

“Old stuff, old stuff, really old stuff:”

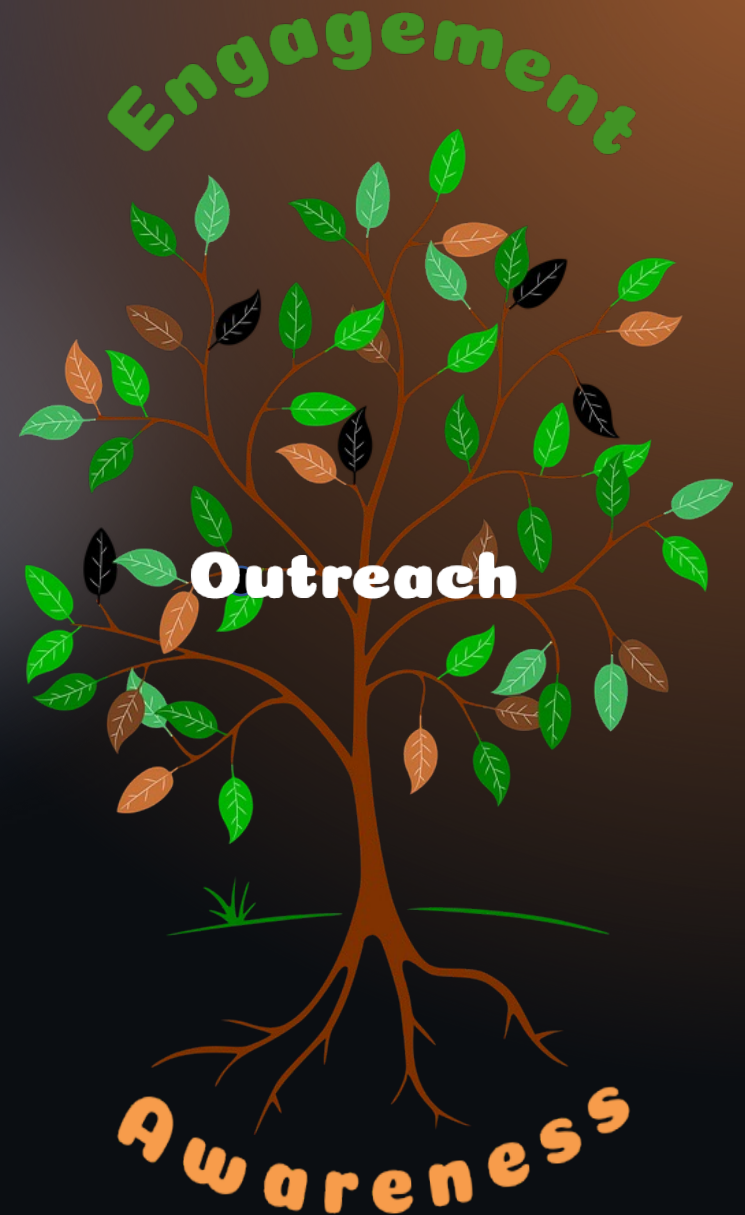
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF ACADEMIC
ARCHIVES AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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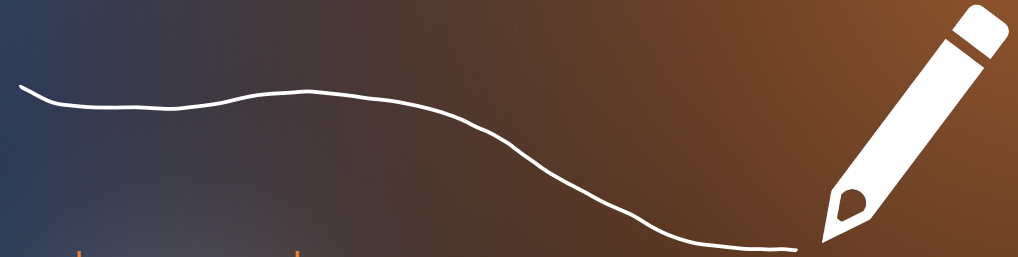
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Literature review

