



How do we get the resources we need in the Library?

**An investigation into the selection and ordering of resources
for reading lists at the University of Northampton.**

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Why? Everyone knows how we do this ...

▶ Context:

- ▶ What is the current state of play? What actually happens when we order resources? Is there anything we can improve?

▶ Aim

- ▶ To investigate academic staff experiences with updating reading lists and ordering stock for the Library

▶ Objectives

- ▶ To explore staff experience with keeping up to date with new literature in their field
- ▶ To investigate academic staff processes to select material for their reading lists



Methodology

- ▶ Literature Review
- ▶ Survey
- ▶ Focus Groups
- ▶ JISCmail



Literature Review

- ▶ Period of perpetual change
- ▶ There are cultural differences
- ▶ Barriers to collaboration between the Library and academics:
 - ▶ Budget
 - ▶ Engagement
 - ▶ Communication
- ▶ So what?
 - ▶ We need to look at new ways of working with academics.



What happens now . . .

- ▶ Simplified work flow

Budget allocated



Survey

60%

Inspection copies

46

78%

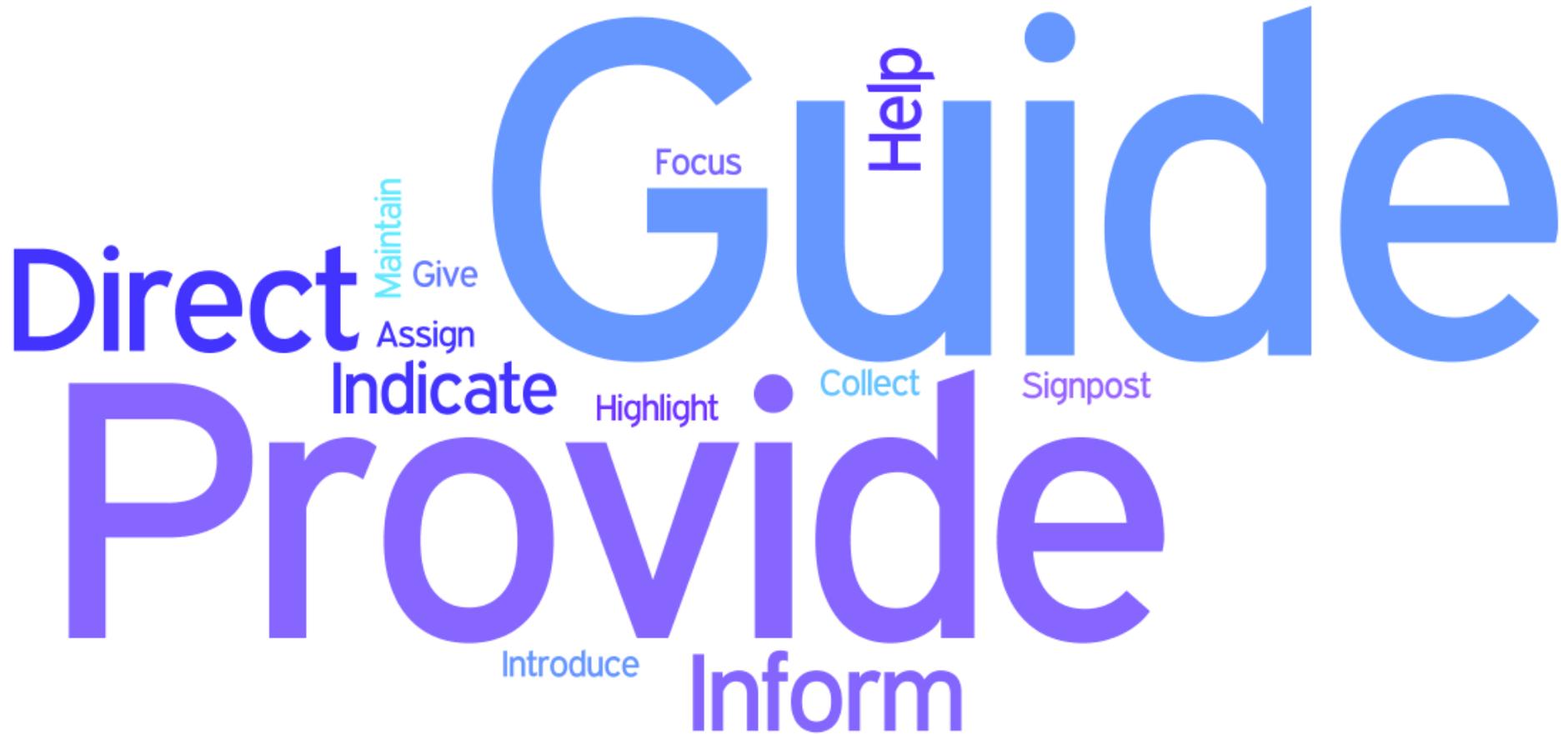
59%

80%

20



What is the purpose of a reading list?



A word cloud of verbs related to the purpose of a reading list. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central word 'Guide'. The words include: Direct, Maintain, Give, Assign, Indicate, Highlight, Focus, Help, Collect, Signpost, Provide, Introduce, and Inform. The words are in various shades of blue and purple.

