

OUR COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY: A CASE STUDY OF READING LISTS FOR COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING AT UWL LIBRARY

Edyta Krol
Subject Librarian
School of Computing and Engineering
University of West London

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### Where did I start?

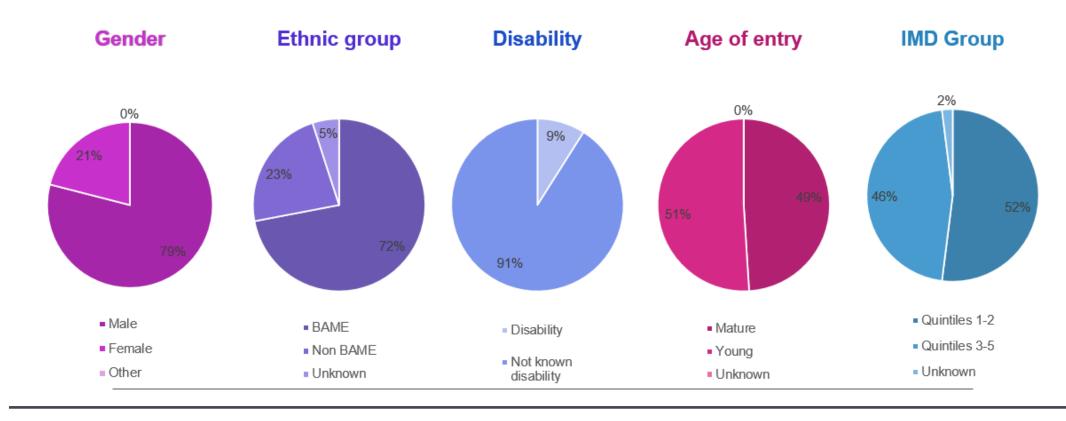
- Library Strategy 2018-2023
- UWL Access and Participation Plan 2021-2025
- WinSTEM Reading List created for that group



## SCE student profile

Undergraduate - 2470

Postgraduate - 763







### Criteria used to decide RL's inclusivity (AY 22-23)

### **Very High**

Main essential item is inclusive (where there is one key item for the module)

#### AND/OR

50% or more of essential items are inclusive

#### AND/OR

More than 70% of essential and recommended items combined are inclusive. One item has to be an essential (if there are any essential reading)

#### High

At least one essential item on the list is inclusive (2 or more if list has more than 5 essential items)

#### AND/OR

50% or more of essential and recommended items combined are inclusive

#### Medium

50% or more of recommended items are inclusive

#### AND/OR

One essential item is inclusive for lists where there is more than 5 essential item

### N/A

Conclusion cannot be made



# Methodology

- Criteria used to decide RL's inclusivity
- Only books, chapters and articles checked
- Only 1<sup>st</sup> author checked
- 34 RLs for 1<sup>st</sup> year and 35 RLs for 3<sup>rd</sup> year checked
- For dimensions used:
  - > Ethnicity
  - Gender
  - Geographical/institutional affiliation
  - Content

- Google searches using author name or book/article title
- Publishers, universities, professional organisations, trade websites
- You Tube
- Profiles
- Images



# L4 (1<sup>st</sup> year) and L6 (3<sup>rd</sup> year) RLs audit (engineering)

### **Findings:**

- 24% of books and articles on the lists were written by BAME, female authors or their content was inclusive
- Unable to verify inclusivity in relation to author for 23% of books and articles
- 90% of the authors listed were male, compared to 4% females
- 8% of publications were published by UK Government or professional organisations such as:
   RIBA, CIOB, RICS





## **Findings**

### Level 4 (1st year) – 34 RLs

| Individual Titles | Inclusive (author or content) | No information | White male/s | GOV/Industry procedures |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 119               | 24 (20.2%)                    | 33 (27.7%)     | 60 (50.4%)   | 2 (1.7%)                |

### Level 6 (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – 35 RLs

| Individual Titles | Inclusive (author or content) | No information | White male/s | GOV/Industry procedures |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 248               | 64 (25.8%)                    | 51 (20.6%)     | 107 (43.1%)  | 26 (10.5%)              |

| Inclusivity | 1 <sup>st</sup> year | 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Very high   | 11.8%                | 41.2%                |
| High        | 23.5%                | 23.5%                |
| Medium      | 11.8%                | 2.9%                 |
| Low         | 14.7%                | 17.7%                |
| N/A         | 38.2%                | 14.7%                |