- The literature suggests that **student awareness is an antecedent to student engagement** (Wagner & Smith, 2012) and that outreach does not always assume engagement (Bidney, 2014).
- Research has shown that university **student awareness of academic archives is low**, and that they don't perceive their materials to be **useful to others** (Daniels & Yakel, 2013; Duff & Cherry, 2008; Swain, 2005).
- Traditional outreach methods are often one-directional and treat students as **passive recipients** rather than **active collaborators/donors/researchers** (Buchanan & Richardson, 2012; Malone, 2020) .

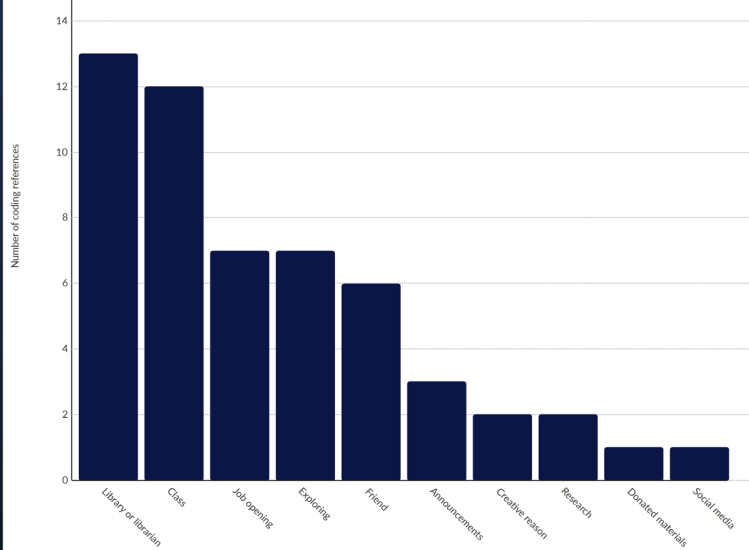
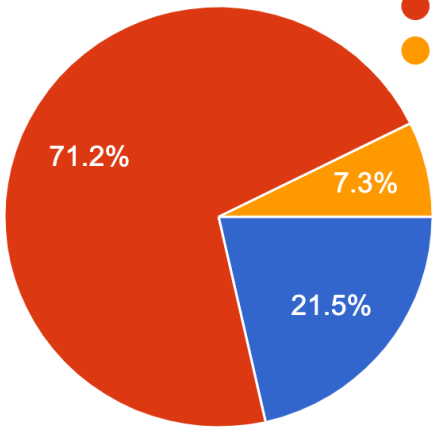


Methodology



- Constructivist theoretical framework and a student-centered approach
- Primary research question: How do students want to be centered in archival outreach efforts?
 - How aware are Towson University students of the university archives?
 - How does their level of awareness correspond to their likelihood to engage with the archives?
- Data collection
 - Administered a pilot survey and developed survey instrument from fall 2020 to spring 2021.
 - In-person data collection took place in Cook Library and the Student Union over six weeks in spring 2022.
 - 206 respondents completed a Google Form consisting of 17 questions.

