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Composers of Color in our Libraries: A Study of Composers of Color included in Rob Deemer's Composer Diversity Database and how they are represented in WorldCat

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Composers of Color in our Libraries

A Study of Composers of Color included in Rob Deemer's Composer Diversity Database and how they are represented in WorldCat

Michael J. Duffy IV, Fine Arts Librarian, Western Michigan University

Introduction – Representations of Composers of Color in Library Collections



Relevant Recent Literature

- William C. Banfield, *Musical Landscapes in Color: Conversations with Black American Composers* (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2003).
- Judith Tick and Paul Beaudoin, eds., *Music in the USA: A Documentary Companion* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Eunjung Choi and Laura J. Keith, “Cultural Diversity: Resources for Music Educators in Selected Works of Three Contemporary African-American Classical Composers,” *Music Educators Journal* 103, no. 2 (2016): 35-40.
- Robert Davidson and Mandy Lupton, “’It Makes You Think Anything Is Possible’: Representing Diversity in Music Theory Pedagogy,” *British Journal of Music Education* 33, no. 2 (2016): 175-89.

Methodology

Data compiled from:

- Composer Diversity Database, part of the Institute for Composer Diversity at SUNY Fredonia
- Library of Congress Authority File
- WorldCat (FirstSearch)

Small Sample for comparisons randomized with:

- RANDOM.org

Data analyzed using:

- Excel

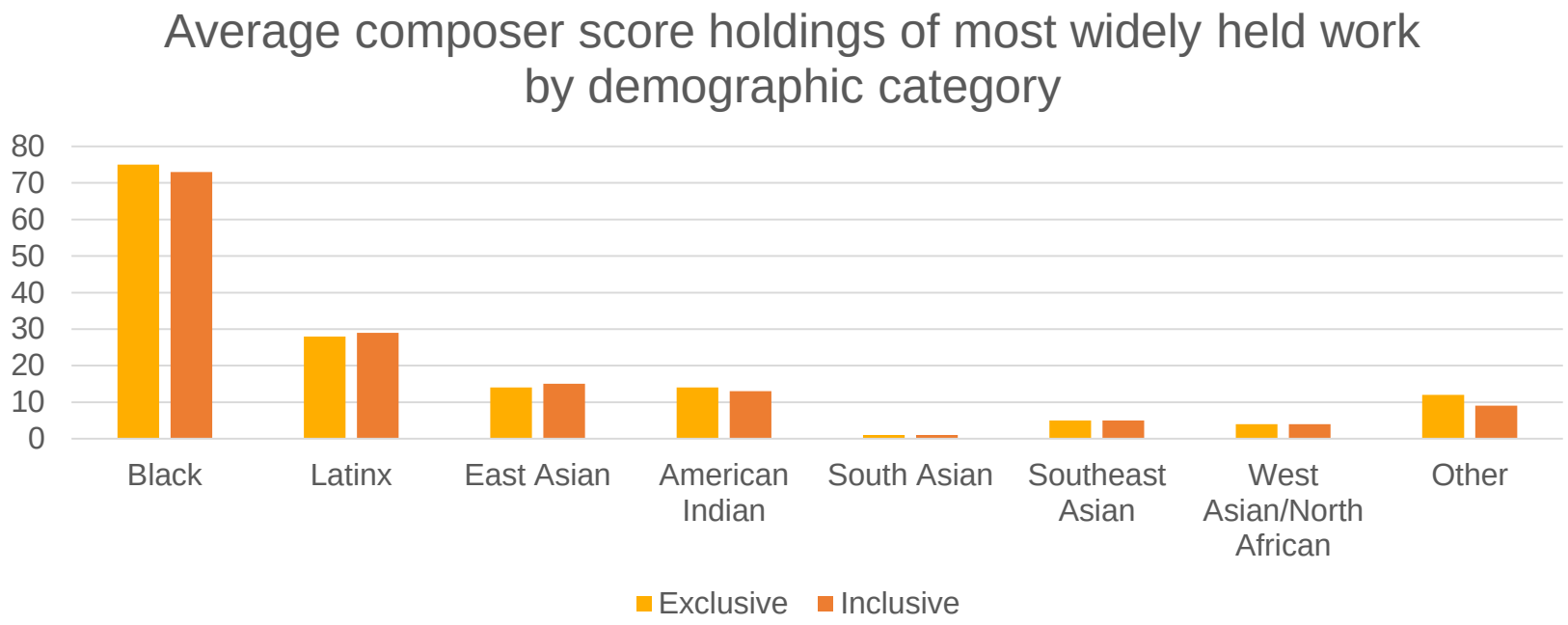
Name Headings

- 750 of the 1,174 names searched (64%) have name headings in the Library of Congress Authority File
- 715 (61%) obviously matched the name heading