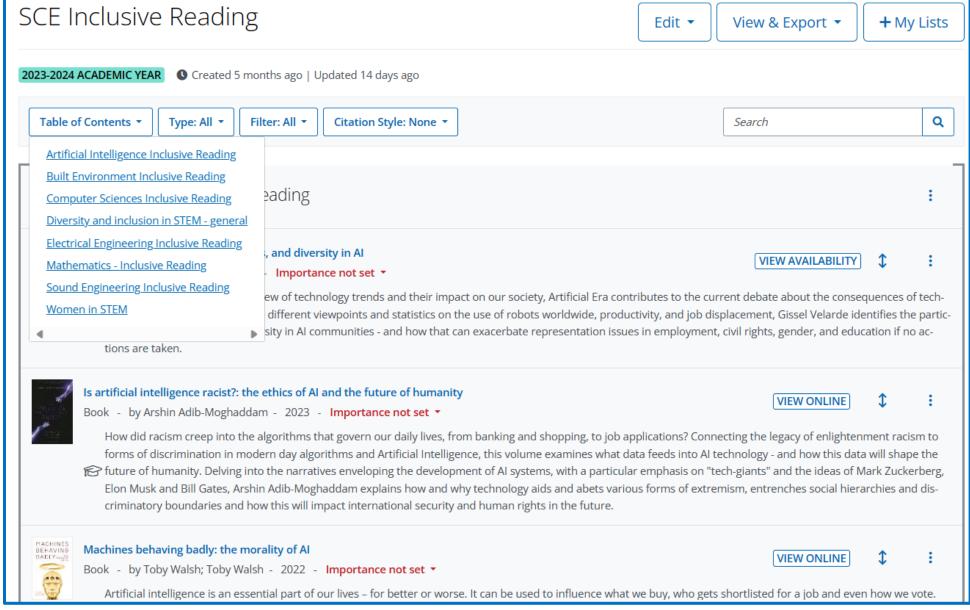


## Barriers to increase inclusive RLs

#### Feedback from academics:

- Time constraints
- Not sure what to do
- Don't understand what an inclusive item is
- Limited availability of resources
- Resistance to change







### Inclusive Reading – SCE Reading List Guidelines for Module teams

The purpose of this guideline for academic staff was to suggest ways to introduce perspectives and experiences from traditionally excluded groups into reading lists.

More inclusive reading can increase engagement and improve student outcome, especially in students from those groups.

Such perspectives and experiences can be from many kinds of communities: ethnic, cultural, of gender, sexuality or other forms of identity.





## Checklist



Have you considered different types of resources and searched for relevant videos, podcasts, TV Programmes (Box of Broadcasts), newspaper and journal articles?



Essential texts: Have you considered, added additional viewpoints and contexts for the broad themes of the module?



Recommended texts: Have you added a range of texts which look at the module's minor/contextual themes as additional perspectives?



Have you consulted colleagues and students (including the Student Union)?



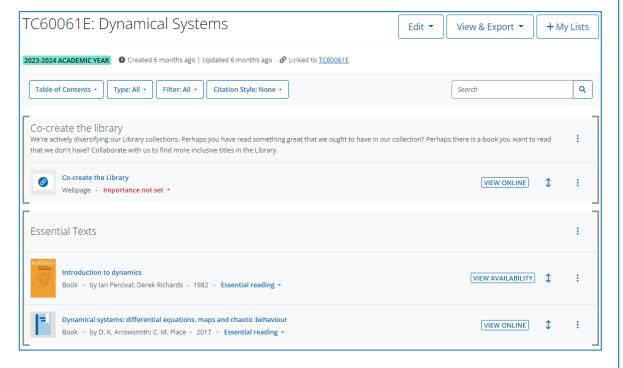
Have you discussed purchasing possibilities with the librarian?



