

**History**  
Budget!!!  
Has never adjoined to academic  
List length and content  
**English**  
Initial reluctance, lower take-up  
Lit. analysis

- 5,000 students, 100 academic staff over 6 Schools and 3 Centres
- Dean and library liaison - modern experience
- Faculty strategic theme 2012-14: Library

- School Administration Managers and academic library repn to encourage take ups of training

- Changes in responsibilities > academics to manage their lists
- From text > book orders for teaching can only be requested via the reading list system
  - books ordered via reading list system were purchased from the specific additional funding. From now it is covered.

- Breadth of reading across topics and depth = **Book heavy**
- **Larger classes** create further pressure on book stock
- **Longer lists** = more time setting up and managing list in system, technical issues more likely to affect them
- **Not as well off financially** as other faculties so not enough copies ordered
- **Out of prints** still very relevant but not easily sourced
- Dependent on CLA teams Moodle but recent **changes in copyright** have put the focus back on the book stock
- Offers distinctive modules to attract students > **not mainstream stock**
- **Culture of 'what makes a reading list'** = less guidance but to encourage **independent research** methods as well as student choice for **yearline interests**

"It's not what students want. Students want books, not fancy reading lists."

"I got the sense that it was designed to be flexible, as it is. It works really well if you're using it to display one-to-one but it does not respond well - aesthetically, ergonomically, organizationally - to the much more flexible, indicative nature of *business maps*."

\*...academic staff need to be given more guidance about reading lists or to discuss their purpose a bit further. I am rather old school believing that almost anything of interest should be placed on a reading list.

"I like being able to add books using the app, this seems a helpful way of doing things as you can do it all year through when something strikes you as useful"

I asked our Reading List Service  
Champion  
(aka Social Sciences Faculty Liaison  
Librarian, aka Library Collections  
Teaching and Learning Lead) for a paper:  
slides max, graphs, showing impact, use;  
the low picture...

Reading List Engagement Paper  
for Library User Panel, Faculty  
Learning & Teaching and School  
Boards, and in conversations  
with academics



## Meeting the Reading List Challenge

### 9th & 10th April 2014



<sup>1</sup> "Aerial Cartiers camera" University of Kent (n.d.). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ua-henry/13115111190/>

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- Review the 'set importance' categories available within the reading list system - getting Academic Reps and Students together to agree what they mean, and what activity they might trigger
- Reinforcing the process to academics:  
**academic list upload > library > book order > student**
- Reading List Service User Group
- Other sites and campuses
- Humanities - starting conversations about list content & quality
- Monitoring and adjusting during Primo (and other tech) implementation

Thank you for listening  
Any questions?





# *The Humanities Experience at Kent*

**Meeting the Reading List Challenge  
9th & 10th April 2014**



"aerial Canterbury campus" University of Kent (2010) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/universityofkent/5736911524/>

**Katie Edwards, University of Kent**

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2009-2011...3 systems in 3 years!  
Implementation of Talis 2011/12  
University system  
readinglists@kent



## **Information Services policy**

- Change in responsibilities > academics to manage their lists
- From 2012 > Book orders for teaching can only be requested via the reading list system
  - Books ordered via reading list system were purchased from the £50K additional funding. First come first served.



# Humanities Faculty

- 5,939 students, 198 academic staff over 6 Schools and 2 Centres
- Dean and Library liaison - student experience
- Faculty strategic theme 2012-14 : Library

## Humanities Dean

**Mandate** : march 2012 - 100% take up of the reading list system by 31st May 2012

- School Administration Managers and academic library reps to encourage take up of training