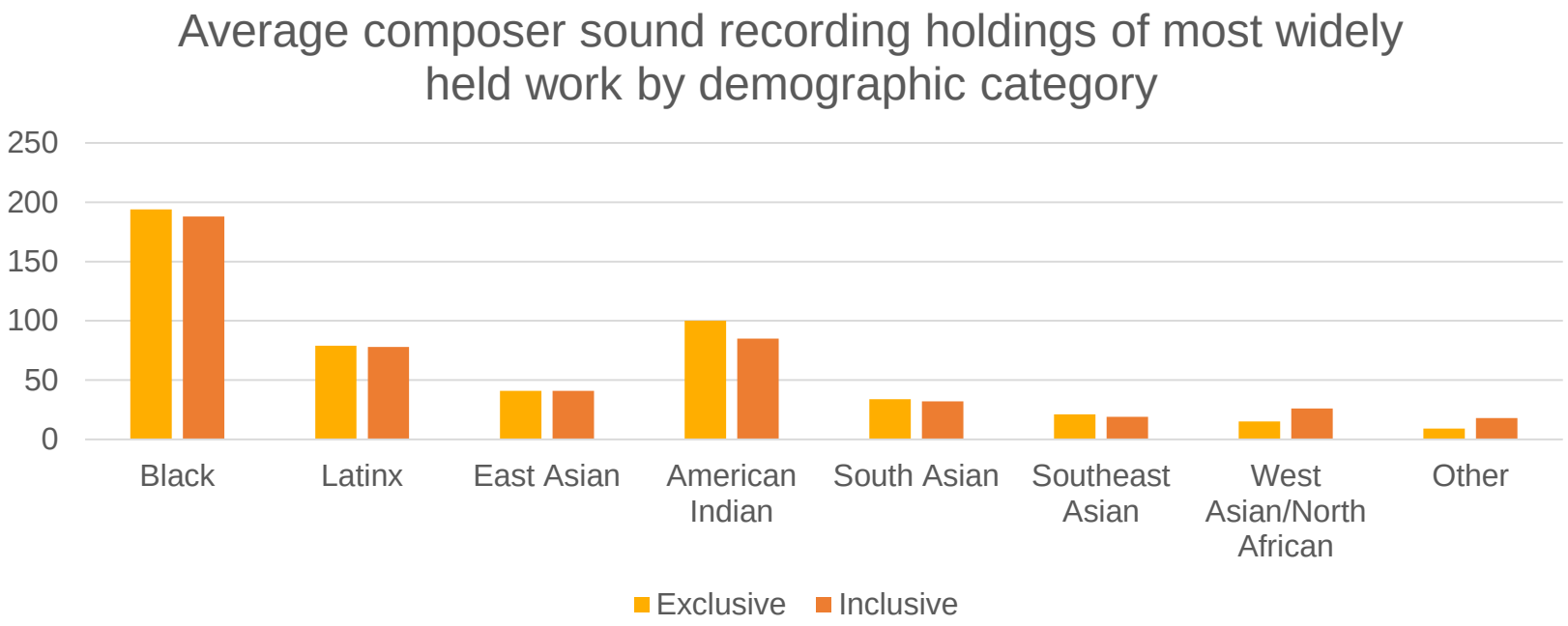
Holdings in Libraries

- Average number of library holdings of the most widely held score in the set: 34
- Average number of library holdings of the most widely held sound recording in the set: 93
- 530 of the composers (45%) show zero holdings of scores
- 333 of the composers (28%) show zero holdings of sound recordings

