

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

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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).



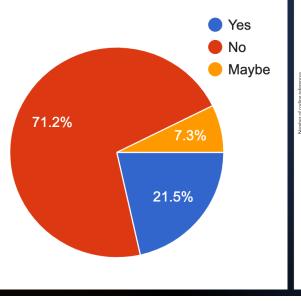
Methodology

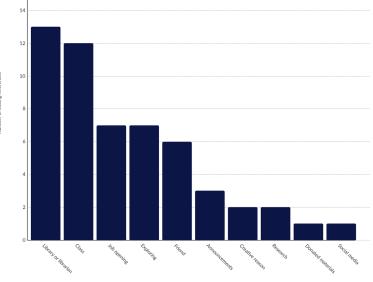


- Constructivist theoretical framework and a student-centered approach
- Primary research question: How do students want to be centered in archival outreach efforts?
 - How aware are Towson University students of the university archives?
 - How does their level of awareness correspond to their likelihood 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.

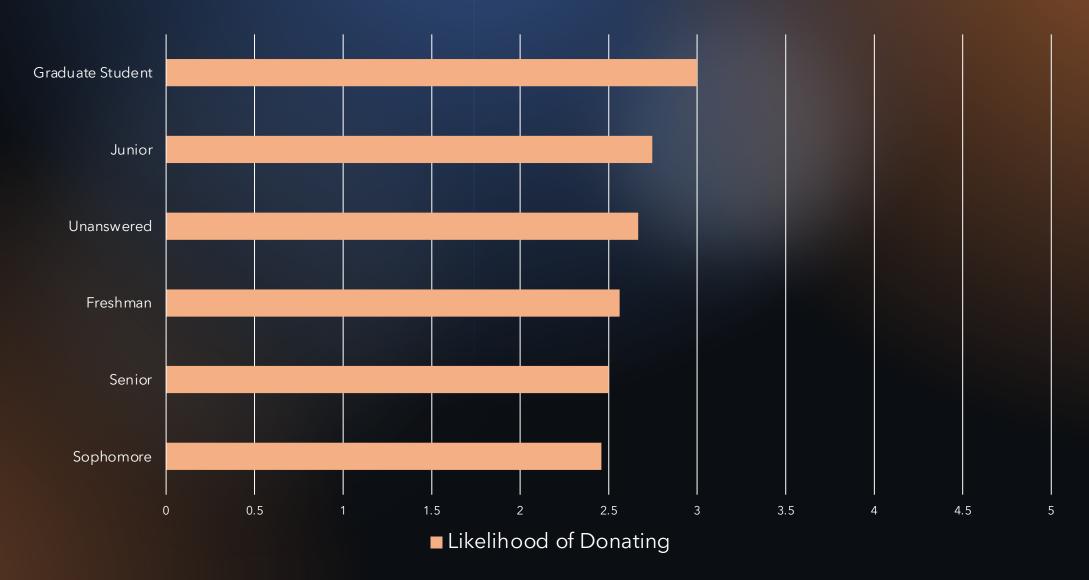




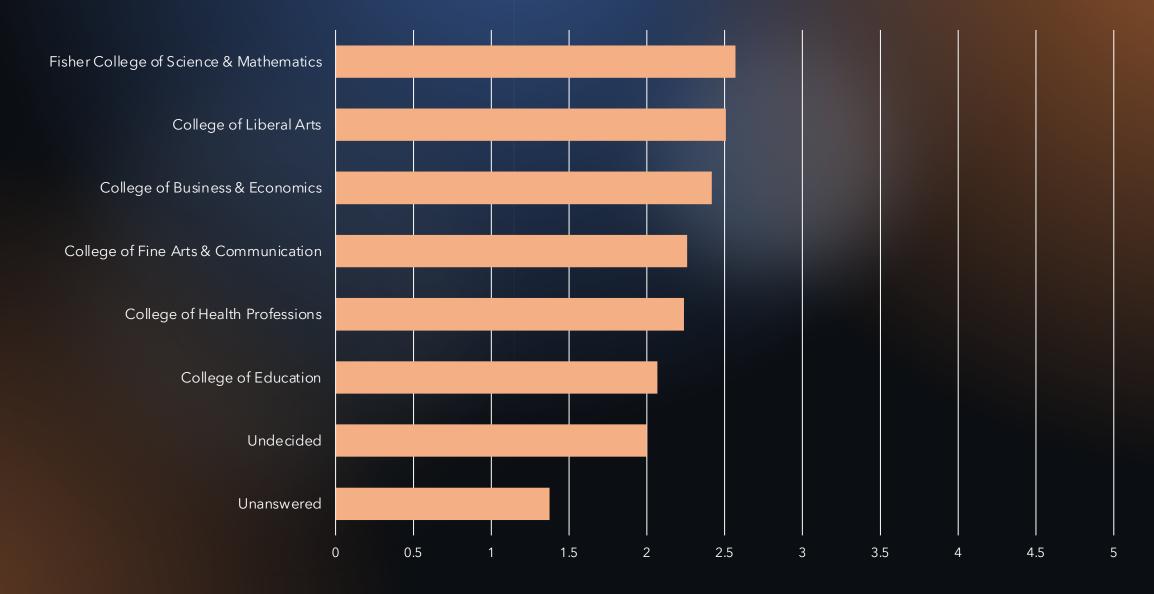
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Student awareness and perception

Class Standing & Likelihood of Donating



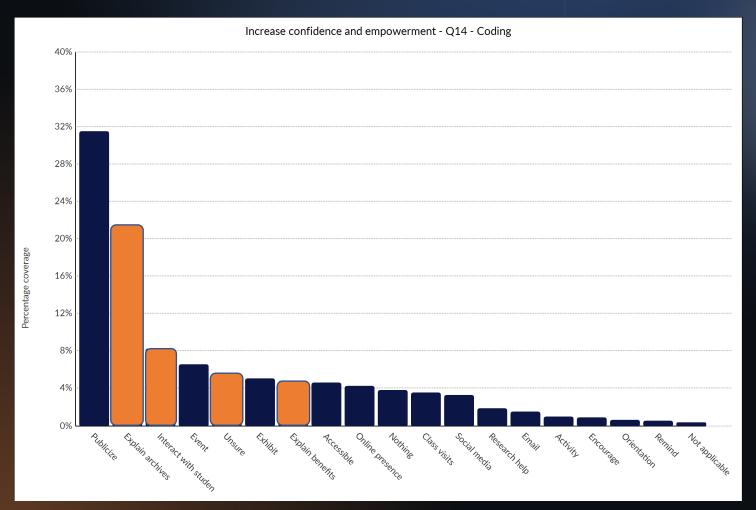
College & Likelihood of Donating



Extracurricular Activities & Likelihood of Donating



How can we empower students?





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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