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## Pivoting a Health Sciences Leisure Reading Collection in a New Direction

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## Background

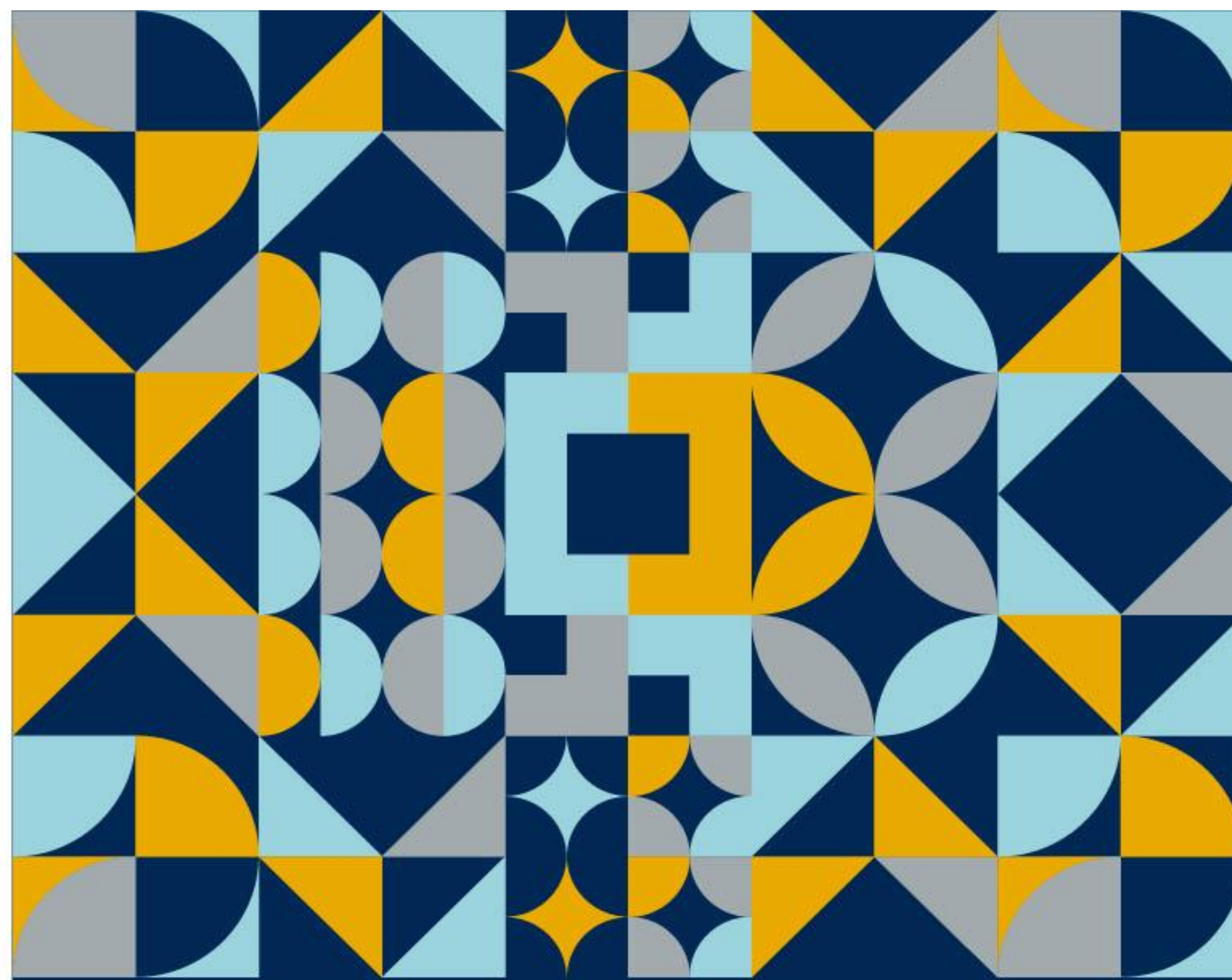
The dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial inequity brought renewed attention to establishing a leisure reading collection in the West Virginia University Health Sciences Library. Such a collection had long been on our wish list, but had never been achievable due to budget constraints. With a renewed University emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion, and an unexpected \$5,000 donation, the decision was made to purchase books written by patients and medical practitioners of marginalized groups and those offering diverse perspectives on the practice of medicine.

## Methods

- Collection includes graphic medicine titles, medical memoirs and reflections, and those emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in medicine.
- Formats include 92 print titles, 42 eBooks, and 10 eAudiobooks.
- Titles were selected using the following recommended reading lists: Essential Graphic Medicine: An Annotated Bibliography, the National Network of the Library of Medicine's Reading Club, and Medical Library Association Reads selections.
- Librarians collaborated with a graphic designer to create marketing materials, including an easel poster, tabletop signage, and an announcement for the WVU online information system. The collection was also made a "featured collection" in the WVU Libraries' Overdrive platform.