Holdings in Libraries – Scores



Holdings in Libraries – Sound Recordings



Bibliographic Records in WorldCat

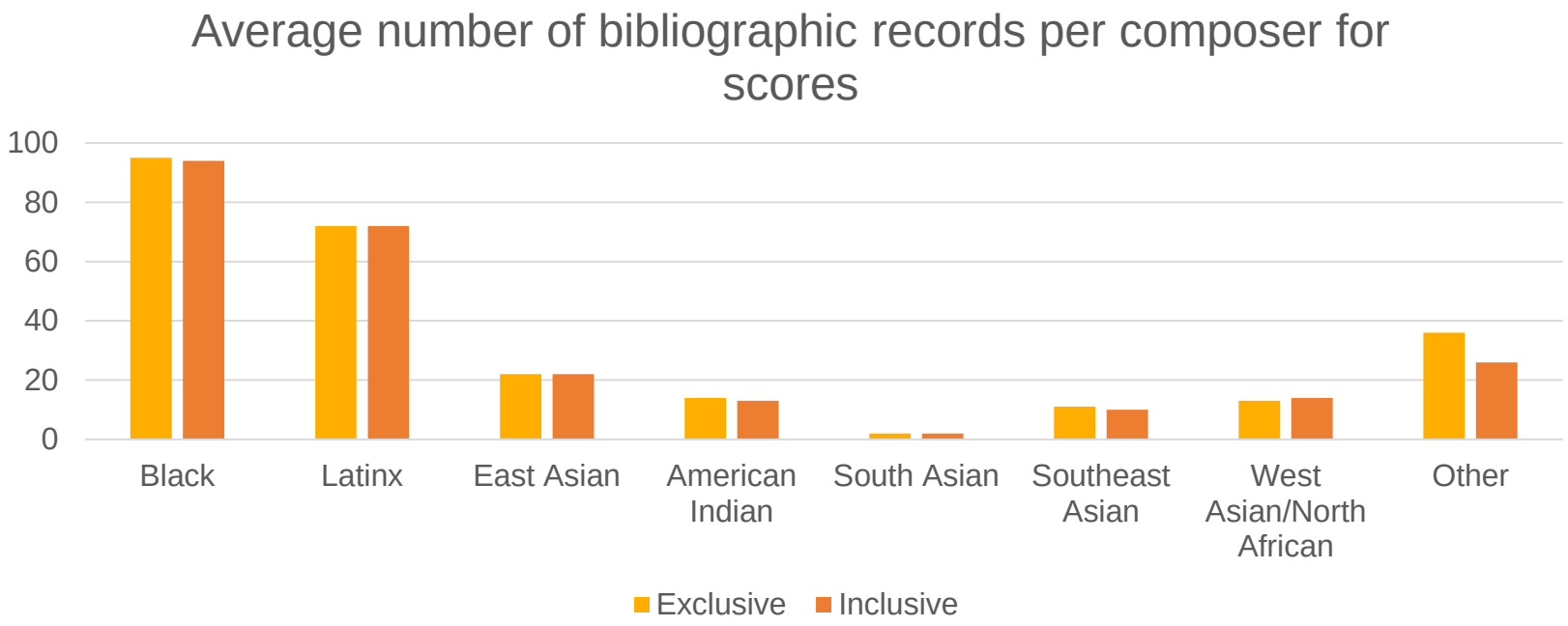




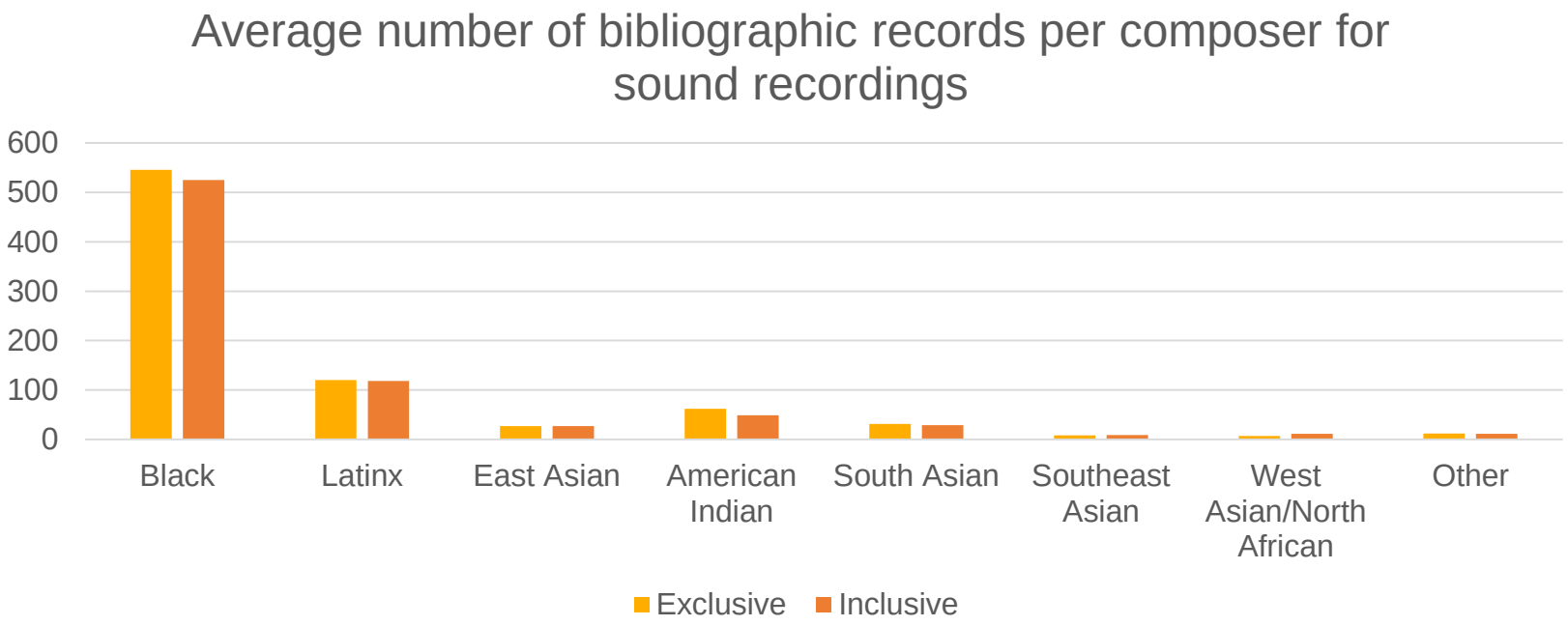
Bibliographic Records in WorldCat

- Average scores in WorldCat: 55
- Average sound recordings in WorldCat: 198

Bibliographic Records in WorldCat -- Scores



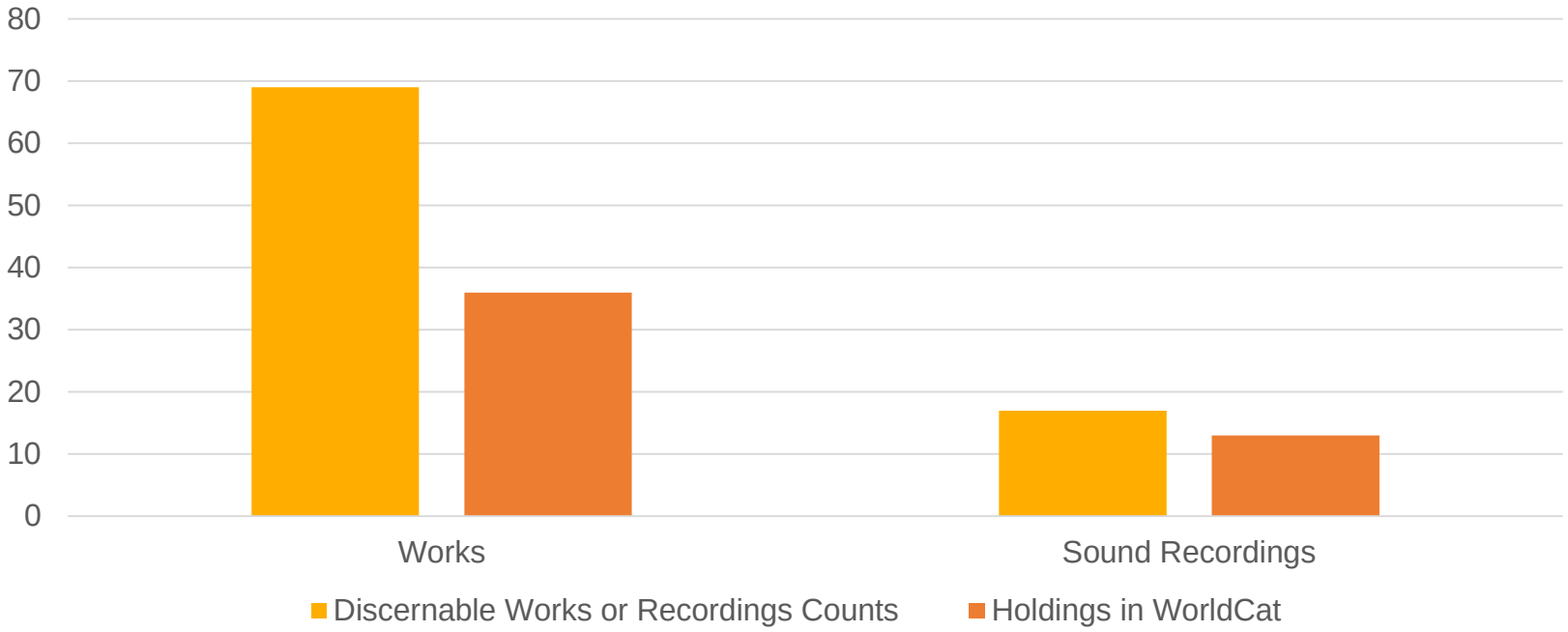
Bibliographic Records in WorldCat – Sound Recordings



Random Sample (n = 118)

- 69 composers (58% of sample) were found to have a discernable number of scores produced
  - 36 of these (52%) were found to have score holdings in WorldCat
- 17 composers (14% of sample) were found to have a discernable number of sound recordings produced
  - 13 of these (76%) were found to have sound recording holdings in WorldCat

Random Sample of Composers of Color



From the 10% Sample

Of note: 42% of composers with a discernable number of scores had zero holdings in WorldCat

