

MyReadingList

Decolonising Our Collections: Reading List Review

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Libraries & Collections has a responsibility to make available multiple narratives and perspectives that challenge coloniality and make available counter-forms of knowledge. This ethos will inform how we evolve, explore, research, interpret, contextualise, and describe our collections, and we will engage academics, students, publishers, and stakeholders in this endeavour.

In 2020-21 we held sessions with our library champions to review, discuss and promote our decolonising stance (as above) ensuring it meets the needs and expectations of their user group. We sought ways of introducing the student voice into the reading list process where it is currently absent, gathering further feedback on how reading lists are interacted with and identifying where our workflows/policies may be missing opportunities to provide more diverse perspectives.

We provided space for reflection, exploring what decolonising means for their discipline and went on to recommend and compare existing tools (from other institutions) for auditing a module's reading list. We advocated for a critical and dynamic approach to reading list materials and proactive exploration of the diversity of authors cited across their studies – how to recommend alternatives and investigating how we can meaningfully begin to dismantle where power creates homogeneity and unequal representation of those studying the materials. An example of this approach is an essay on representation across 5AANB008 History of Political Philosophy by student David Chandler.

From this work we have identified key learns, successes and challenges to further understand how we can keep progressing this work in the future. We will continue to collect recommendations for collection development for the purpose of decolonising and diversifying and identifying areas of our collection where we may be lacking representation and areas which need to grow. You can continue to recommend texts to us with this aim via the [Suggest a Book](#) form.

Make sure to sign up if you would like to be involved for 2021-22 where we aim to further our decolonising and diversifying efforts; building on the conversations we had over the last year and to create a King's specific tool or process for critically appraising your programme's resources.

**LIBRARY
CHAMPION**

2020-21