

Represent

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Overview

- Read at Leicester campaign
- Building a leisure reading collection
- Represent campaign



Read at Leicester

Launched in 2016/17

Campaign to encourage sustained reading amongst students.

Copy of a free book gifted to all first year students.



The Good Immigrant

Edited by Nikesh Shukla

Read at Leicester book for 2018-19.

Collection of short essays about race and racism in the UK.



Leicester Students Union

Why is my curriculum white?

Liberation wall

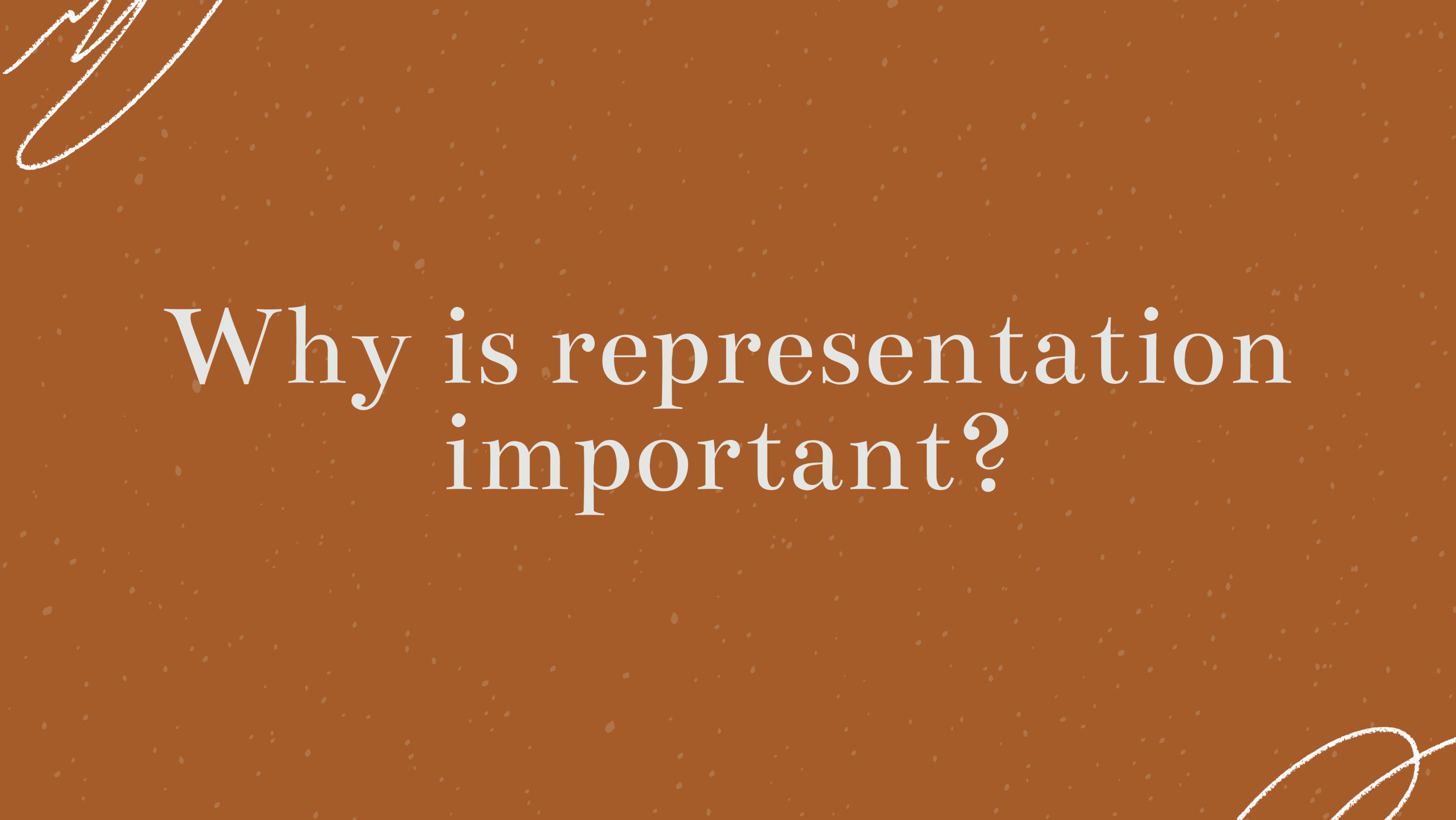
Liberation library

Equality and liberation champions



Read at Leicester leisure reading collection





Why is representation
important?



