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Poster Session: "I know they are very popular, but they still have issues." Student eBook Preferences & COVID-19

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“I know they are very popular, but they still have issues.” Student eBook Preferences & COVID-19

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Introduction

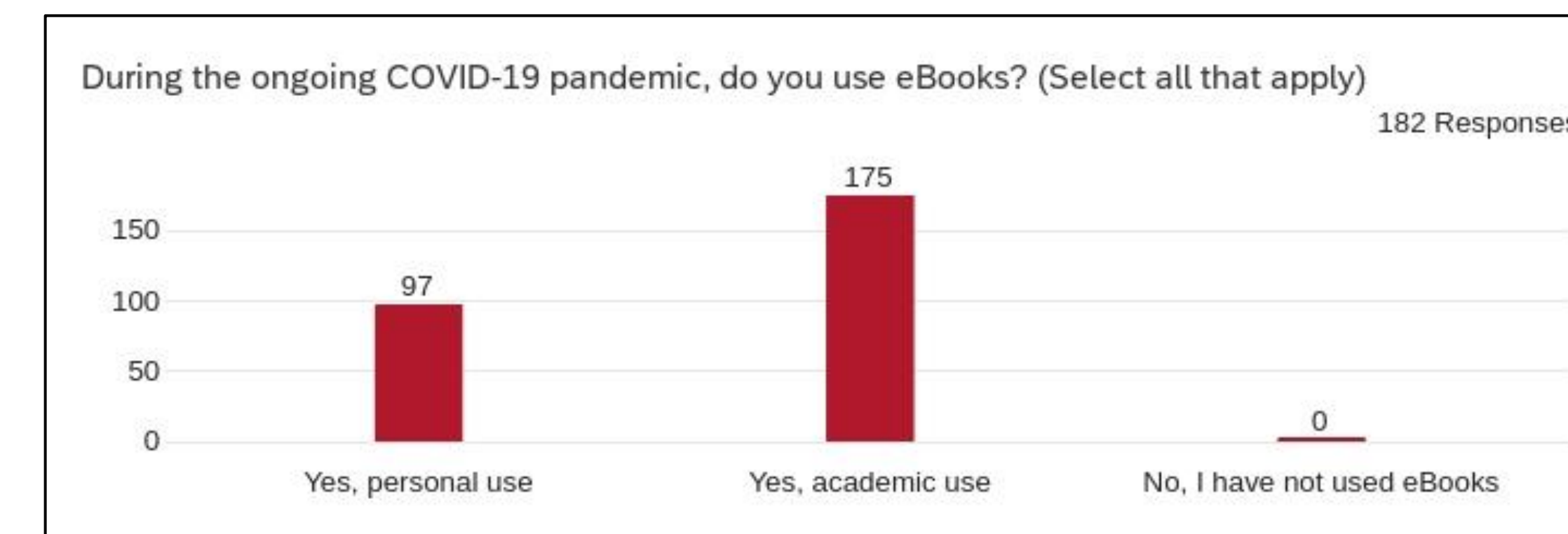
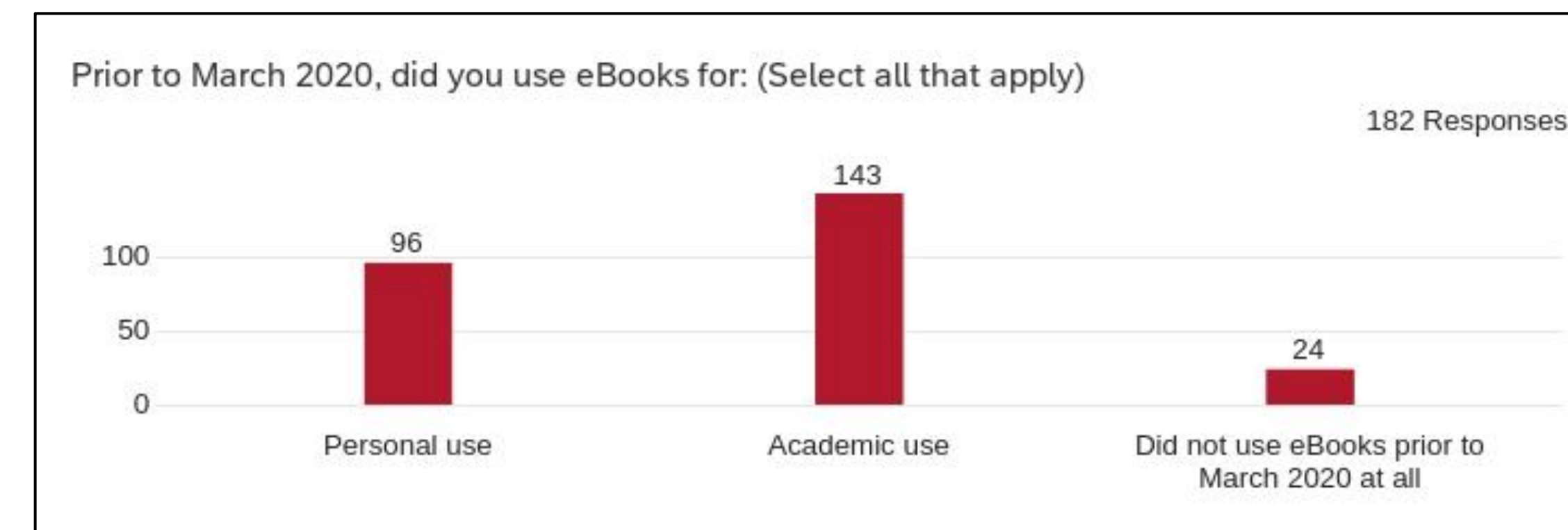
When the pandemic began and institutions moved to remote learning, many libraries enacted a ‘digital-first strategy’ and concentrated on purchasing eBooks in lieu of print materials. This required students to use eBooks for academic purposes. We wanted to know **if student attitudes towards eBook usage changed as a result of the forced adoption of eBooks in academic settings.** Should libraries continue to focus their collection budgets on eBook purchases? What do students think about using eBooks in an academic context? What tools do they prefer or dislike?

