

# Modernising the Past

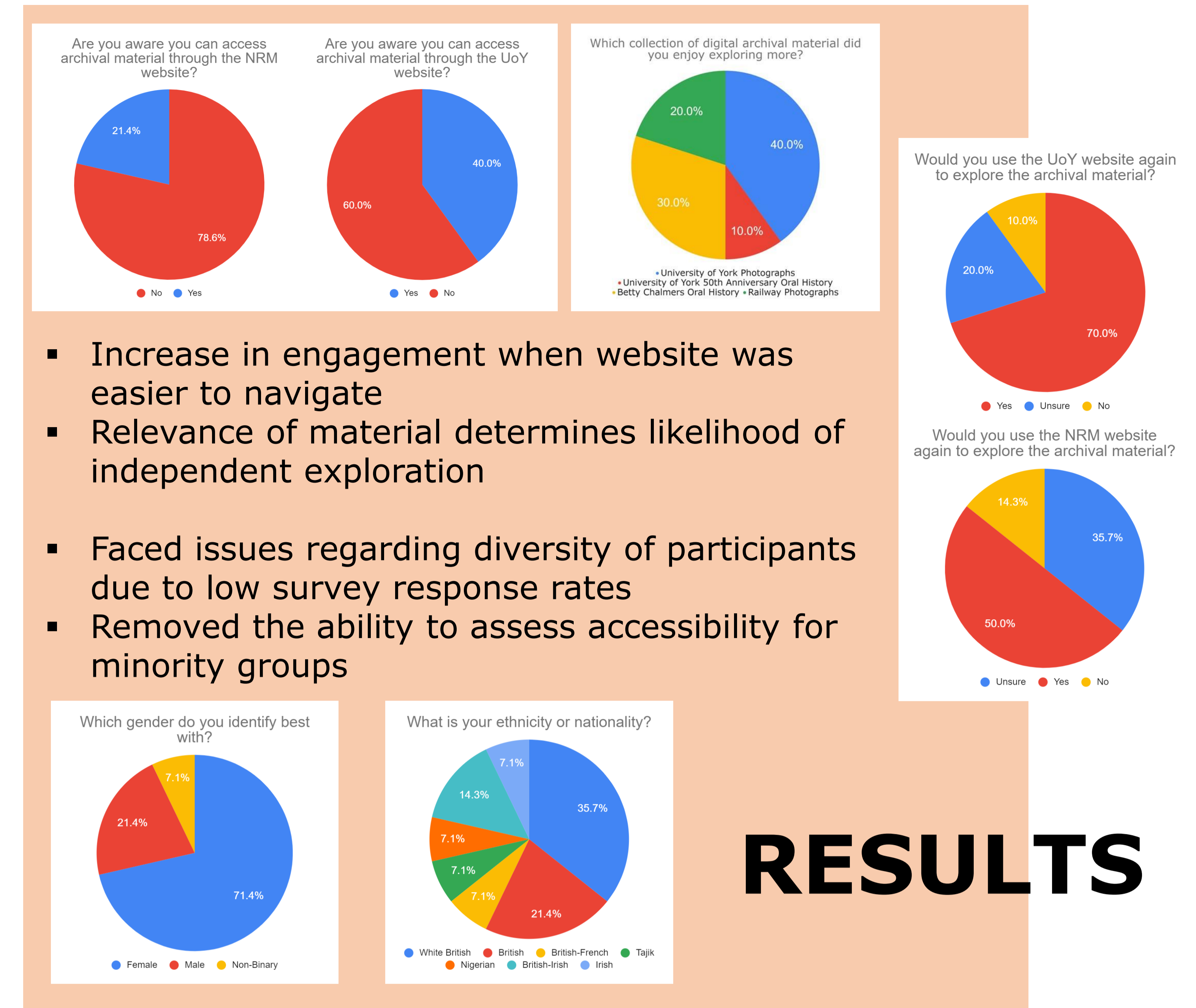
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## Archive

a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people  
 'ARCHIVE | Meaning & Definition for UK English | Lexico.Com'

