

Matchmaker, Matchmaker: Expanding a “Blind Date with a Book” Program

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FRANCES WILLSON THOMPSON LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

Background

January 2021 - begin planning first Blind Date with a Book pilot for February

Major issue: lack of students, staff, and faculty on campus, very little traffic in library space

Solution: create online request form and play matchmaker



Form Creation

Considerations:

- Patrons choose from pre-selected set of books or give input type of book they want
- Include ebooks or physical books or both
- How to send notifications or get patrons to pick up books

Decisions:

- Patrons give input on type of book
- Include both ebooks and physical books
- Send emails with ebook or pick up information

Form Options

Section 1

- Do you want some say in the book?
 - Yes, give me options
 - No, surprise me
- Format
 - Physical book
 - Ebook

Section 2

- Fiction, nonfiction, or poetry
- Fiction genres
- Nonfiction subjects
- Length
- Author identity preference
- Topics to avoid

Evolution of Program

December 2021

- Launched Holi-Date with a Book

February 2022

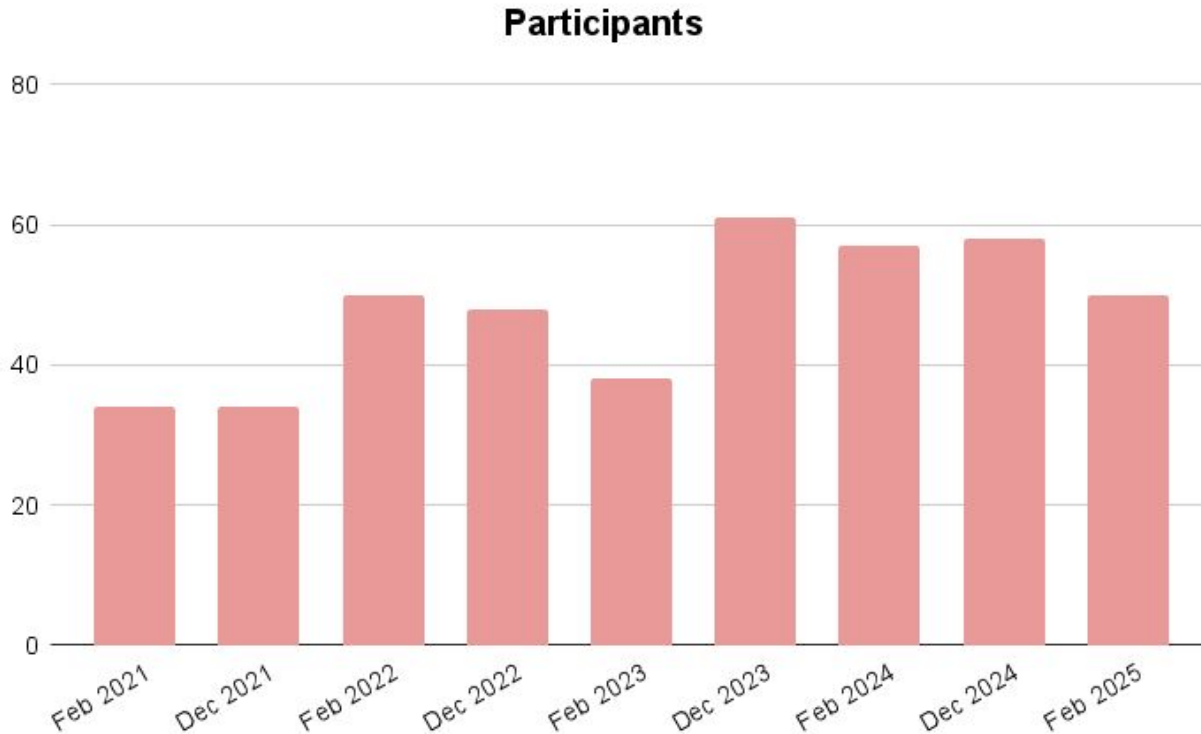
- Added physical display
- Added audiobook option b/c subscription to Overdrive
- Moved away from Proquest and EBSCOhost ebook databases