Indigo Williams @Indigowilliams · Dec 4, 2019

Replying to [@Indigowilliams](#)

(2)What does it do to your psyche and your sense of self to only ever see yourself as the centre of every narrative? What distortions does that create in how you relate to power? Or how you occupy space and your sense of entitlement to space?



1



7



64



Indigo Williams @Indigowilliams · Dec 4, 2019

Representation isn't just for communities of colour it's for everyone because you cannot be a balanced and empathetic individual if the only voice you ever hear is your own.



2



32



107



Why do you like to read?

"Understanding other people's experiences and learning new things"

"Feel connected to others and the world around me"

"To develop my thinking of the wider world"

"To understand the world"

"To discover new ways of seeing the world through the author's personal expressions"

"Explore the past in ways not possible through history texts"

Underrepresented voices



The poet X
Book - by Elizabeth Acevedo - 2018 - Importance not set ▼



Things fall apart
Book - by Chinua Achebe - 2008 - Importance not set ▼



Slay in your lane: the black girl bible
Book - by Yomi Adegoke; Elizabeth Uviebinené - 2018 - Importance not set ▼



Children of blood and bone
Book - by Tomi Adegoji - 2018 - Importance not set ▼



We should all be feminists
Book - by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - 2014 - Importance not set ▼



Pathfinders: the golden age of Arabic science
Book - by Jim Al-Khalili - 2011 - Importance not set ▼



What we're told not to talk about (but we're going to anyway): women's voices from East London to Ethiopia
Book - by Nimko Ali - 2019 - Importance not set ▼



Bad friends
Book - by Angkko - 2018 - Importance not set ▼



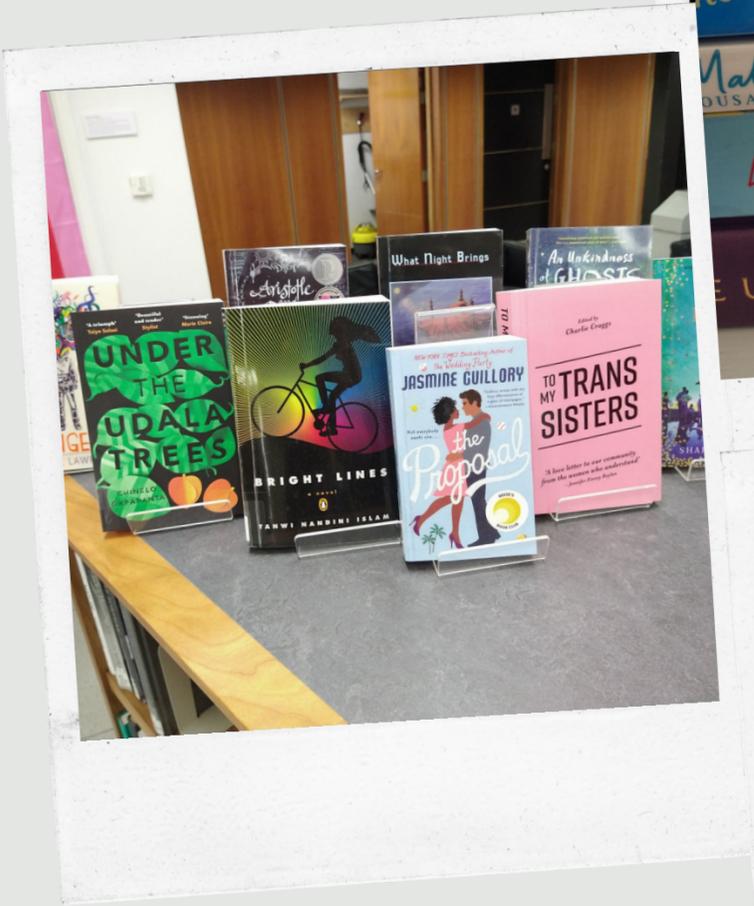
Destiny disrupted: a history of the world through Islamic eyes
Book - by Mir Tamim Ansary - 2010 - Importance not set ▼



UNIVERSITY OF
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REPRESENT





- 159 requests from students, staff and externals
- Over 100 titles added to collection

What kind of books would you like to see in this collection?