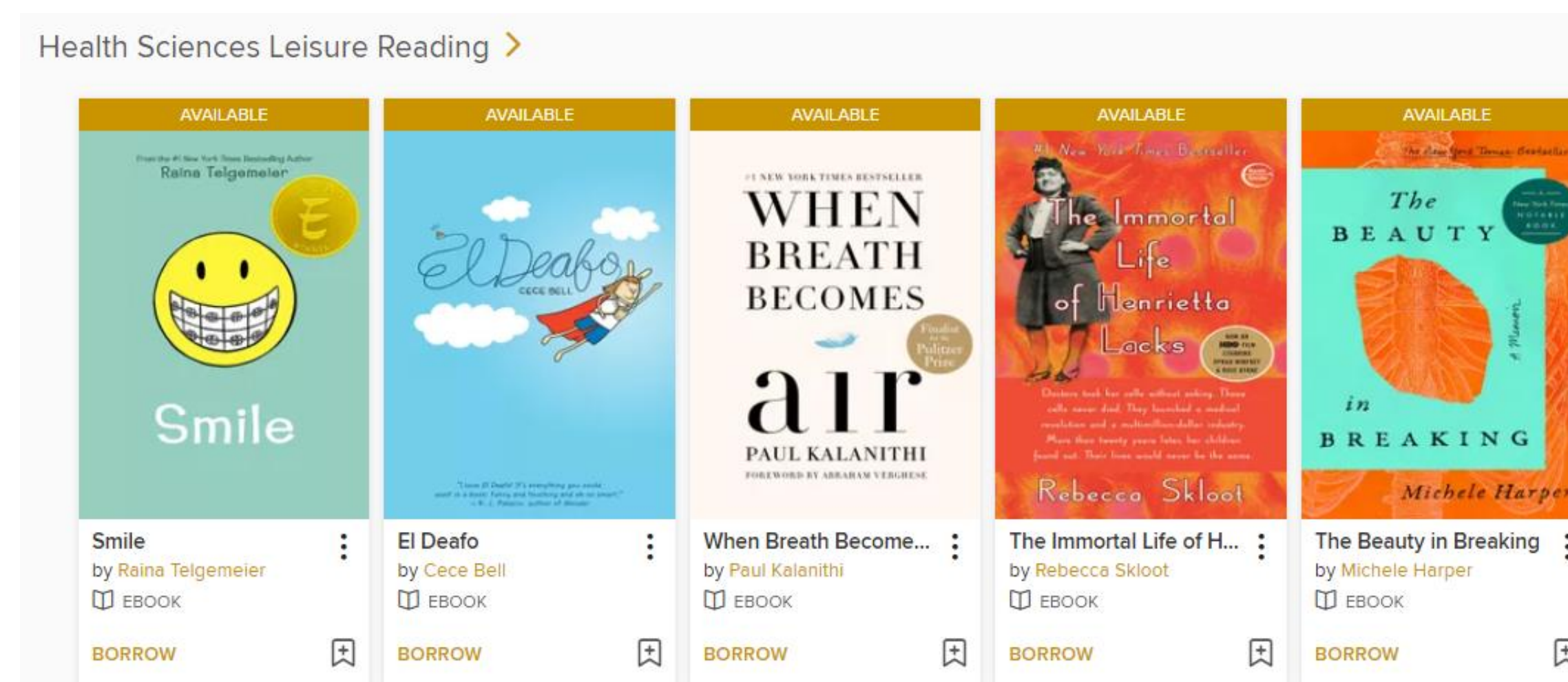
## Most Popular Titles To Date

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	12
The Gene: An Intimate History	10
Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present	9
The Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir	6
The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma	4



**GRAND OPENING**  
**LEISURE READING COLLECTION**  
We are happy to announce the launch of the Health Sciences Library Leisure Reading Collection.