## OVERVIEW

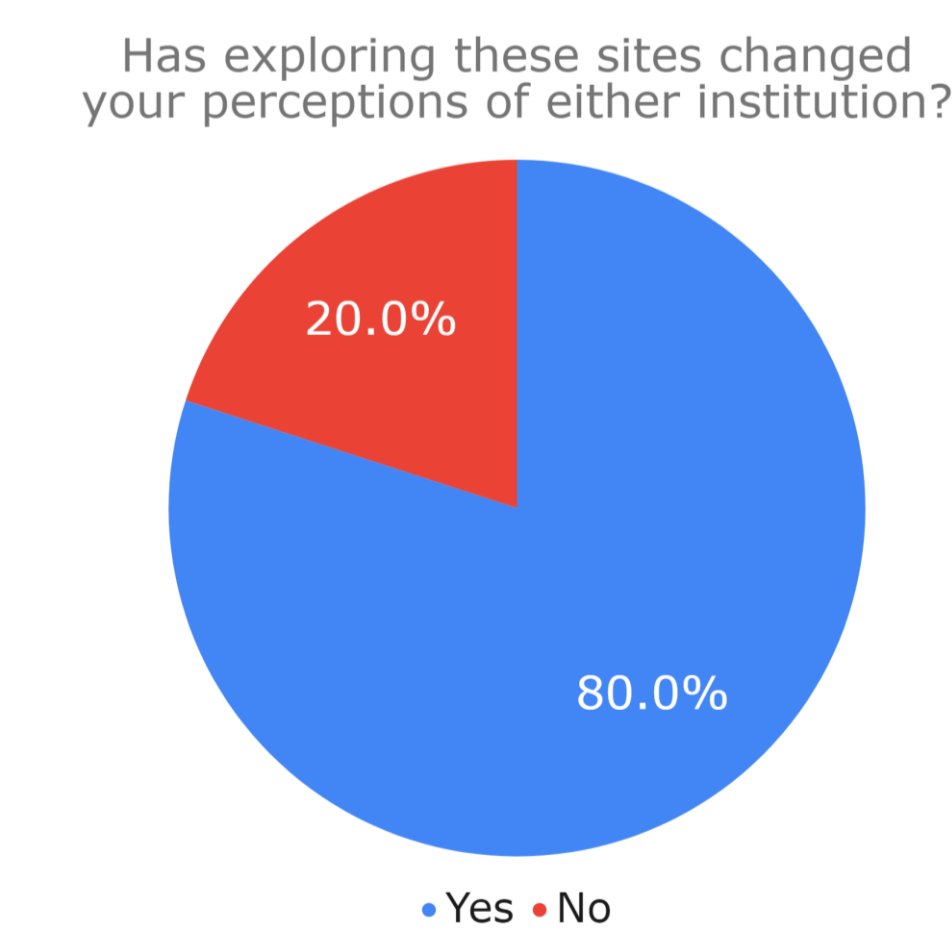
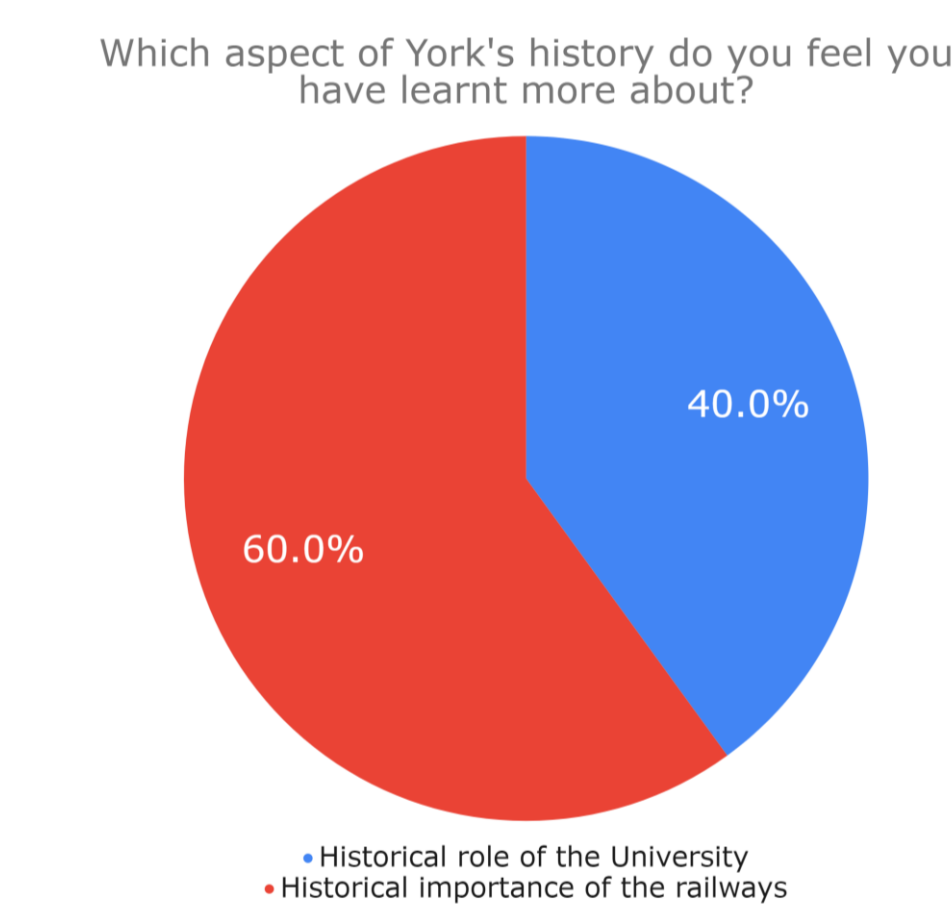
- How does putting material held within archives online improve the accessibility of history?
- What is the impact of this in local communities?
- How do local attitudes change after being exposed to this online material?
- Why should funding be provided to digitize archival material?