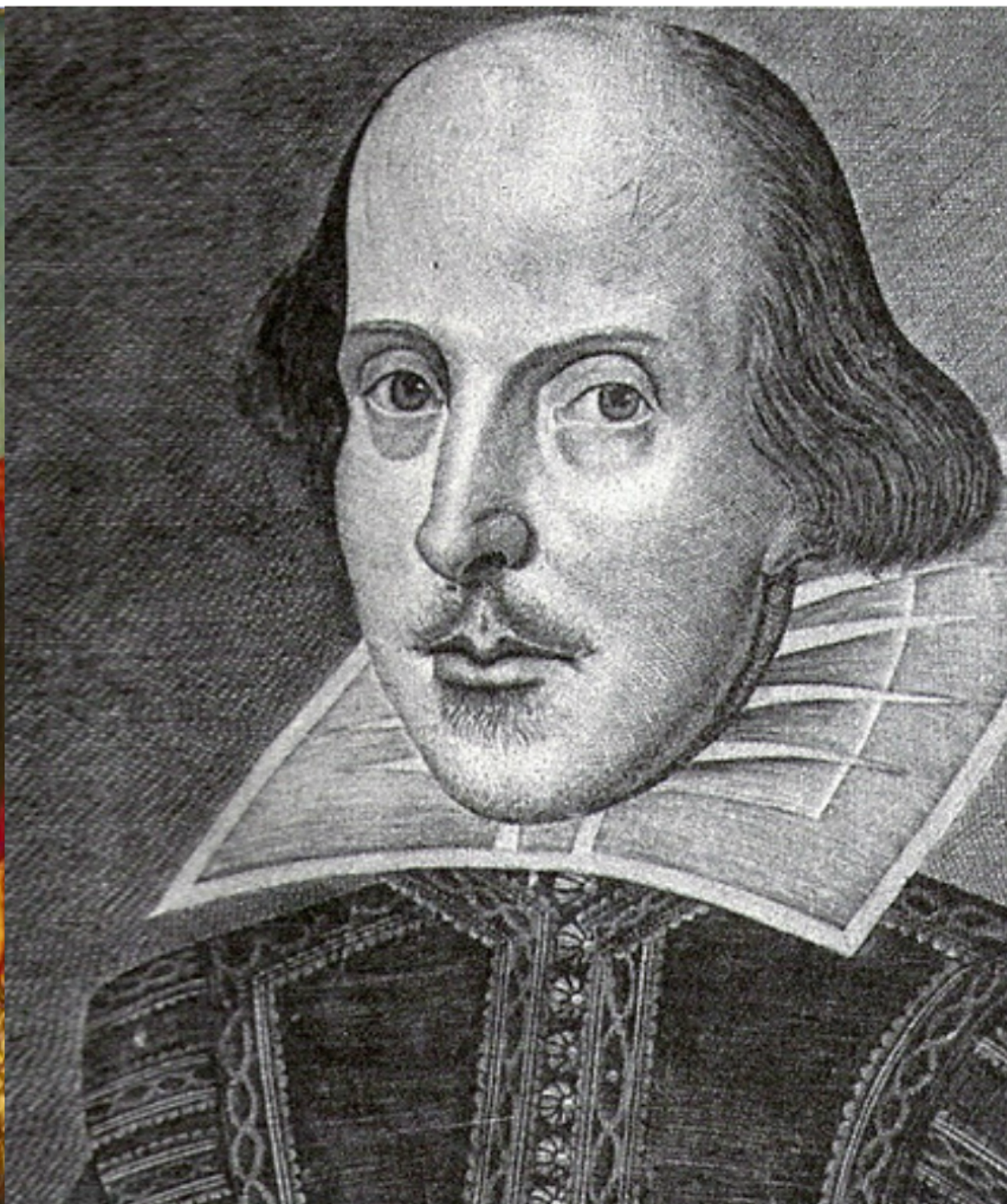
# Humanities Reading Lists

- Breadth of reading across topics And depth = **Book heavy**
- **Larger classes** creates further pressure on book stock
- **Longer lists** = more time setting up and managing list in system, technical issues more likely to affect them
- **Not as well off financially** as other Faculties so not enough copies ordered
- **Out of prints** still very relevant but not easily sourced
- Dependent on CLA scans Moodle but recent **changes in copyright** have put the focus back on the book stock
- Offers distinctive modules to attract students > **not mainstream** stock
- **Culture** of 'what makes a reading list' - less guidance but to encourage **independent research** methods as well as student choice for varying interests





"Henry VIII" Lisby <https://www.flickr.com/photos/60861613@Noo/3473423645/>



"William Shakespeare" Tonynetone <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tonynetone/2688212829/>



# **History**

Budget!!!