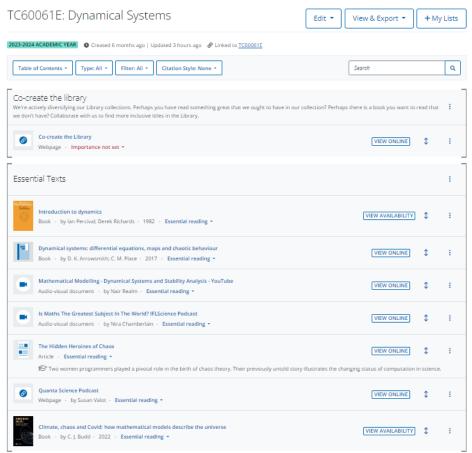


# Solutions (example)

### Before:

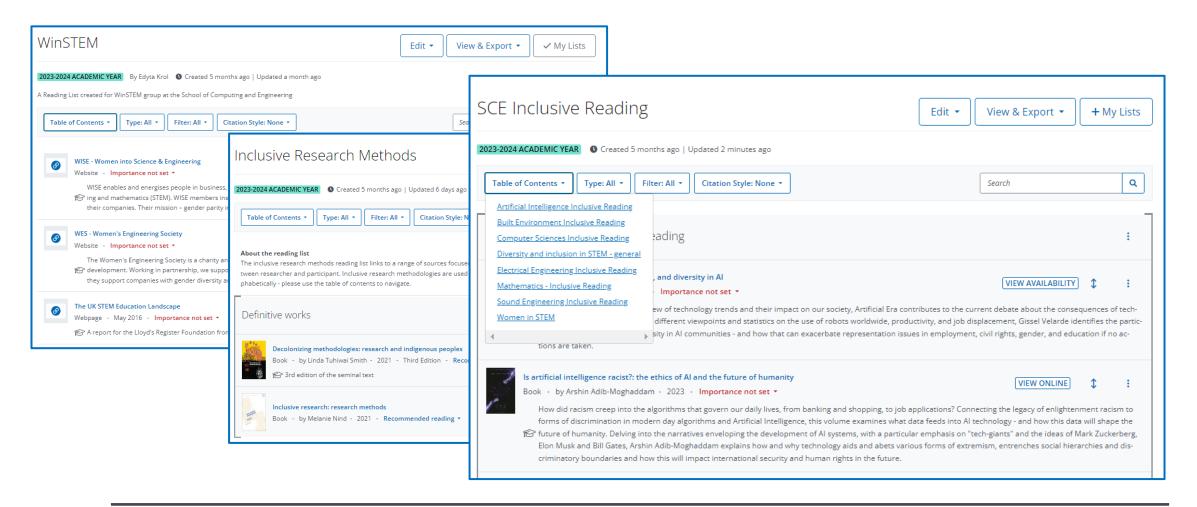


#### After:













## From strategy to practice

L4 (1st year) and L6 (3rd year) Engineering RLs audit (October 2022)



SCE Inclusive Reading List Guidelines created (February 2023)



SCE Inclusive Reading List Group created (March 2023)



Presentation to all SCE members on the IRL Group work (May 2023)



Improved RLs





# **Moving Forward - 2024**

UWL Library Services guidelines for inclusive acquisitions: books and ebooks

- To be considered an inclusive acquisition, the book ought to fulfil at least one of the following:
- Authored by a person from a marginalised/underrepresented group (ability, care experience, displacement, ethnicity, gender sexuality, socioeconomic status)
- Authored by a person from a contextually underrepresented group (gender the author identifies as a woman and writes in a field dominated by male writers)
- The content of the book (at least 50%) relates to a marginalised/underrepresented group (ability, age, appearance, care experience, colonialism, displacement, environment, ethnicity, gender, intolerance, mental health, religion, sexuality socioeconomic equality)

| Reading list  | Number of items | Criteria                               |  |  |
|---------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Essential and | Minimum 6 items | 50% of essential items are inclusive   |  |  |
| recommended   |                 | AND                                    |  |  |
| reading       |                 | 50% of recommended items are inclusive |  |  |
| OR            |                 |  |  |  |
| Recommended   | Minimum 6 items | At least 50% of items are inclusive    |  |  |
| reading only  |                 |  |  |  |





# Thank you!