More working class voices

Lgbtq+ voices, people of colour, disabled authors, working class authors - any author who isn't a straight white able bodied man - we need books that represent all identities and walks of life

Books by and about disabled people

Pieces that are considered classics in other languages.

More Asian (far-east and south east) and African (including Arab) writers

International books (written in English) that teach you something about other cultures/countries through fiction

"I like reading books by underrepresented authors (eg. POC, LGBTQ+) and think it is important to ensure not all "visible" books are written by straight white men. it helps to create a larger space for people of underrepresented groups and to show people who aren't in those groups that they exist and belong in literature as well as the world."



"I suggested one title because I had found a vast misrepresentation of a subject widely spread across the internet due to ignorance and wanted the university to have something, at least a book, to educate the ignorant."



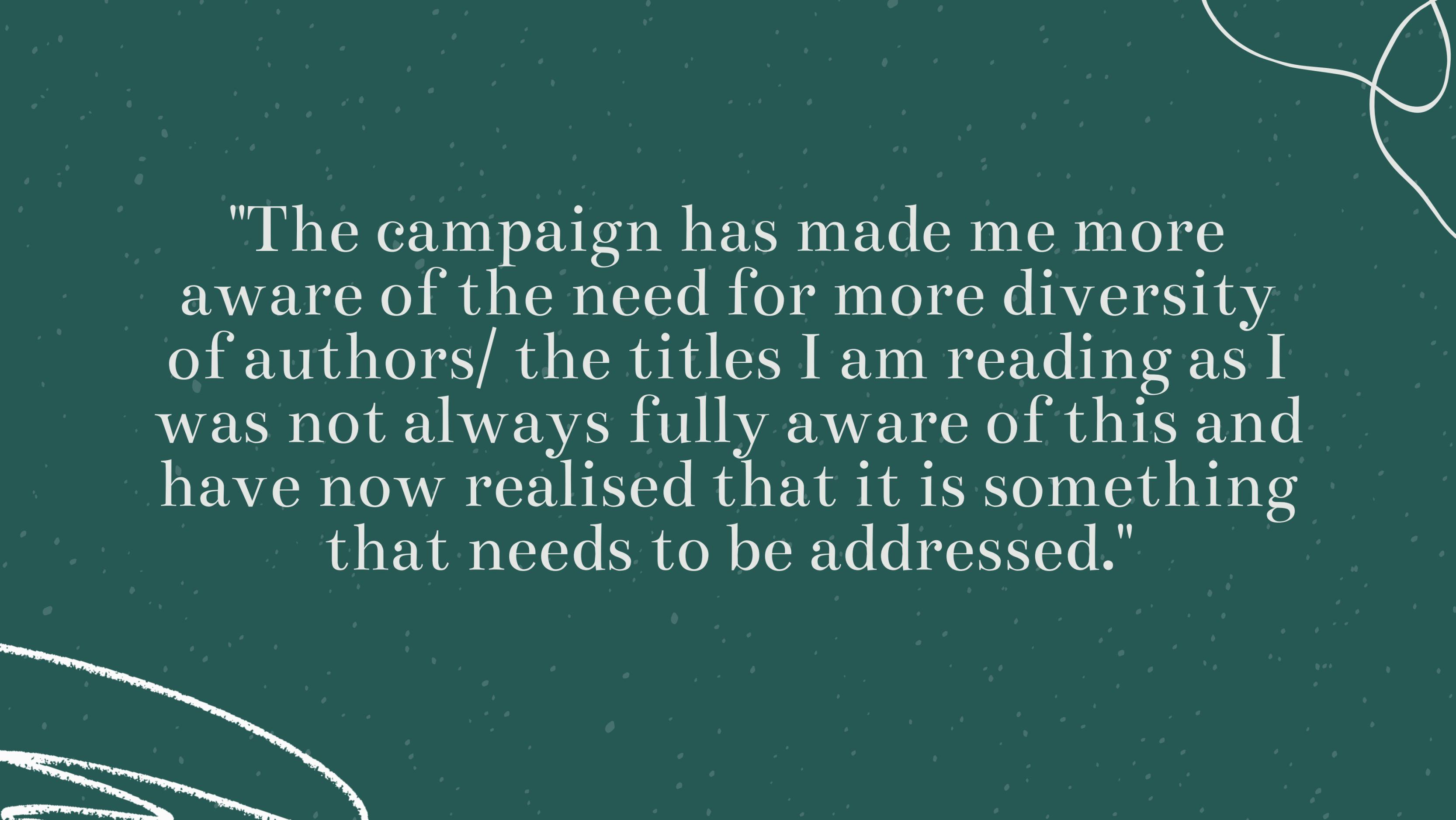
"I think it's great to have those voices as part of the welcome to the library and also a reminder that education takes lots of forms - reading for pleasure and outside the syllabus or subject area is absolutely what we should be encouraging students to do, and hopefully through this they'll give us back some of their own favourites too."