Handover admin to academic

List length and content

# **English**

Initial reluctance.. lower take-up

List quality



# **Academic feedback**



"This is your chance finally to  
unburden yourself, people.  
Take it! It's good for the  
soul."



"It's not what students want.  
Students want books, not fancy  
reading lists."



"I get the sense that it was designed without the humanities in mind, i.e. it works really well if you're using it to display core textbooks but does not respond well - aesthetically, ergonomically, organisationally - to the much more flexible, indicative nature of humanities lists."

"..academic staff need to be given more guidance about reading lists or to discuss their purpose a bit further. I am rather 'old school' believing that almost anything of interest should be placed on a reading list."



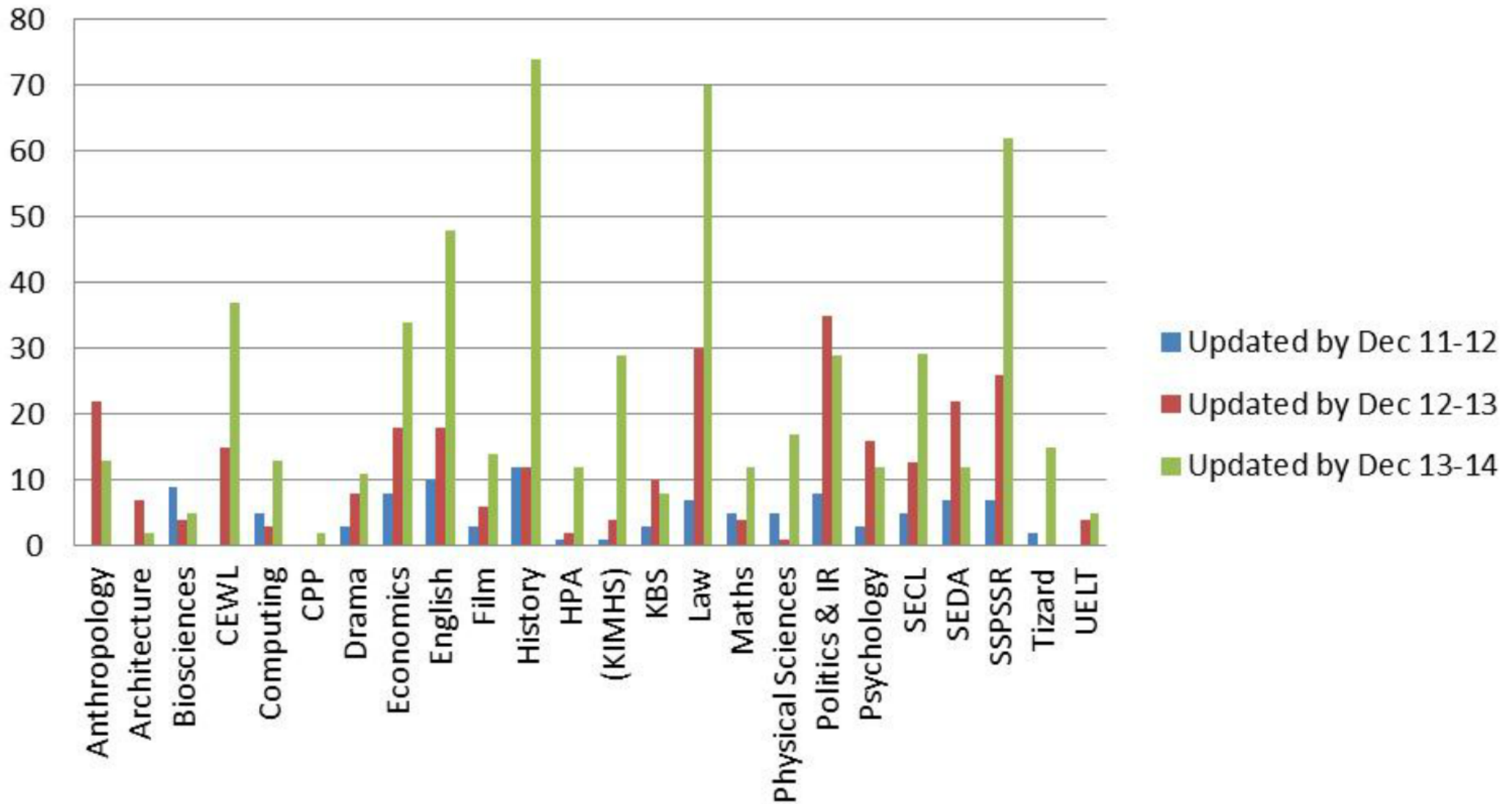
"I like being able to add books using the app, this seems a helpful way of doing things as you can do it all year through when something strikes you as useful"