December 2024

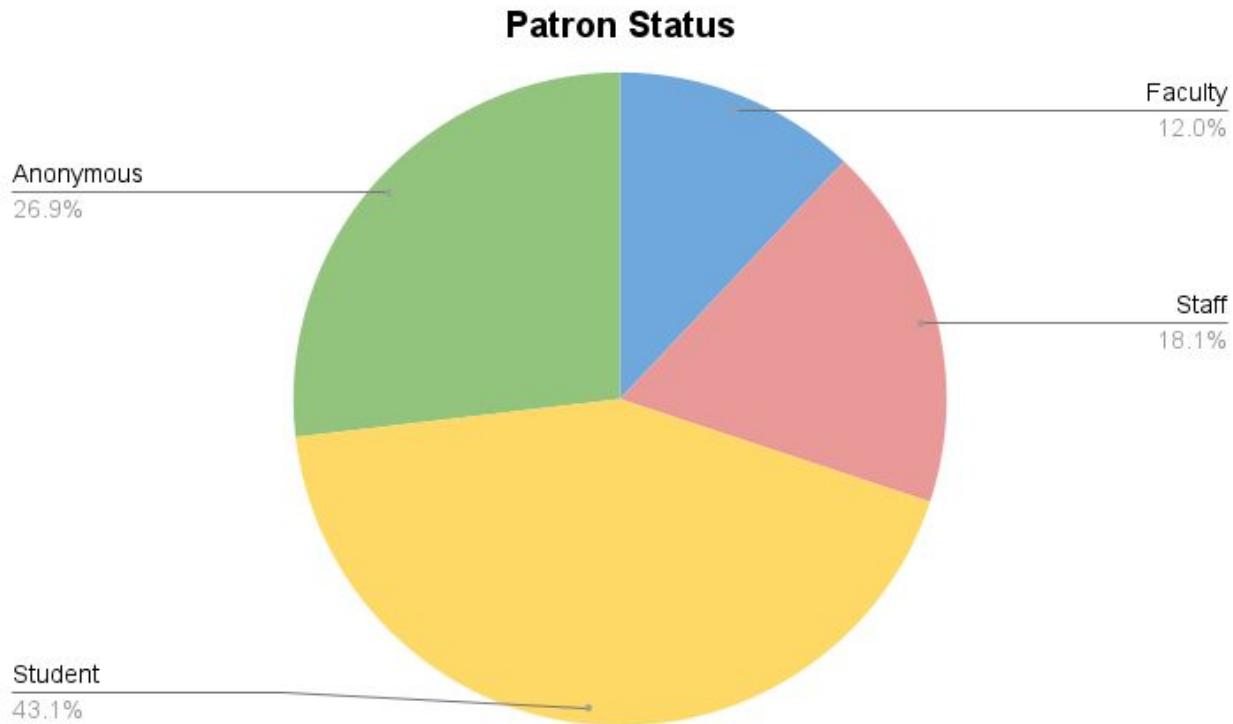
- Removed book length option