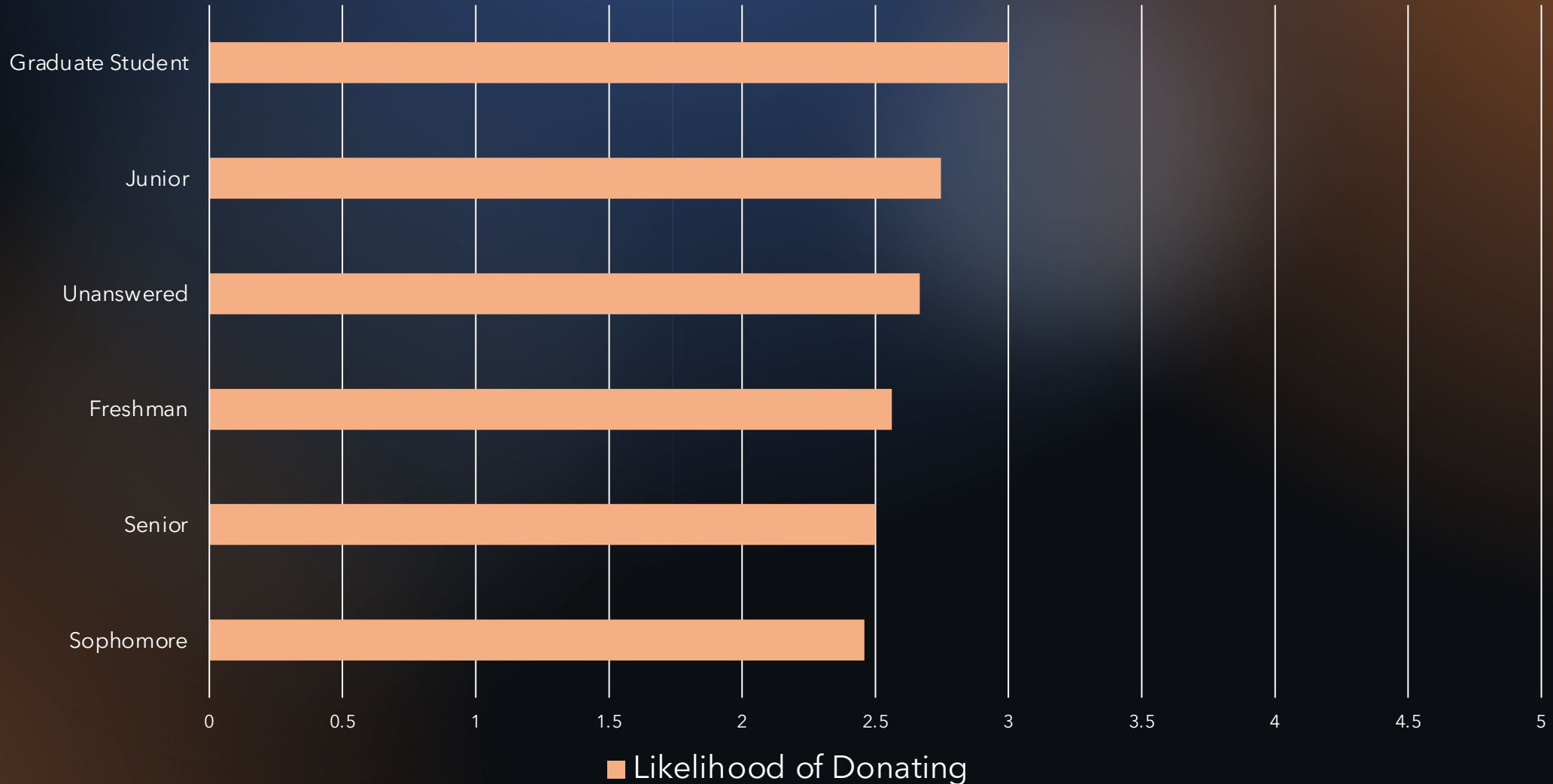
- Yes
- No
- Maybe



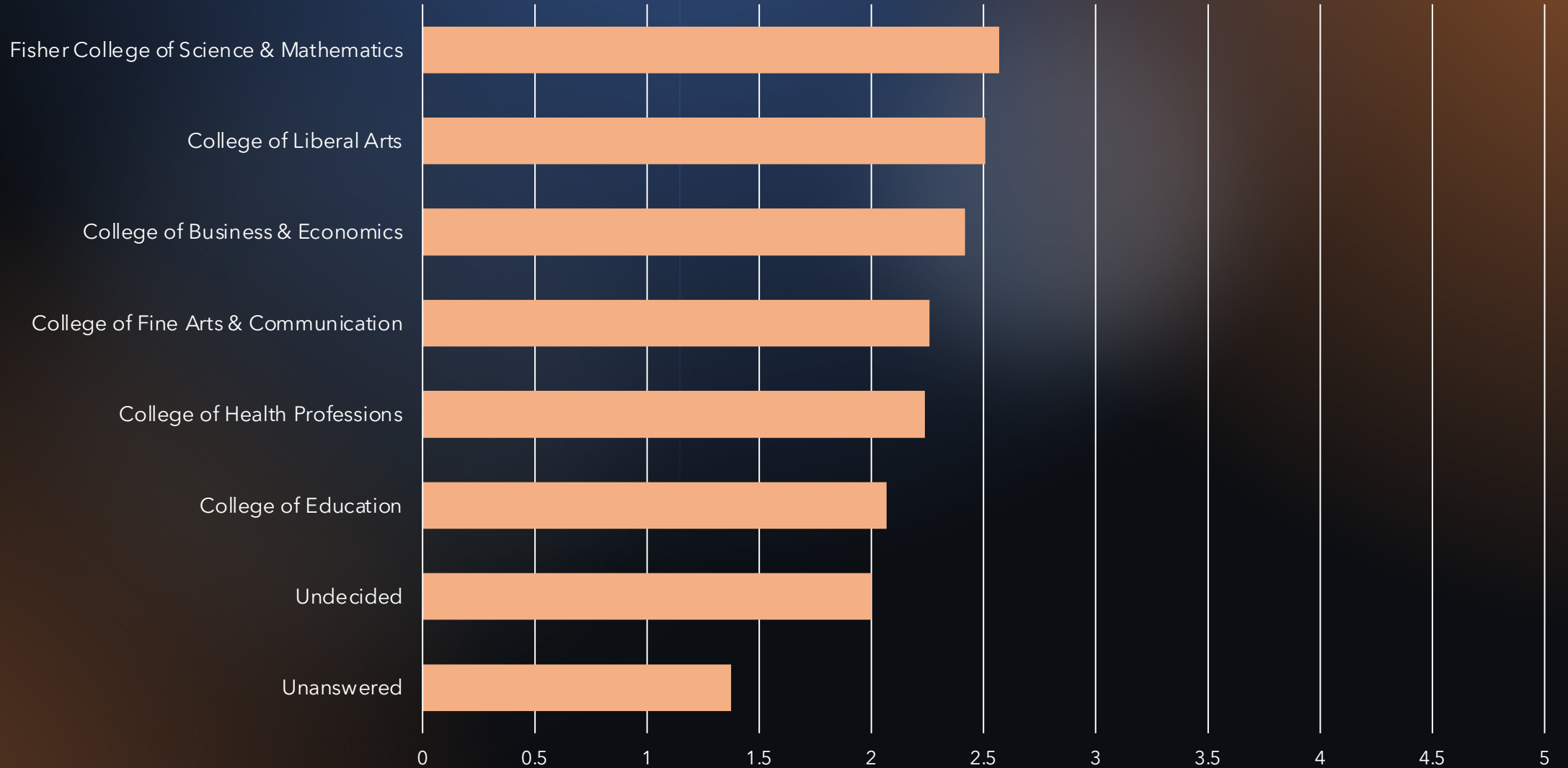
Student awareness and perception



Class Standing & Likelihood of Donating



College & Likelihood of Donating

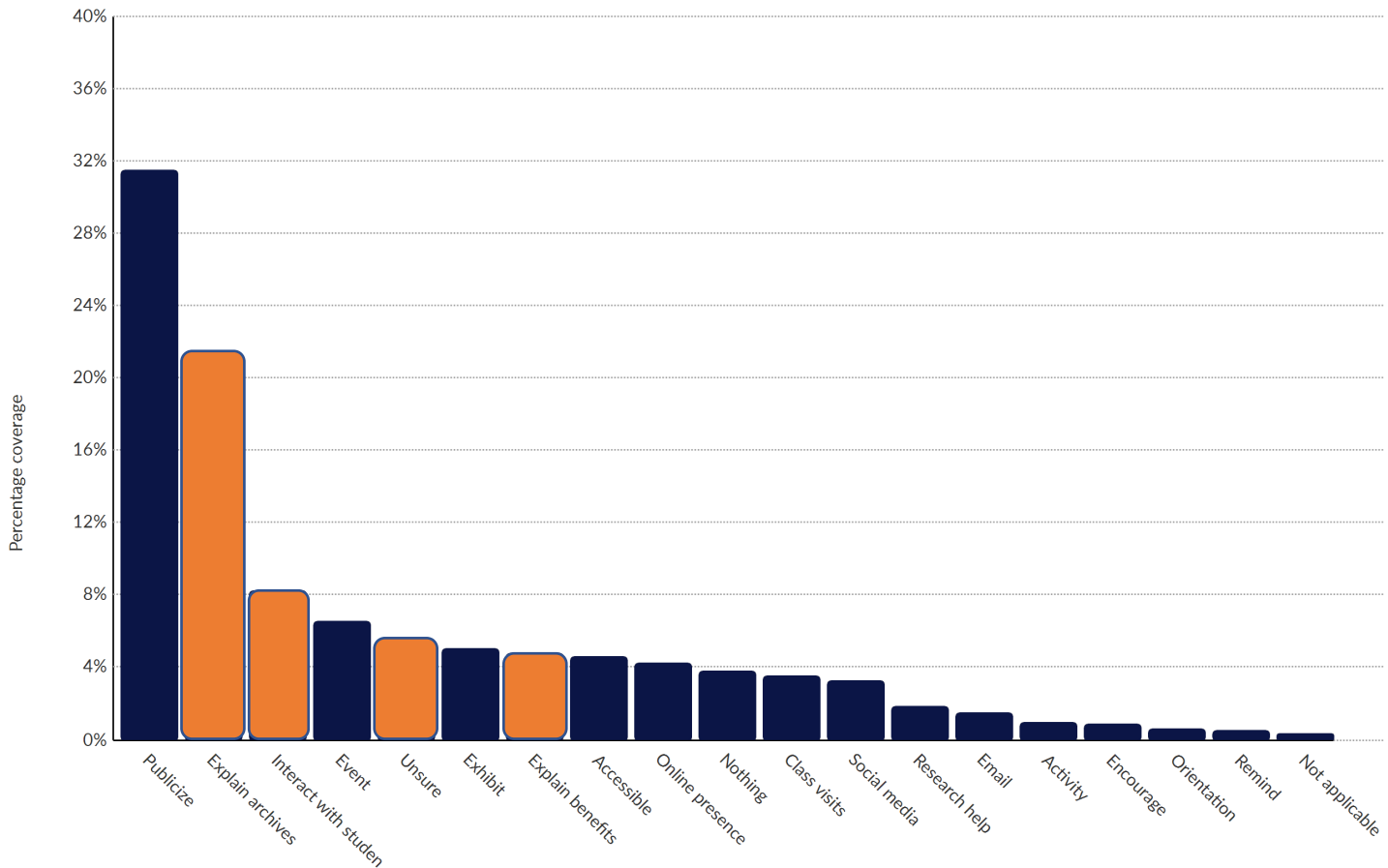


Extracurricular Activities & Likelihood of Donating



How can we empower students?

Increase confidence and empowerment - Q14 - Coding



We need you!



Next steps:

- Continue **collecting data** and **broadening our scope** to better address different types of institutions and student populations.
- Apply for a **grant** to continue research alongside **partner institutions**.
 - IMLS National Leadership Grant for Libraries (Deadline: September 21, 2022)
 - Build the capacity of libraries and archives to **lead and contribute to efforts that improve community well-being** and **strengthen civic engagement**.

Future goal:

- Develop **a model for student-centered outreach** in academic archives with direct involvement from undergraduate and graduate students and other institutional partners

Thank you!

Any questions?

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