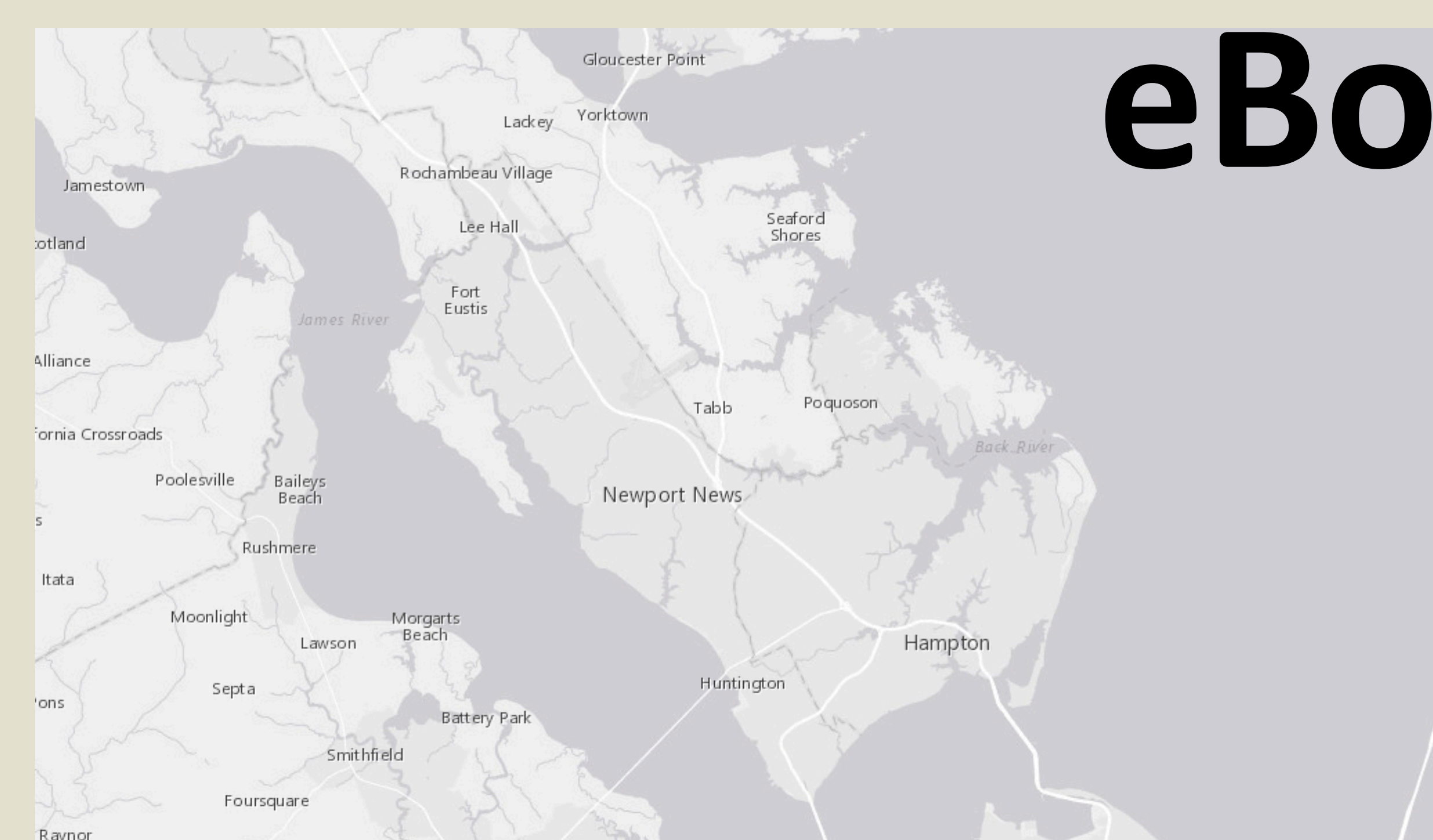


eBooks for a Suburban Middle School

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ETHEL M. GILDERSLEEVE
Middle School



Project Overview

- According to an ebook usage report by School Library Journal between 2013 and 2014 demand for ebooks grew more among middle school students than any other educational group (School Library Journal, 2014).
- Gildersleeve Middle School is one of the largest middle schools in the Newport News (Virginia) public school district. It has a racially diverse population and a sizeable number of ESL students.
- Gildersleeve Middle School is BYOD (bring your own device) and there is free wifi.
- The school library has a collection of about 15,000 materials where nearly 40% of the collection is general fiction. The average circulation is 3.5 books per student per month.
- But there are only two ebooks available through the library catalog.
- Our project was to develop a proposal for an ebook collection that expanded the quality and quantity of the existing collection and reflected the diverse cultural and linguistic reality of the student population.