Methodology

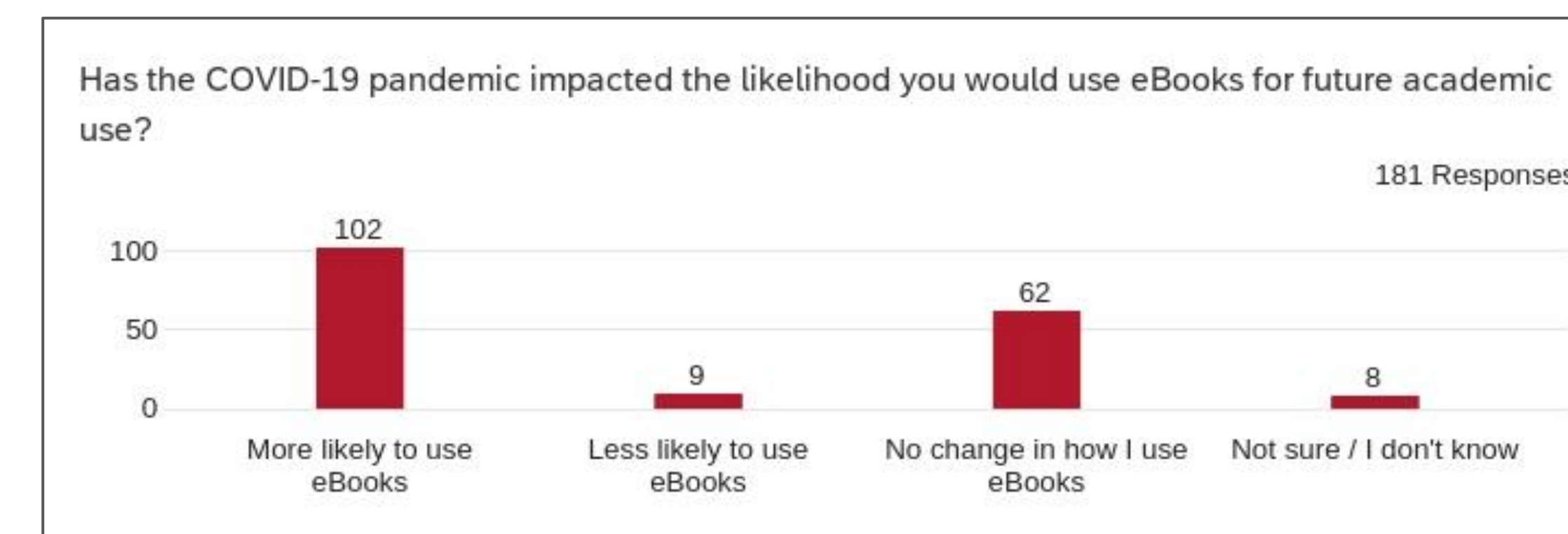
- An anonymous Qualtrics survey was emailed to all students at ISU (4/15/2022), RFUMS (4/26/2022), CTS (6/14/2022), and to a sample of students at DU (5/17/2022)
- All survey questions were optional & students could discontinue or drop out at any time
- The survey had 19 questions (not including demographic and consent questions) and remained open until 7/7/2022
- 291 students agreed to fill out the survey; 205 met the survey’s criteria. **A total of 182 students completed all or part of the survey (n=182)**