Dr Felicity James
School of English

Zine making workshop

Capturing the thoughts and feelings of our students about representation.





"The campaign has made me more aware of the need for more diversity of authors/ the titles I am reading as I was not always fully aware of this and have now realised that it is something that needs to be addressed."



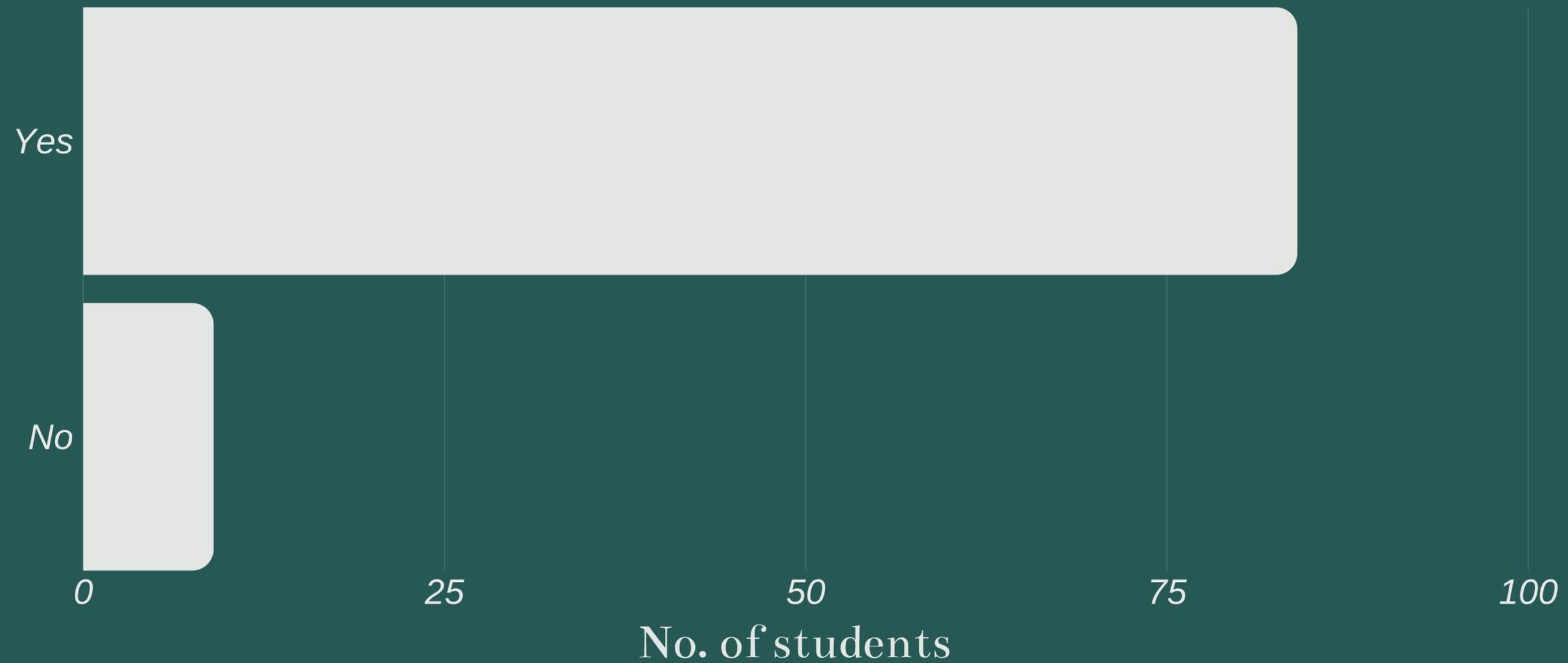
"I read widely in world literature (for example new translations of Arabic classics, currently) and this is not always well represented in Library collections."