Methods/Process

Survey & Survey Analysis

- We started by administering a survey asking the students about their e-reading habits and preferences.

Collection Analysis

- Originally, we had planned on doing a collection analysis to look for gaps in the collection and try and fill those gaps with some of the new ebooks. But after we processed the survey results we realized that what the students are most interested in is fiction and popular nonfiction. We still performed the collection analysis, but in our proposal we recommend that the librarians start their ebook collection with titles that will attract the students to the new platform (based on their requests in the survey and the most popular books in print).

Assessment of eBook Vendors

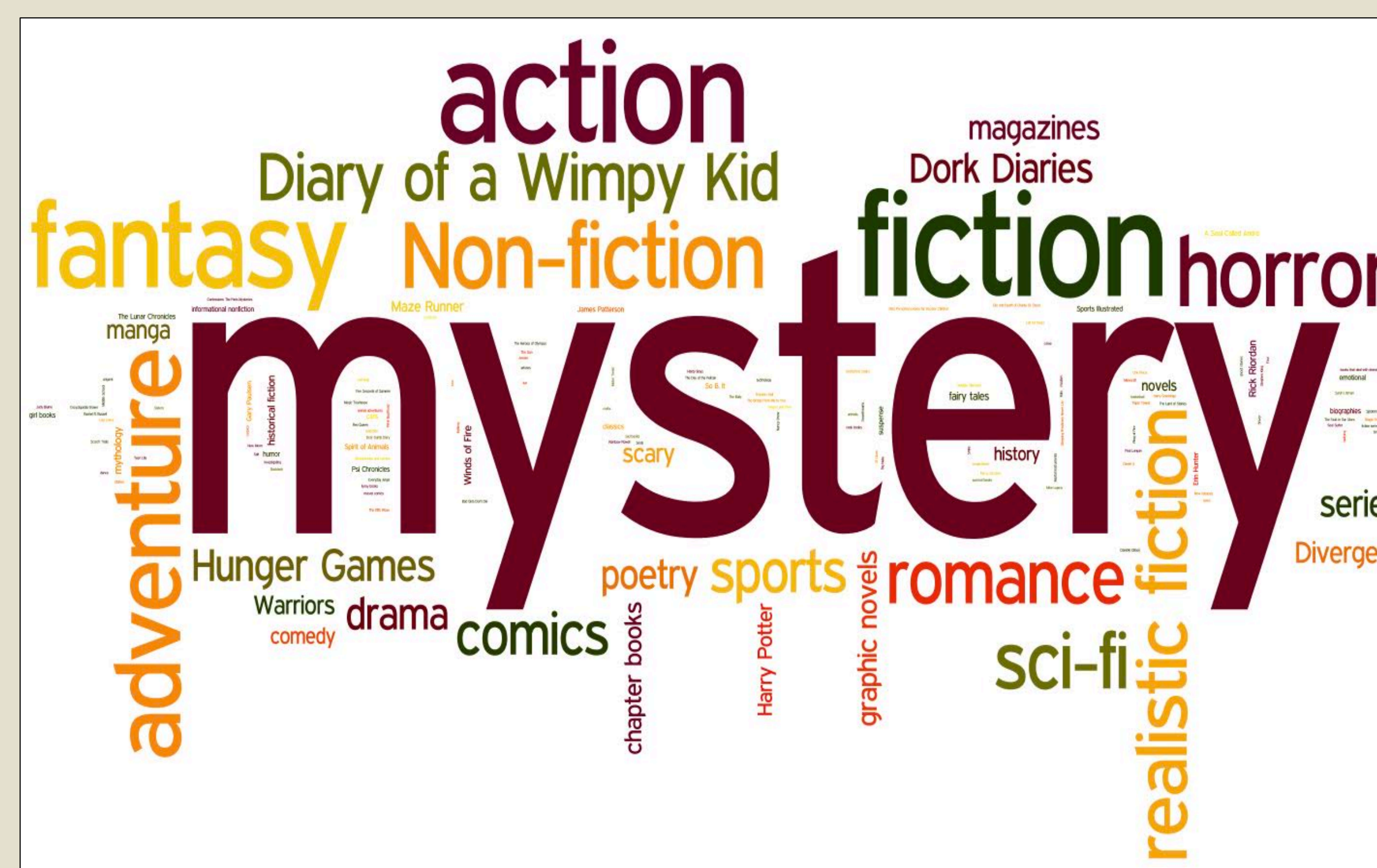
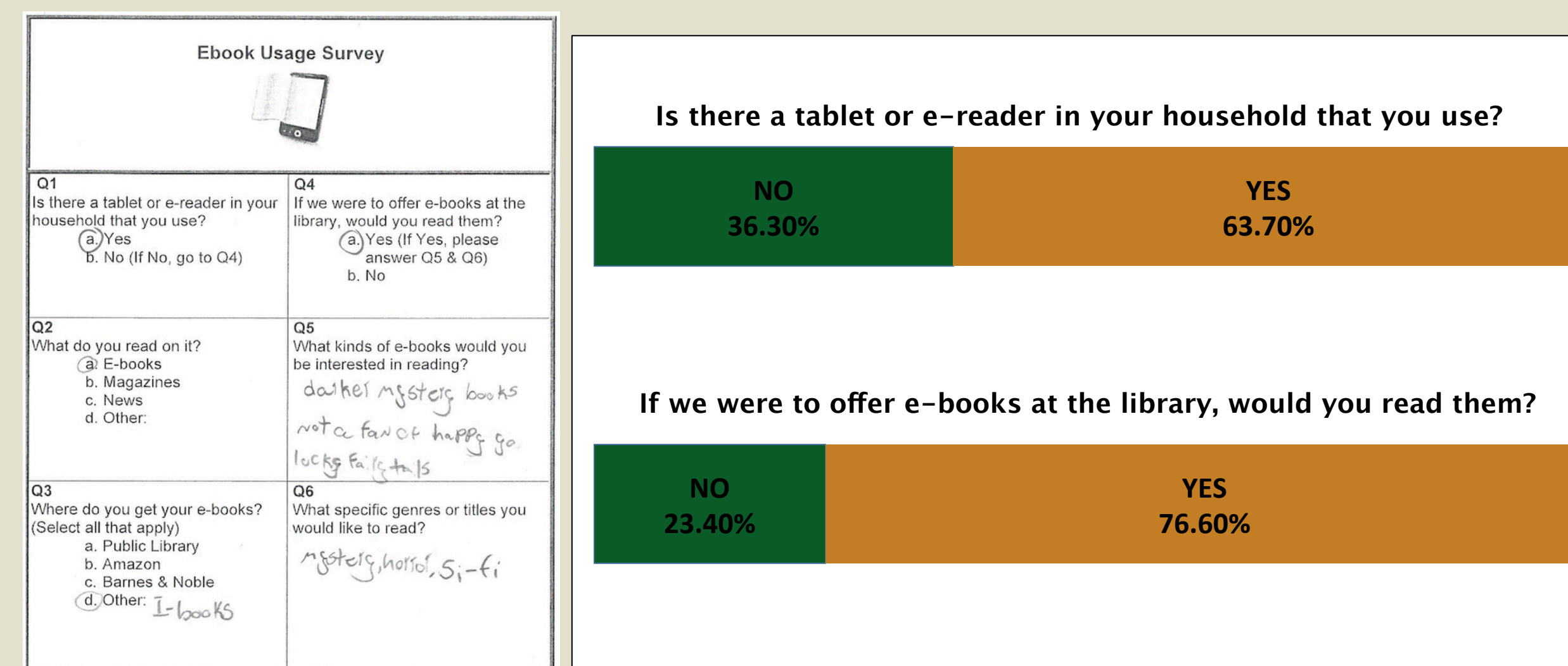
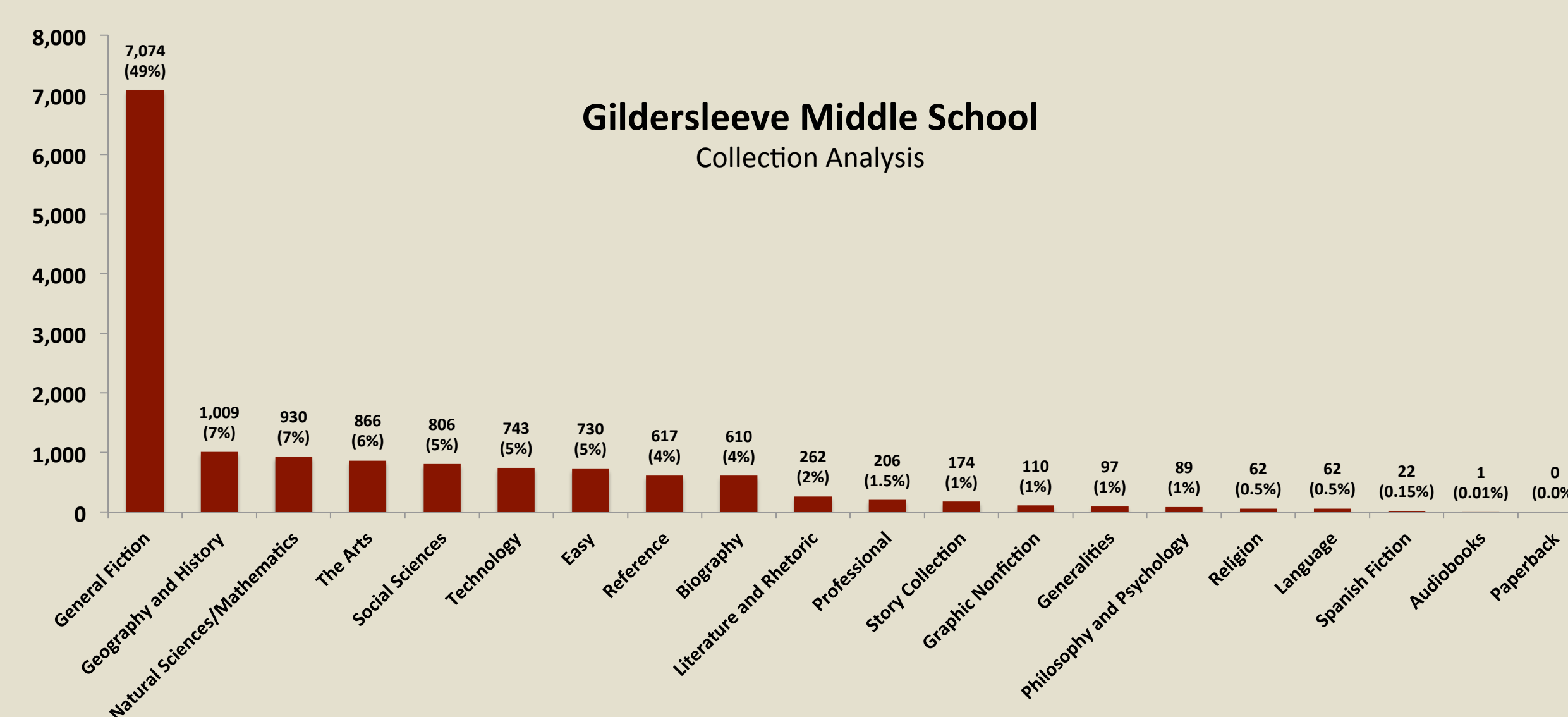