Preliminary Results:

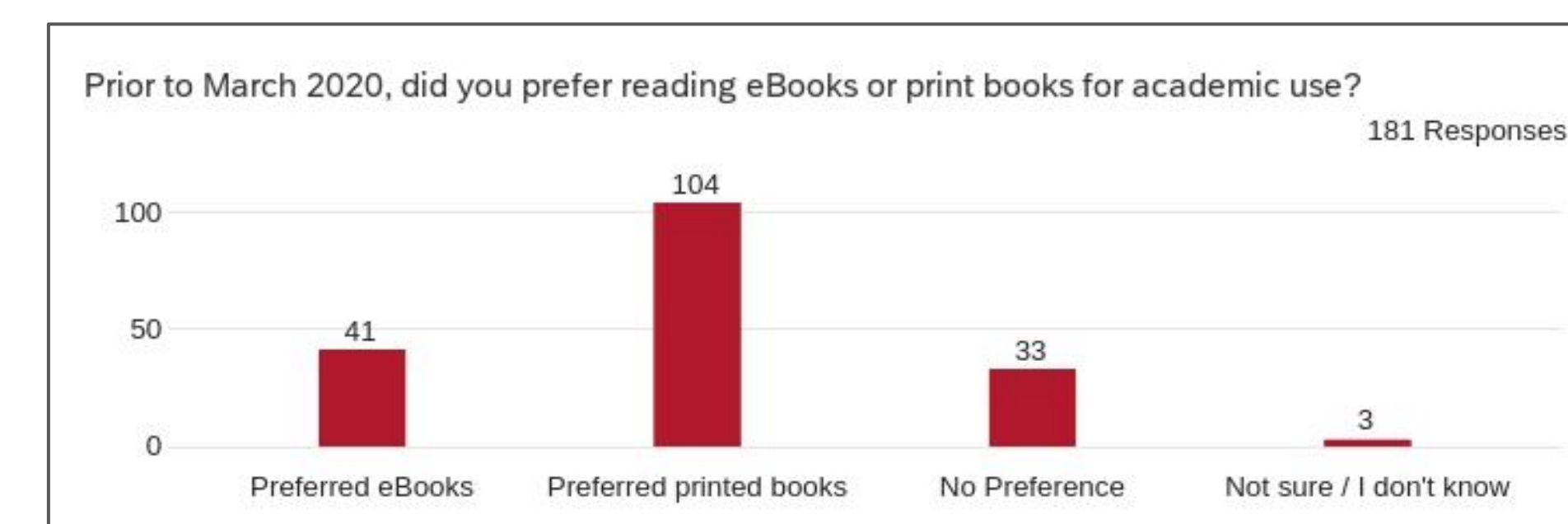
Prior to March 2020 vs. current pandemic eBook use