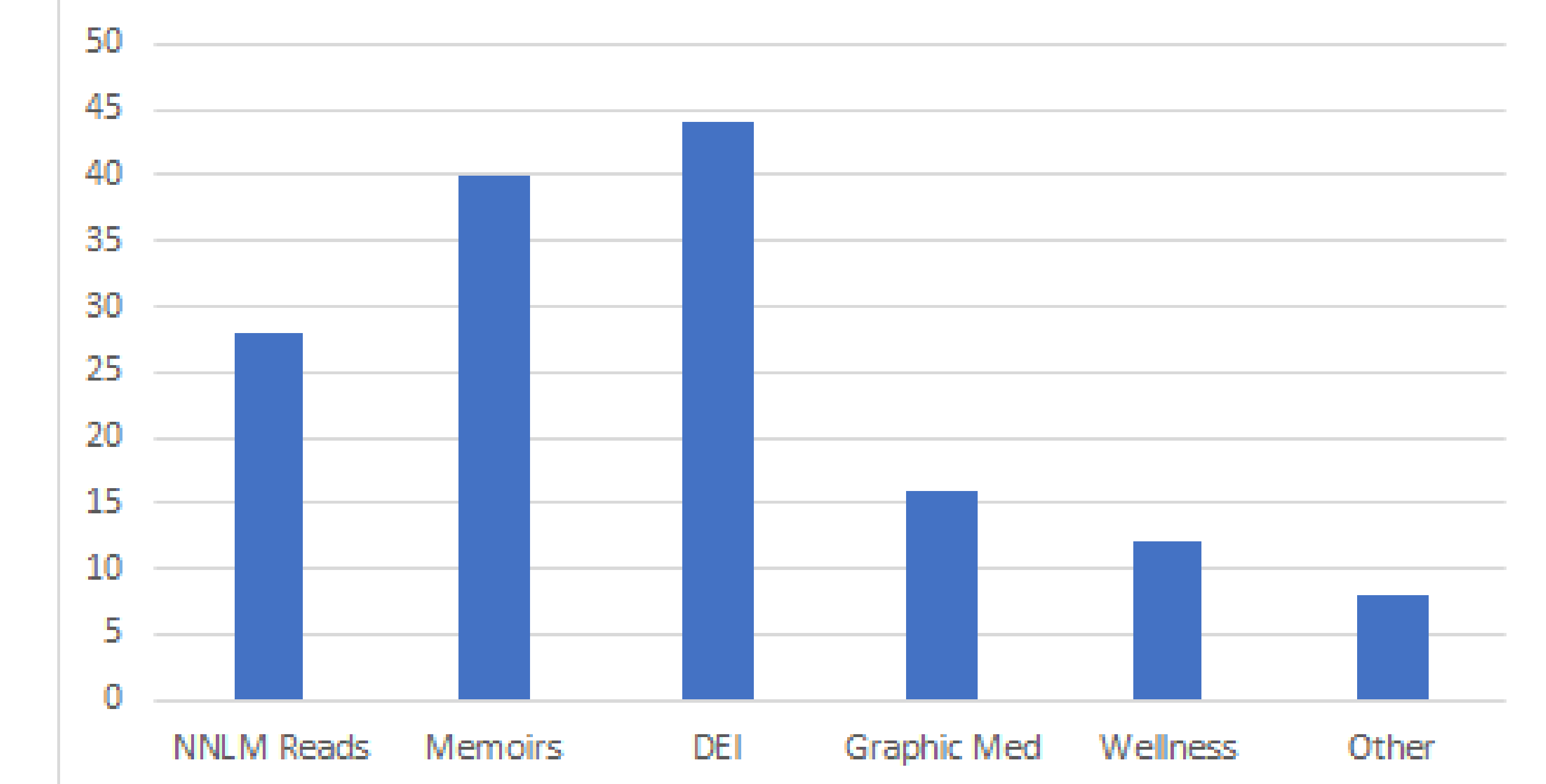
## Featured Collection on WVU Libraries' Overdrive Platform



## Results

- The most popular topics in our collection so far have been DEI in medicine titles and personal narratives. This could be because the School of Medicine is putting more of an emphasis on cultural competency and DEI issues.
- eAudiobook titles have been more popular than anticipated, with 10 books resulting in 22 total checkouts.
- Patrons have requested new print books before library employees had time to shelve them.

## Percent Usage by Category



## Conclusions

- Collection publicity will be our next area of focus.
- The digital half of the collection is receiving more attention from patrons. eBooks and eAudiobooks will be given more priority in future purchase decisions.
- Title recommendations from library users will continue to be encouraged.
- Books written by patients and medical practitioners of marginalized groups and those offering diverse perspectives on the practice of medicine will continue to be prioritized.

- Emphasis dovetailed with the Libraries' Strategic Roadmap goals and the WVU Wellbeing Priorities.
- Collection goals:
  - Allow current students to see themselves in their future careers in new and unique ways.
  - Help introduce health sciences students to the conversation around implicit bias in medicine early in their careers.

## Popularity of Formats

Format	% of Collection	Checkouts
Print Books	64%	18
eBooks	29%	29
eAudiobooks	7%	22

## Contact

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