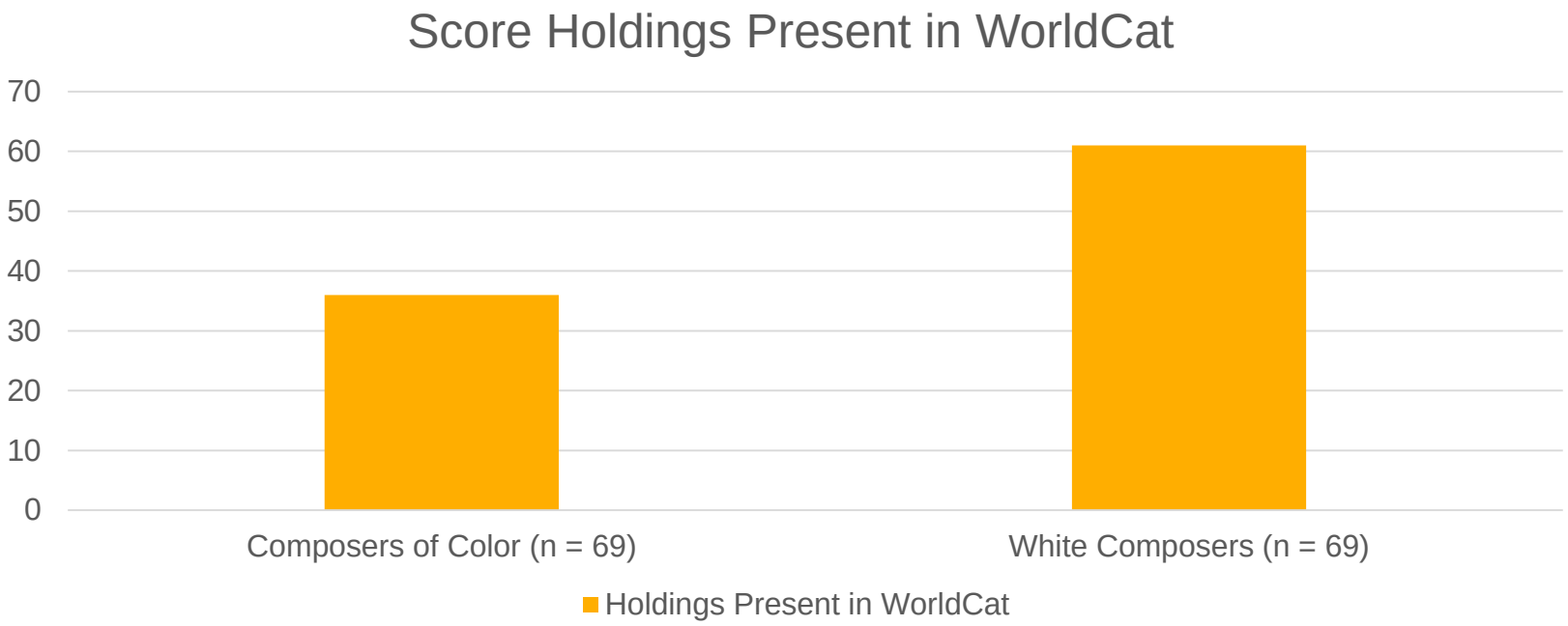
Discussion

- Limitations
- Surprised to find name headings for 64% of the composers
- High rates of composers with zero holdings in libraries