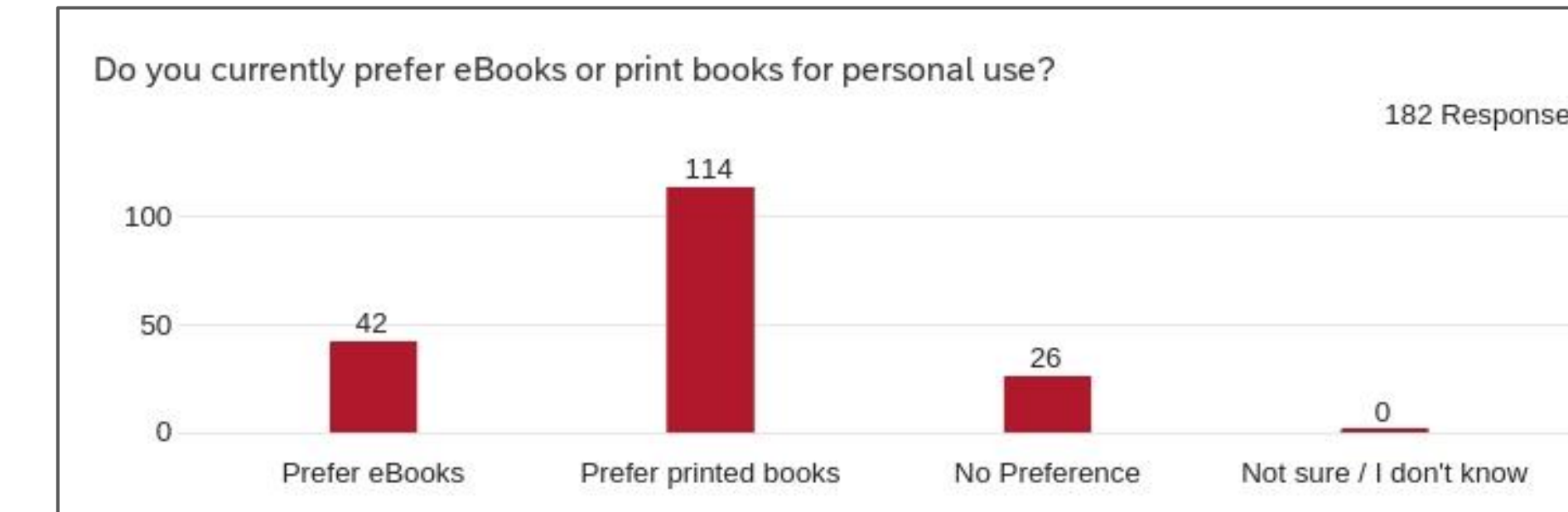
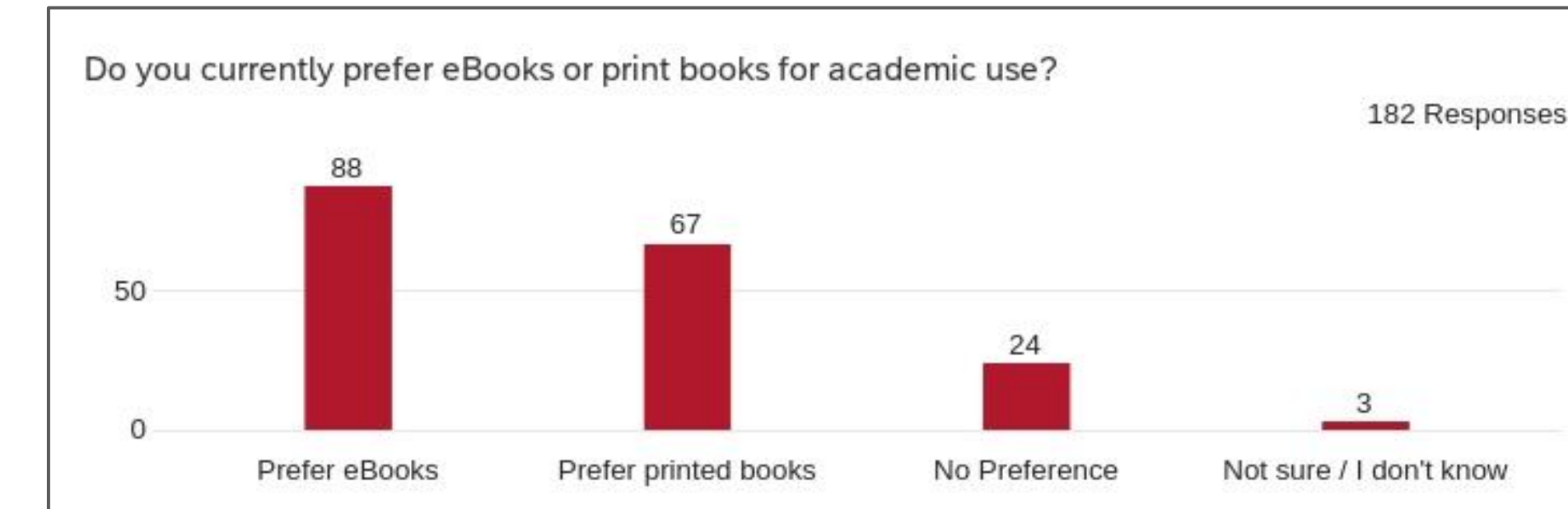
