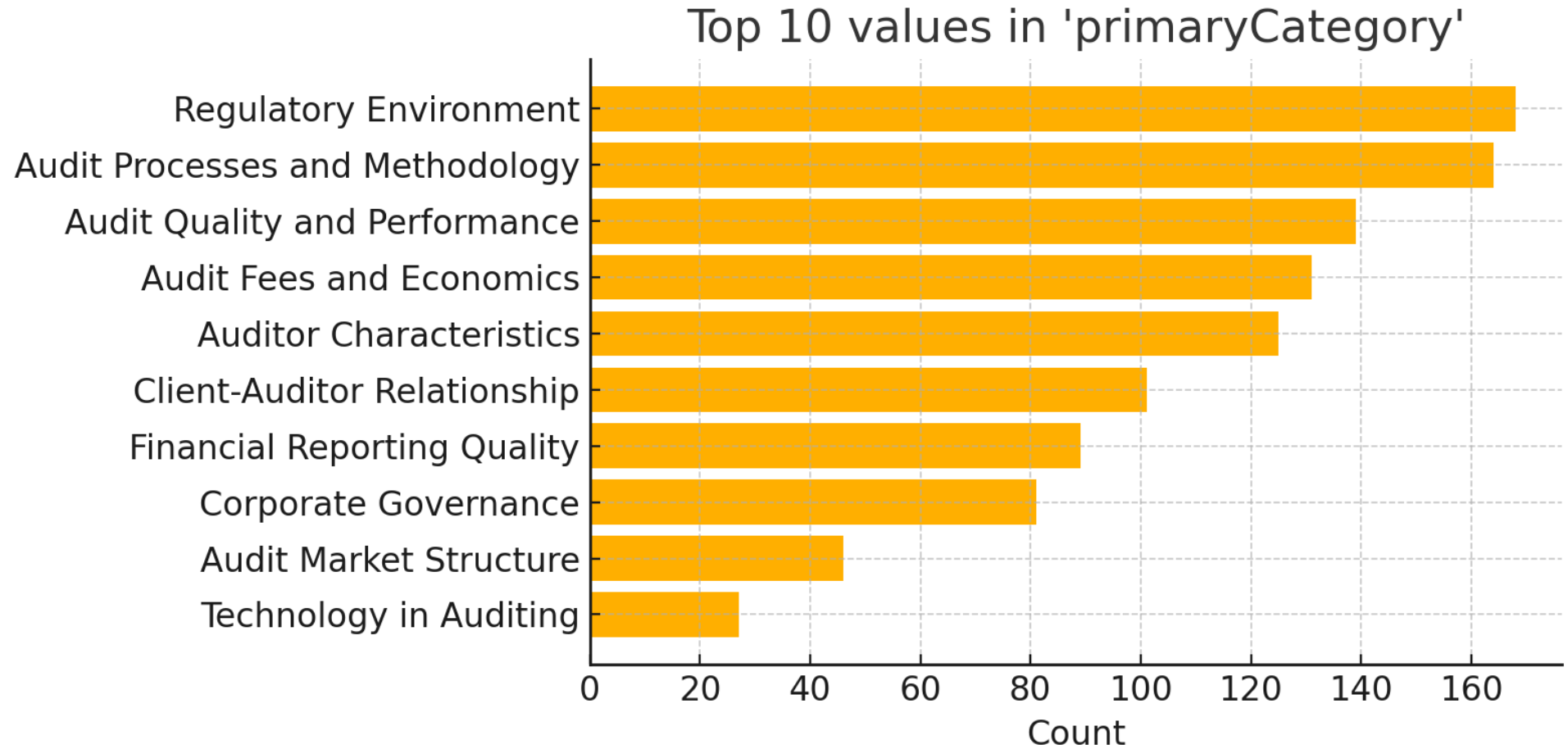


# BY THEMES

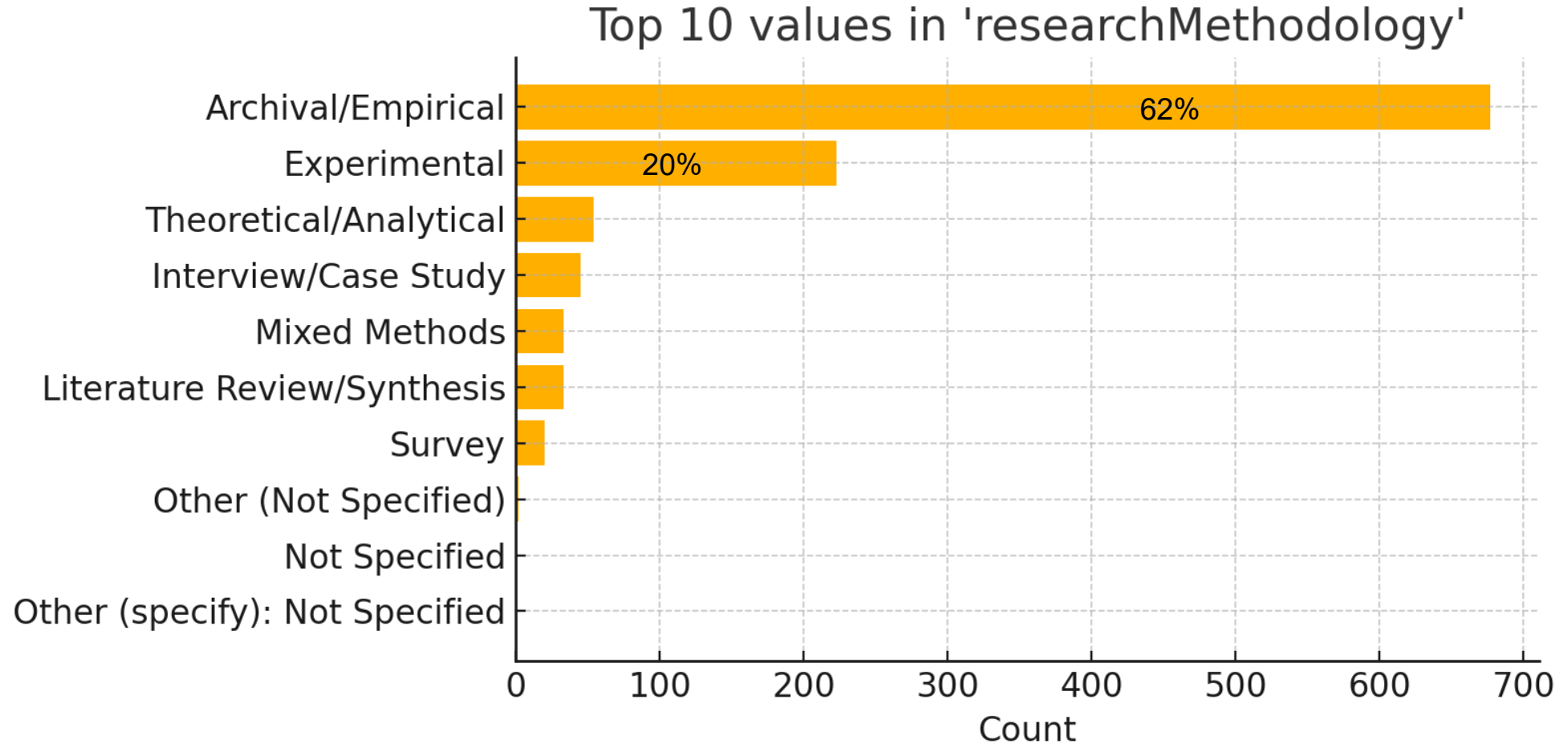
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Prior 20 years









## Research Traction over Time

**2000 – 2005:** Regulatory shock era (SOX, Big 4 fee premium, AS2/AS5 cost dynamics)

**2006 – 2013:** Governance & market structure era (audit committees, market consolidation, audit fee residual research)

**2014-2019:** Risk era (cyber incidents, climate risks, shareholder activism)

**2020-2024:** Emergent-tech and ESG Era: Blockchain, SOC engagements, ESG reputation crises, culture (tone at the top)

## Audit Unit of Interest over Time

2000 – 2005: Audit firms

2006 – 2013: Audit offices

2014-2024: Audit teams/individuals

## Favorite Findings by Topic

**Regulatory Envir:** PCAOB has improved audit quality

**Audit Process:** Loss of team identity in distributed teams, uncertainty on when to speak up (one-on-one and daily meetings help)

**Audit Quality:** Timeliness and review note framing

**Audit Fees:** None

**Auditor Characteristics:** individual differences

**Client-Auditor Relationship:** Benefits and costs of social ties

**FRQ:** Client quality matters a lot

**Corp Govn:** Auditor selection by appearance

**Audit Market Structure:** Benefits and costs of mergers

**Technology in Audit:** Can dampen critical thinking, more effective if centralized



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# **PROMISING AREAS FOR FUTURE AUDIT RESEARCH**

