

Odegaard Lending Collection Survey

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Background



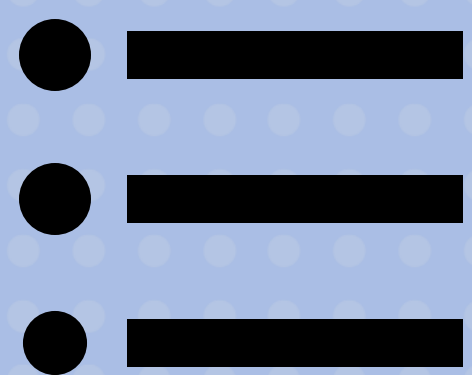
Odegaard Undergraduate Library contains several collections of non-academic books, including Good Reads and Life Skills. These collections had not been updated for some time and the library wanted to develop them in accordance with feedback from student affinity groups.

Method

We developed an online survey to assess the reading interests of several student populations. We initially tried to establish contact with student organizations for Chinese international students and indigenous students via email and Facebook. We expanded our outreach to include student veterans and the broader international student community at UW. Witnessing firsthand the time and effort needed to perform effective outreach was one of our biggest takeaways from this project.



Results



After several weeks of surveying via Google Forms, we received 17 responses. We used the data to make purchasing recommendations from collection development resources such as Goodreads and Novelist. We submitted a list of 75 titles to our sponsor at Odegaard to refresh Good Reads and Life Skills.

Benefits

- Two collections received new materials that reflect the interests and needs of students.
- The survey highlighted the existence of leisure reading collections to several students who were previously unaware of these resources.
- Outreach efforts demonstrate that the library values student feedback and that they have agency in the makeup of collections.
- Odegaard Library has a model for reaching out to student populations in order to update its collections of non-academic books.