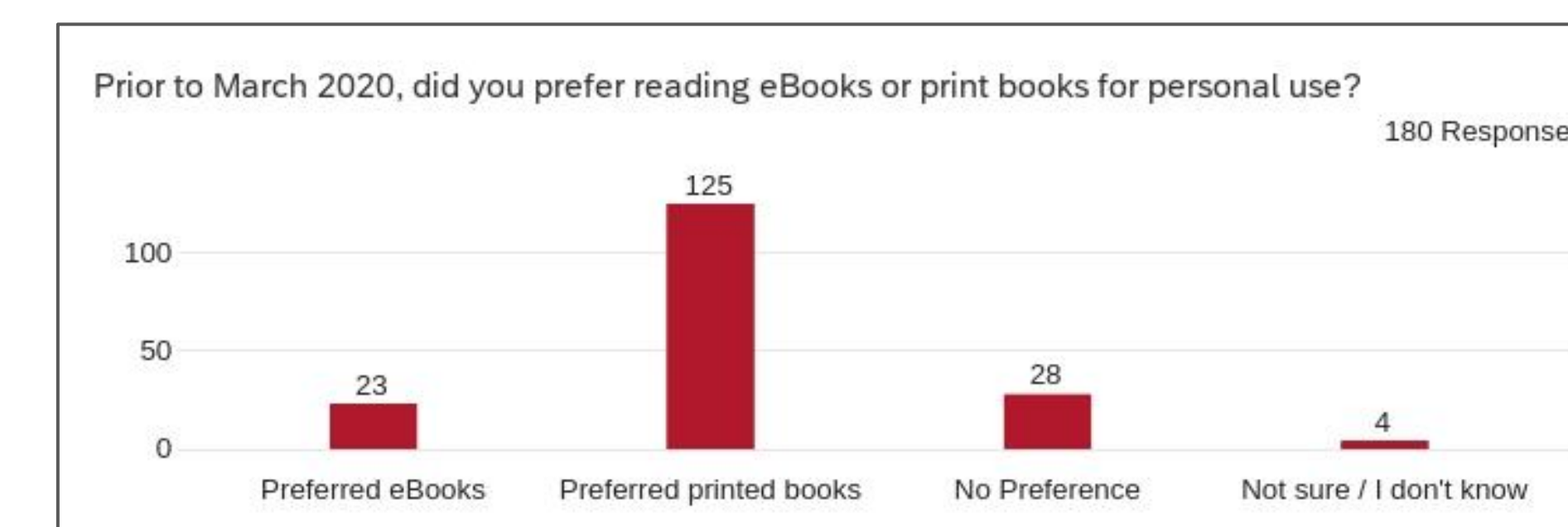
Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on academic eBook use