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## My definition of “promising”

1. Of interest to a non-academic
2. But also of interest to an academic
3. Relatively unexplored area
4. Reviewer/editor appetite
5. Empirically well-done
6. Theory helps

# Relatively Underexplored / Overexplored



- Audit process
- People (teams, talent)
- Technology
- Globalization (group audits, service centers)
- Private equity investment
- Private company audits



- Audit Fees
- Industry specialization
- Big 4 effect
- CAMs/KAMs
- ICWs
- GCOs



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# FINAL TAKEAWAYS

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# A few lingering thoughts...

1. Do not short-cut the brainstorming process.
2. Bill Kinney is the father of audit research for a reason.
3. Predictive validity (i.e., Libby boxes) are key...and do them early!
4. Learn from and for each other.
5. Don't waste resources (especially practitioners' time/energy).

A shameless plug...<https://www.casauditing.org>

# TEXAS AUDIT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUMS



Biennial conference  
showcasing cutting-  
edge auditing research  
and fostering  
collaboration.

- ◆ Research presentations
- ◆ Practitioner-led panels
- ◆ Collaboration opportunities



# AuditChats

A virtual community aimed at connecting researchers and real-world practitioners to:

1. Discuss professional challenges
2. Develop and disseminate cutting-edge audit research
3. Work together to solve practice problems.



# Thank you!

And...