## RESULTS

- Increase in engagement when website was easier to navigate
- Relevance of material determines likelihood of independent exploration
- Faced issues regarding diversity of participants due to low survey response rates
- Removed the ability to assess accessibility for minority groups

## CONCLUSION



- Digitization improves community interest and understanding of their own history
- Demonstrates validity of oral and photographic historical sources
- Lack of awareness within the local York community of free online archive access
- Perceived relevance of the material to the individual determines the likelihood to explore the material
- Lack of funding prevents accessibility issues from being solved

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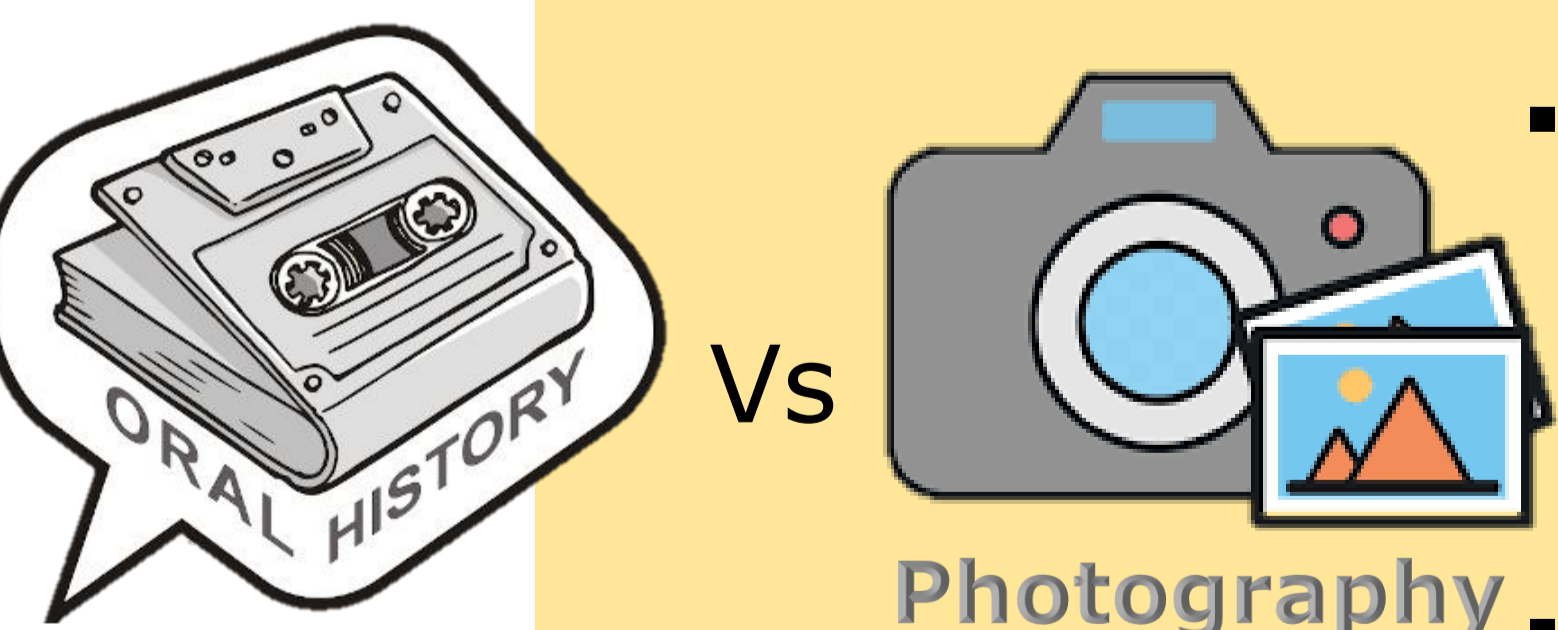
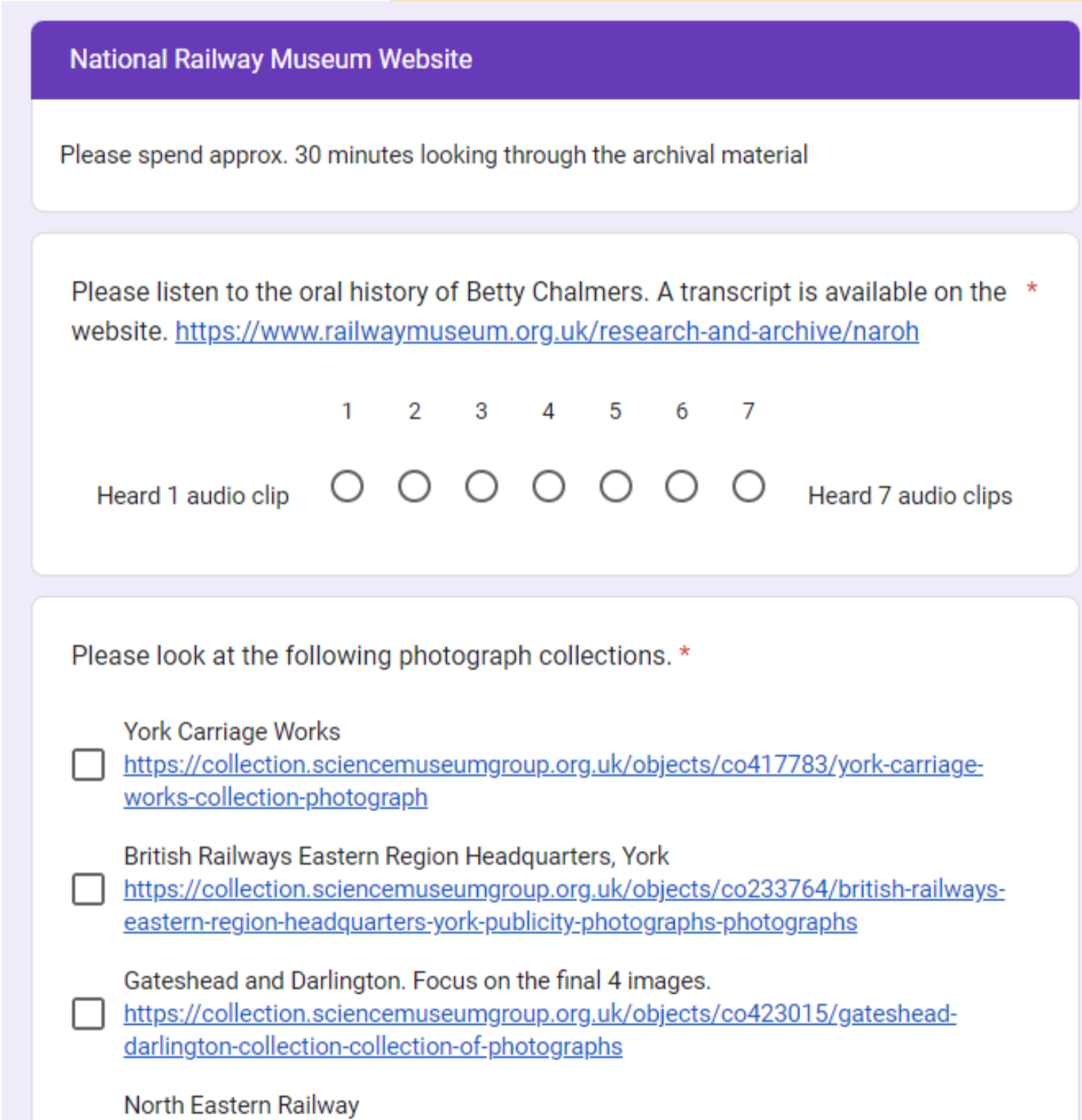
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## UNIVERSITY of York vs RAILWAY MUSEUM



LISTEN TO THE ORAL HISTORIES HERE

- Conducted a survey on change in local attitudes after exploring online material
- Used newspaper articles from founding years of the institutions to establish previous local attitudes
- Studied historical debate surrounding validity of oral and photographic sources (Portelli, 1981/1991; Seagraves, 2020; Trouillot, 2015)
- Researched political and economic influences of digitisation (Ovenden, 2021; Thompson, 2017)



## METHODOLOGY

### Acknowledgements

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