eBook vs. Print preference for academic use



eBook vs. Print preference for personal use



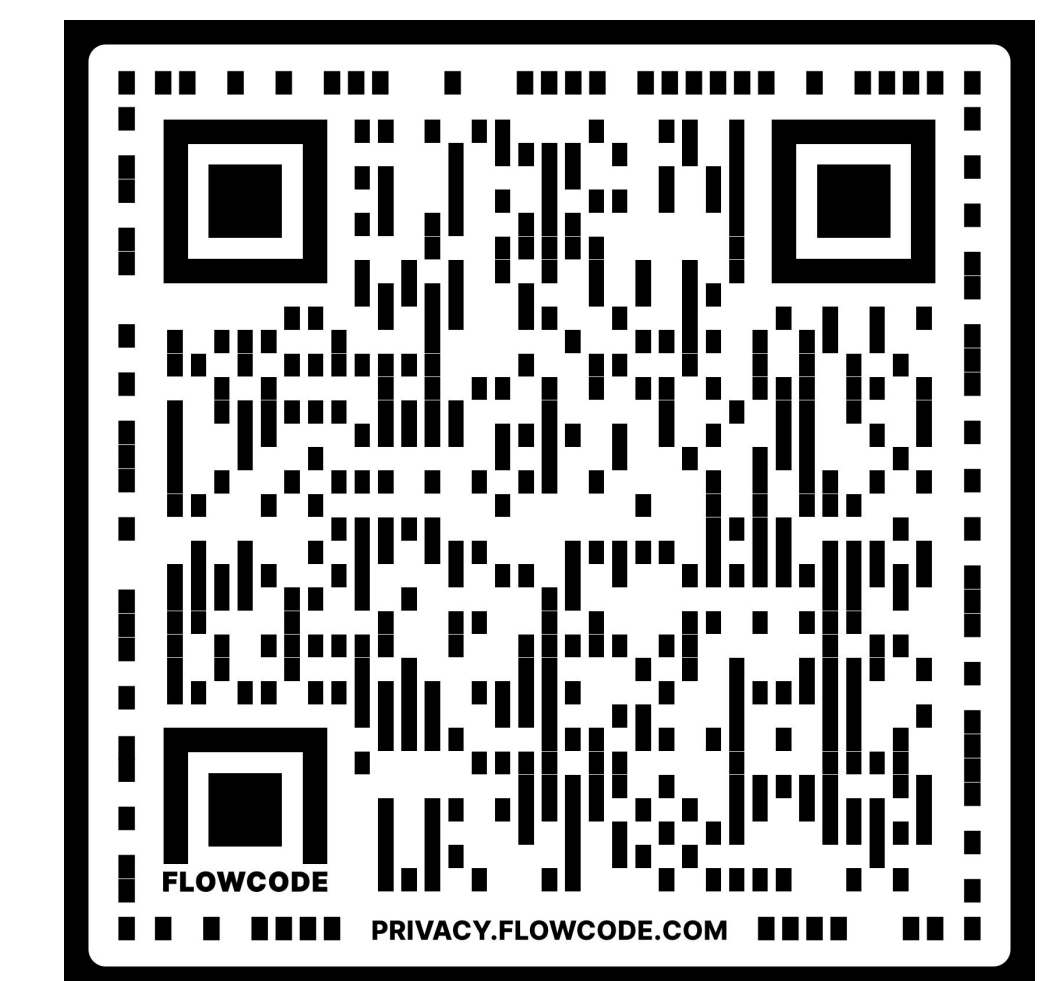
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Next Steps

- Further explore findings from original survey and continue data analysis of qualitative responses
- Write and present contributed paper for ACRL 2023 Conference in Pittsburgh, PA
- Consider future surveys and assessments to gather additional data about student attitudes towards eBooks

Survey Instrument



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