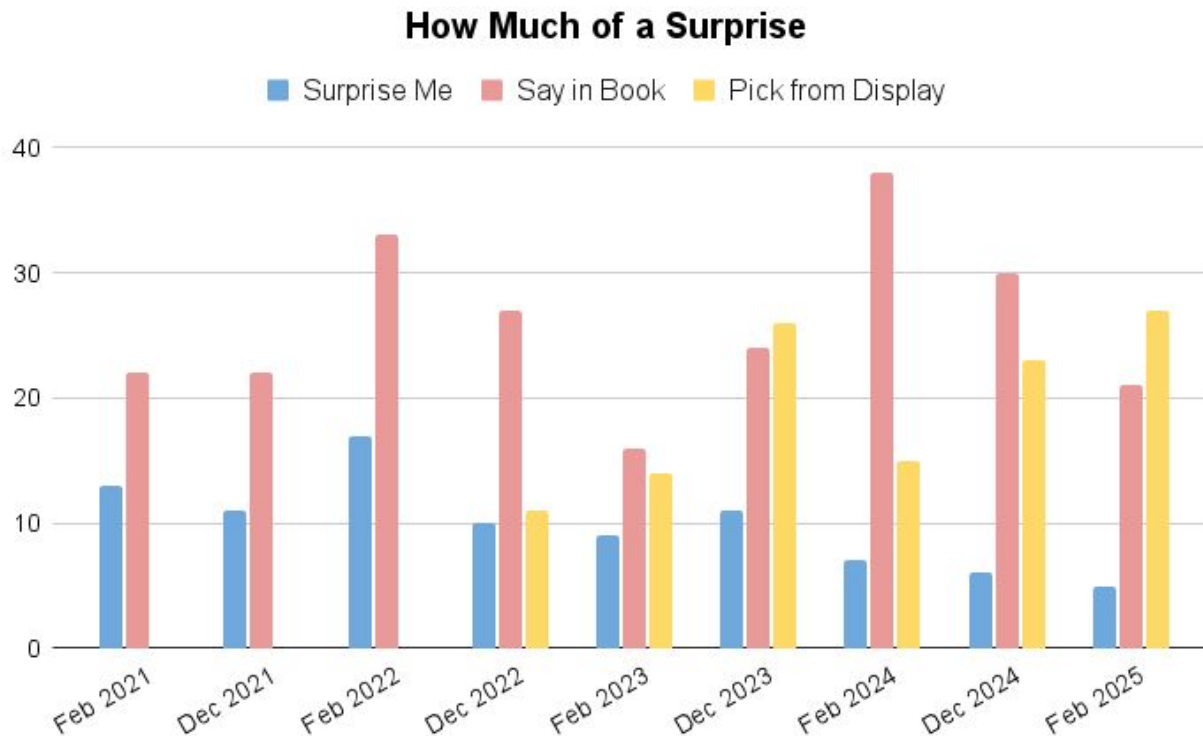
How Many?



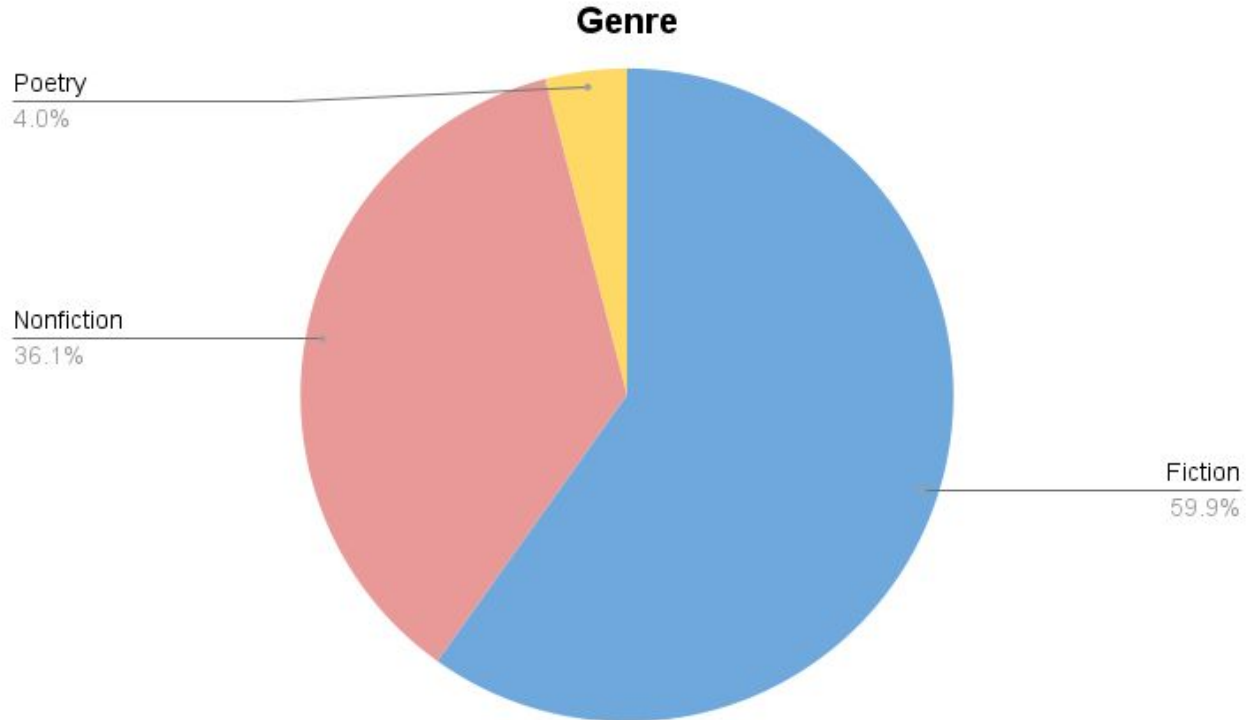
Who?