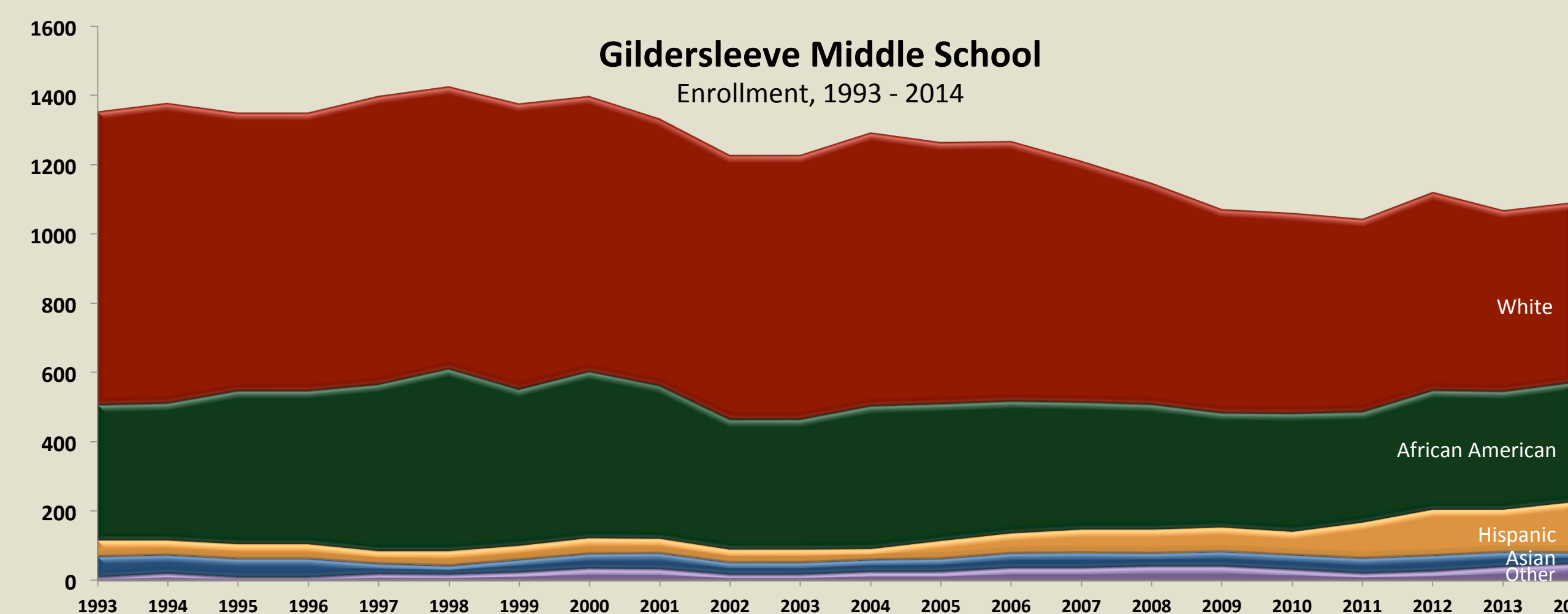
- The Newport News school district uses Follett's Destiny as their resource management system. But Destiny is not very user-friendly when it comes to ebooks. We looked at other platforms like OverDrive, MackinVIA, and Axis 360 from Baker & Taylor.
- After our analysis of the different vendors we think MackinVIA would be the best option for the school to start with.