**Reading List Engagement Paper**  
for Library User Panel, Faculty  
Learning & Teaching and School  
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with academics



## Updated August - December





## **Student usage**

This data has been gathered from Google Analytics statistics provided by the software supplier and host, Talis, and provides a comparison for the August to December periods for both 2012 and 2013.

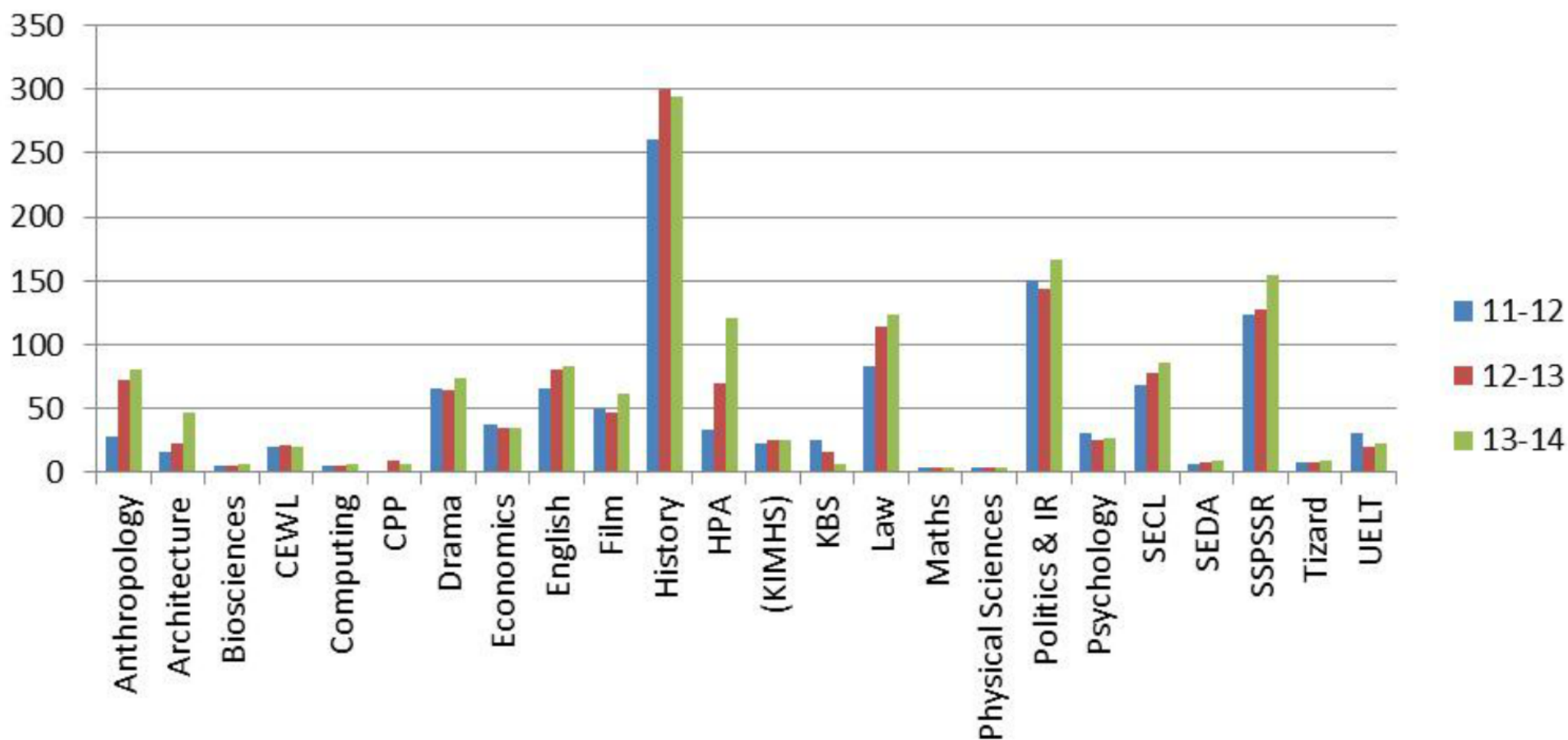
### **Number of visits**

- **2012 112,559**
- **2013 231,431**

This represents a 105% increase in visits between 2012 and 2013.

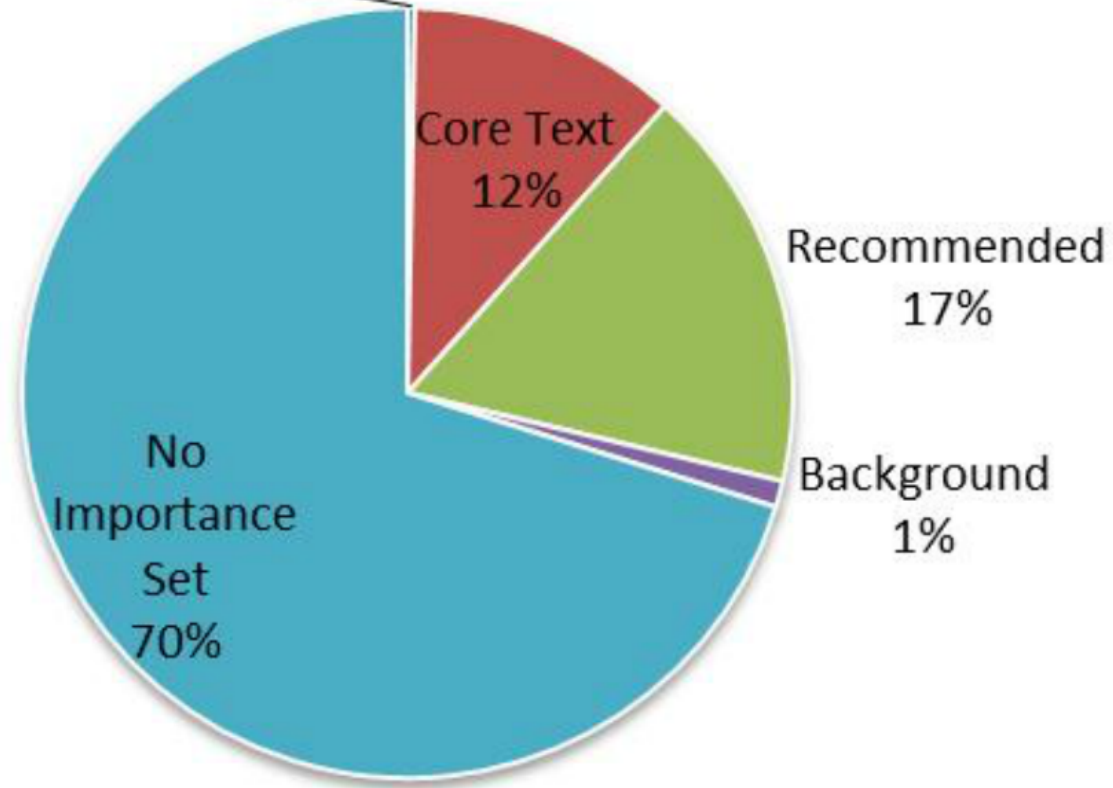


## Average length of lists





## Classification of Items on Lists



Student  
Purchase  
0.30%



## Next steps @ Kent

- Review the 'set importance' categories available within the reading list system - getting Academic Reps and Students together to agree what they mean, and what activity they might trigger
- Reinforcing the process to academics:  
*academic list upload > library > book order > student*
- Reading List Service User Group
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- Humanities.. starting conversations about list content & quality
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*Thank you for listening*  
*Any questions?*