"Minorities are heavily under represented in staffing considering they make up a significant percentage of students."

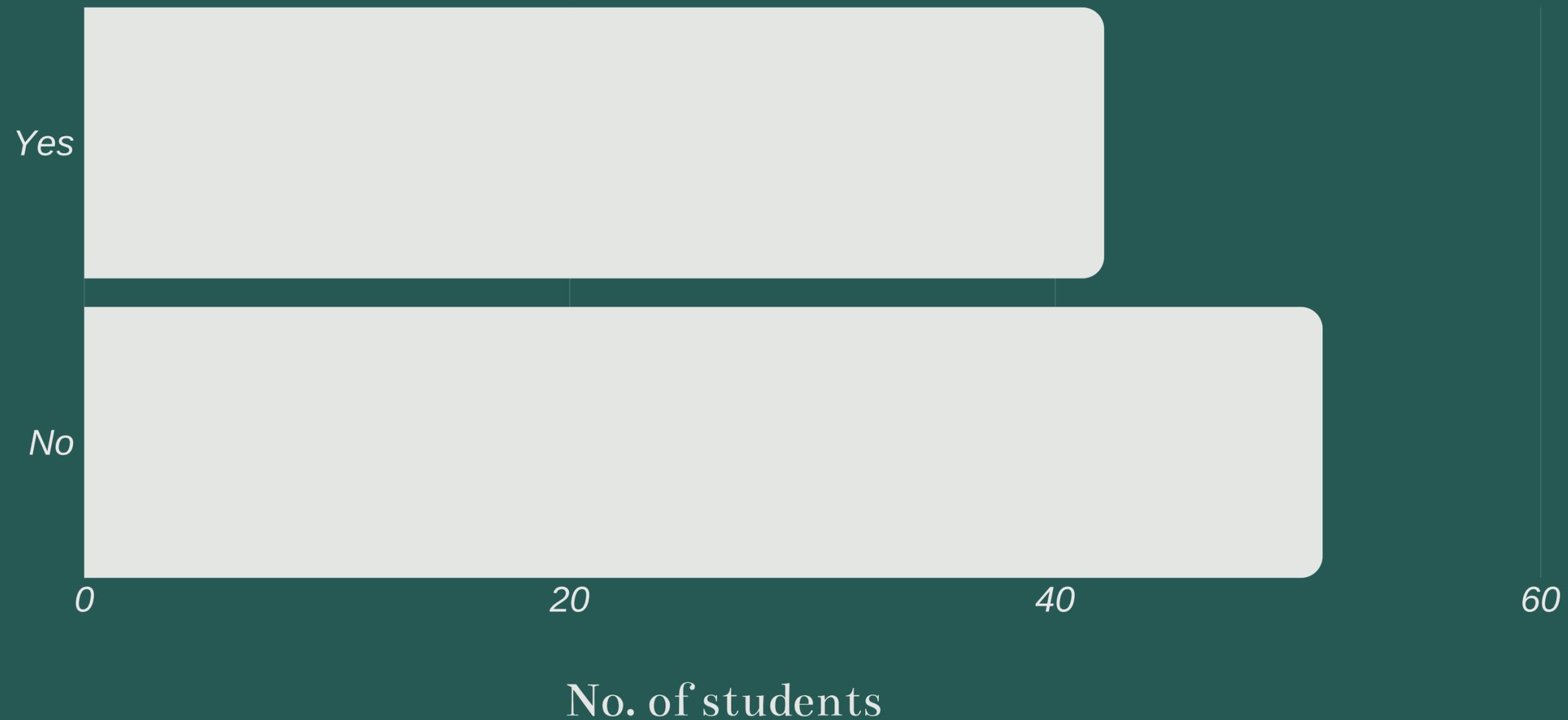
Survey results

Do you like to read in your spare time?