Direct

Maintain

Give

Assign

Indicate

Highlight

Focus

Help

Collect

Signpost

Provide

Introduce

Inform



Focus Groups

- ▶ Reading List

- ▶ “Hostage to your reading list”

- ▶ Electronic systems “will inevitably fail you”

- ▶ Talis Aspire v. Word documents

- ▶ “pretty expensive data entry clerk”

- ▶ “library minions”

- ▶ “worth the initial work for the student experience”



Focus Groups

- ▶ Book ordering
 - ▶ “How do we know what’s out there?”
- ▶ Perceptions of the process
 - ▶ “It’s invisible to me”



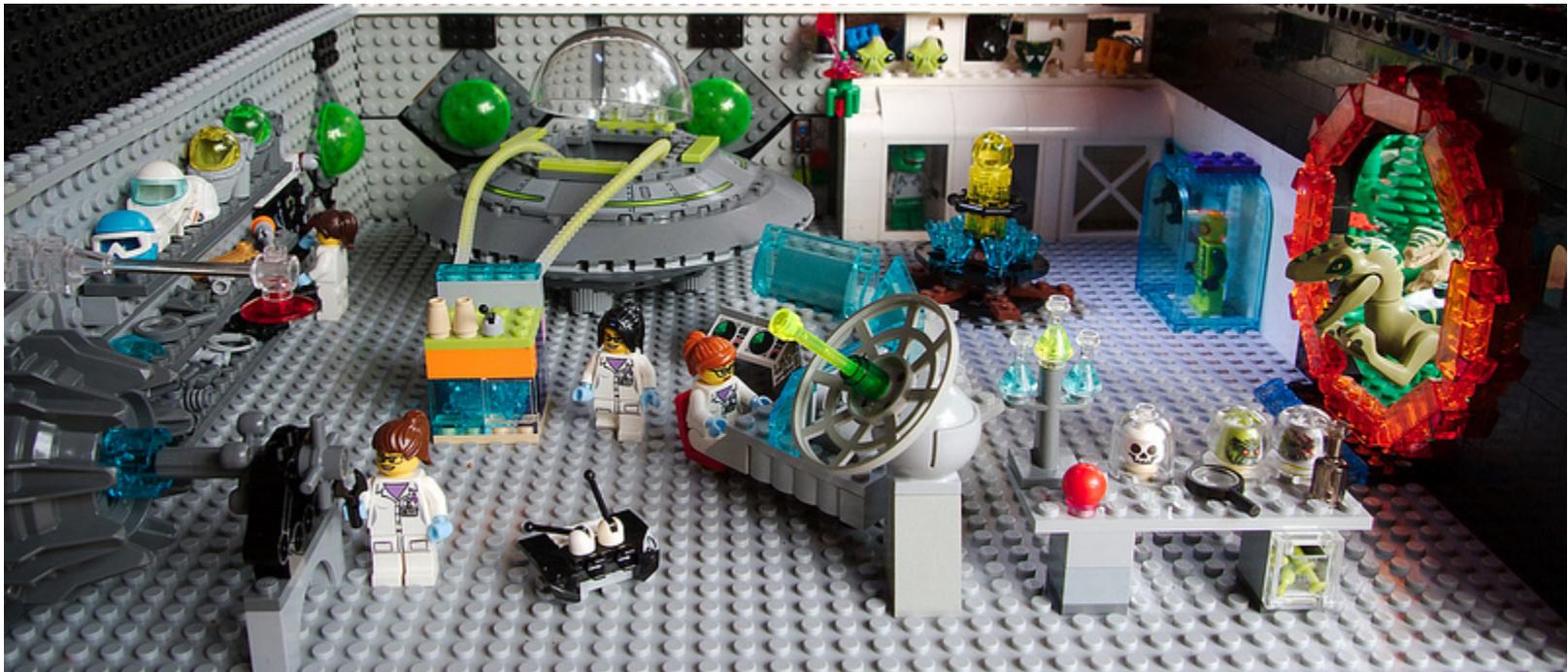
Recommendations from focus groups

- ▶ Communication
 - ▶ Notifications
 - ▶ Alerts
- ▶ Don't listen to students ...
- ▶ Review AL collaboration strategy
- ▶ Time frame



What we've learnt (what not to do)

- ▶ Plan ahead
- ▶ Allow double the amount of time you think you need
- ▶ Bribery works



▶ Image courtesy of Paul Albertella

Thank you

Any questions?

References

- ▶ Michalak, S. (2012) This changes everything: Transforming the academic library. *Journal of Library Administration*. **52**(5), pp.411-423
- ▶ Shen, L. (2012) Improving the effectiveness of librarian-faculty collaboration on Library collection development. *Collaborative Librarianship*. **4**(1), pp.14-22.
- ▶ Christiansen, L., Strombler, M. and Thraxton, L. (2004) A report on Librarian-faculty relations from a sociological perspective. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*. **30**(2), pp.116-121.

- ▶ **Images:**
 - ▶ Cogs: http://pixabay.com/p-213655/?no_redirect
 - ▶ Research by mikede1973: <http://tinyurl.com/m4affd3>
 - ▶ Oct 22nd: Tools of the trade by scribbletaylor: <http://tinyurl.com/ltknaud>
 - ▶ Alien research lab by Paul Albertella: <http://tinyurl.com/px78zae>