eBook Collection Development

- In our proposal we include a list of recommended titles to acquire based on survey results and budget size

eBook Collection Promotion

- "One of the biggest challenges that educators and librarians face when they implement e-books into their schools is making sure that their students, colleagues, administrators, and students' parents know that the e-books are there." (Maughan, 2015).



Results/Outcomes

Survey Results

- We found that 63% of the respondents have access to an ereading device and 76% would like to have ebooks available through their school library.
- We also asked them what kind of ebooks they would be interested in reading.
- Survey responses guided our recommendations for the ebook collection development.

Collection Analysis

- While in need of some updating, Gildersleeve's collection is overall a healthy one.
- The biggest strength of the Gildersleeve collection is that it has a very robust number of general fiction items.
- The Gildersleeve collection needs ebooks.

List of Titles

- 50% recreational fiction led by Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- 50% non-fiction led by award winning titles like Steve Sheinkin's *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*.

Promoting the New Collection

- Invite a representative from MackinVIA to come to the school and talk to students. Present their product, etc.
- When displaying a book at the library that has an ebook copy, add a bright sign pointing out that they can check that same book out as an ebook.
- Look for ways to tie in the ebooks with the curriculum. Remind teachers that the ebooks are available and ask them to assign some of those ebooks in class. The librarian can go to the classroom and show the students how to check out ebooks.

Now, thanks to this project, the librarians at Gildersleeve have a proposal for developing a new ebook collection, as well as a list of recommended ebooks to purchase. The only thing left for them is to secure the funds to buy the ebooks and implement the collection.

Next Steps

- After the first ebook collection is implemented, the librarians at Gildersleeve will have to continue purchasing ebooks each year and expanding the collection.
- They will also have to continue promoting the ebook collection and making sure all their patrons know about the collection and how to access it
- Study impact to calibrate future growth

Acknowledgements

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References

- Maughan, S. (2015). Going Digital: How Schools Buy and Use E-Books. *Publishers Weekly*, 262(35): 18-33.
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