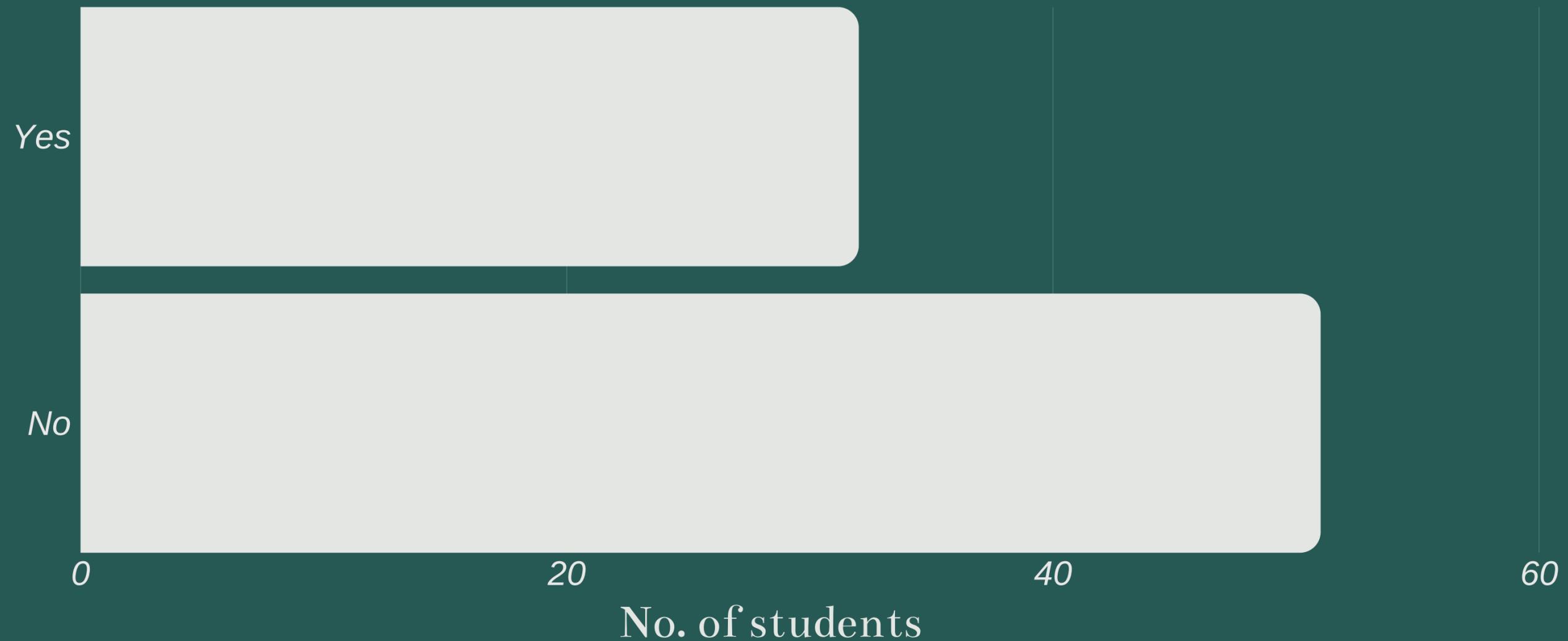
Survey results

Are you aware of the Read at Leicester leisure reading collection?



Survey results

Are you aware of the Represent campaign?





"Now I am [aware] I am much more likely to use the library."

"You need better advertising!"

"No but now I've seen this survey I'll come and have a look. I think it's a fantastic initiative."