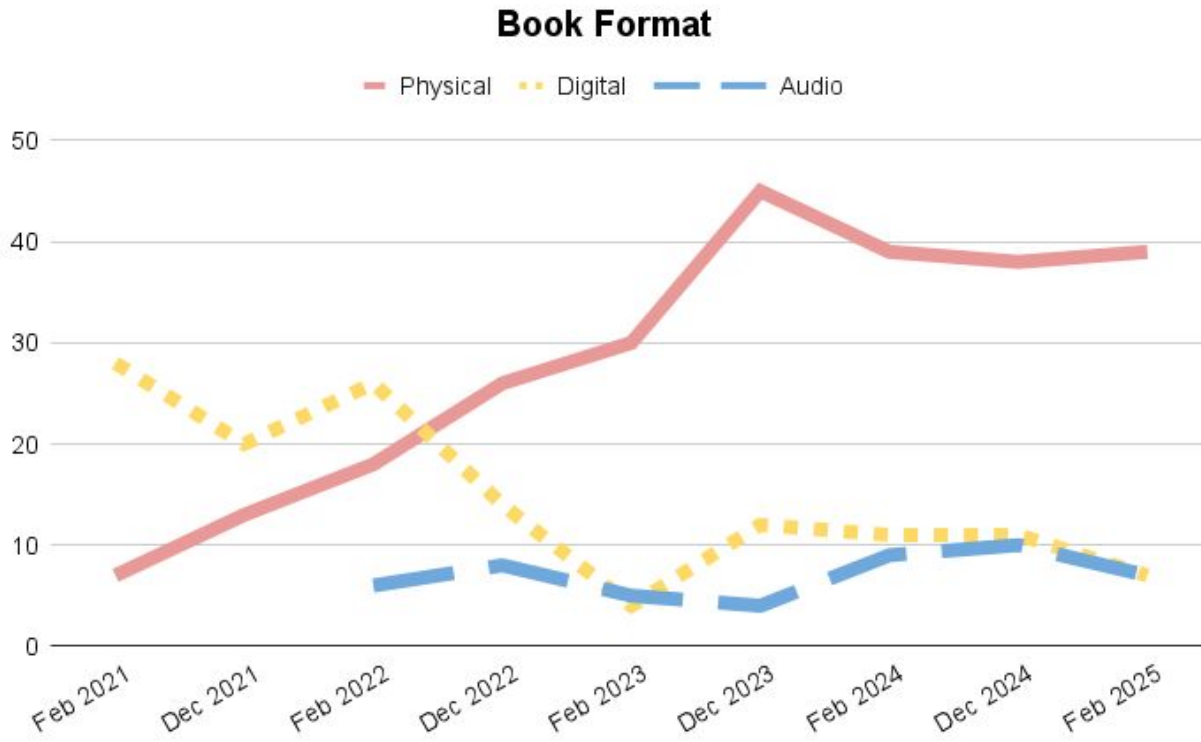
How?



What Genre?



What Format?



Lessons Learned

- Create email templates for notifications
- Be prepared for influx of requests after emailing campus email lists
- Pull about 60% - 70% fiction vs. 30% - 40% nonfiction
- Pull physical requests from displayed books
- Give expiration date to pick up physical books
- Use collection filters in Overdrive to find matches
- Patrons appreciate way to connect with academic library beyond instruction & research



Questions?

Contact

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