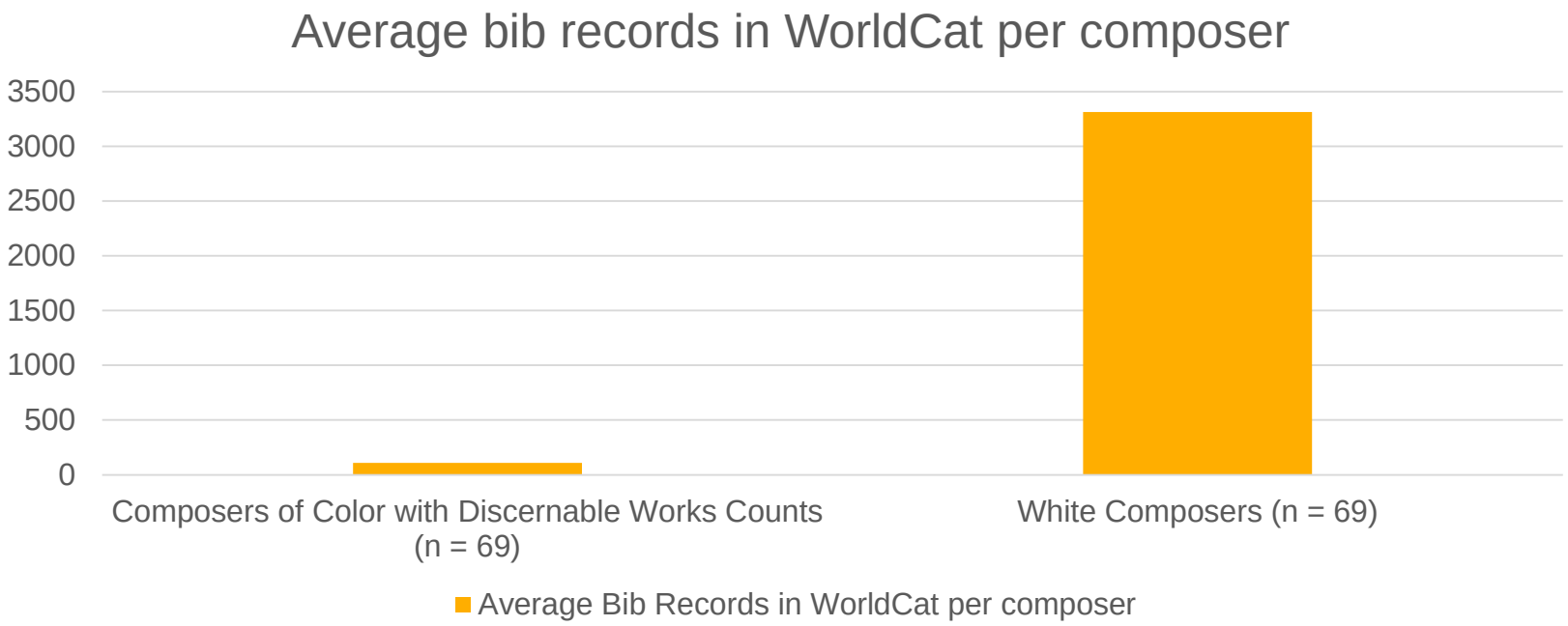
Sample of White Composers

- For comparison, I obtained a sample of white composers – to correspond to the 69 composers of color from the sample with discernable works counts
- 57 living white composers – identified from programs from the Composers, Inc. website – I looked up composers' websites and included them if they appeared white in photos – for lack of a better way of identifying white composers