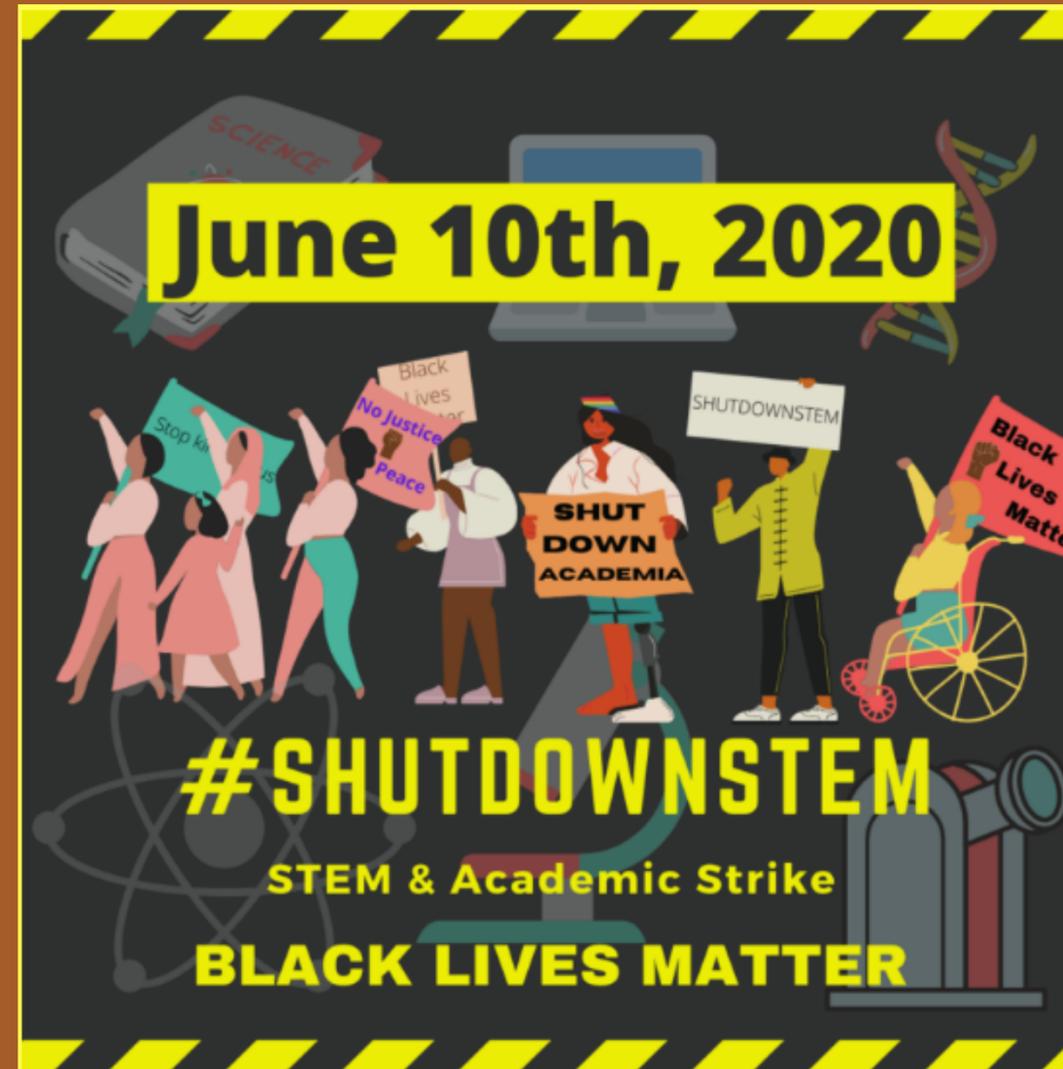


"Rather than have *a* book to find/collect from the library, it has encouraged me to use the Reading Zone, but also the shelves all around the library to look for interesting things to read. It has changed the way I view the library, use the library, and makes the library a place of enjoyment and relaxation."



Going forward

- Educational resources
- Inclusive collections
- Reading lists



Challenges

- Covid-19!
- Formats: E-books and audio books
- Foreign language material
- Time/staff/reources

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