- 12 dead white composers – the first 12 dead white composers identified from this season's Classical Series programs of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra

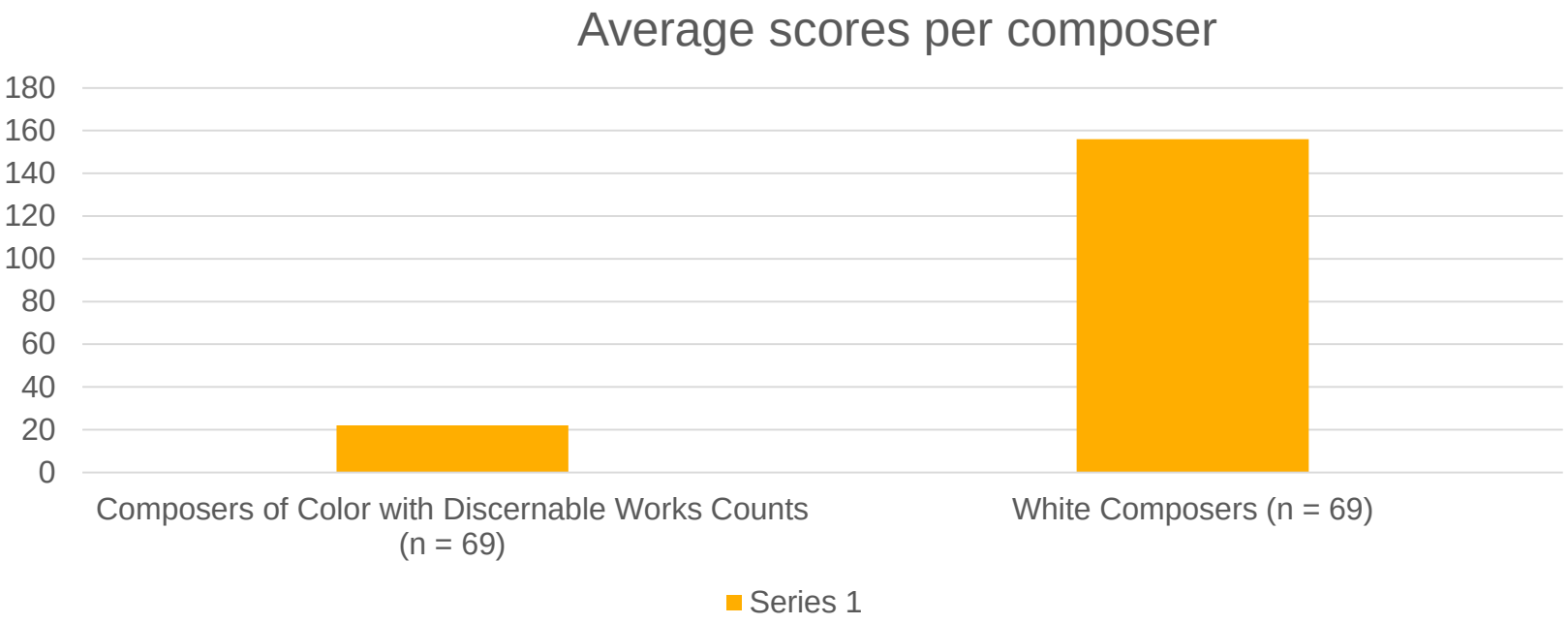
Random Sample Score Holdings vs. White Composers



Average Number of Bibliographic Records in WorldCat



Average Number of Score Holdings by Composer for the Most Widely Held Score



Conclusion



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