

Collection Management: Share the Experience @ Edinburgh

Collection management at
Leeds

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Collection management at Leeds – Round up all the usual scenarios

- Space
 - Lack of it
 - Re-purposing of user space
- Money (esp. in relation to collection development)
- Prevalence of older and less-used stock
- Balancing act between collections for learning/teaching & research
- The shift to ‘e’
- Liaison and the academic buy-in
- The increasing need to identify/preserve/protect valuable and rare stock

Further background

- A new library
- A refurbished library
- Potential for cross-institutional collection management (White Rose)
- National initiatives
- Agreed collection management strategy
- Availability of an agreed theoretical framework (Heritage, Legacy, etc)
- Availability of tools to do the job
- Need for rational, purposeful, contextualised, managed collection development

Further background 2

- No ‘academic liaison librarians’
- Question of upon whom it falls to work out what the academics want:
 - Academic departments Library reps already set-up
 - Face-to-face meetings with academics
- Team developed & established to do collection assessment & academic liaison (6 people who have these areas built into part of their job descriptions)

Strengths and opportunities, rather than weaknesses and threats?

- Devise the approach to CM post-liaison librarians
- Get rid of (some) space-consuming dead wood (print not people!)
- Re-arrange our research collections into thematically related groupings (SciEng; SocSci; Arts & Humanities; Medical) on a site-by-site basis
- See where our subject or collection strengths are
- Decide what must be kept
- See how we measure up against our two regional partners, but much more so against Russell Group & RLUK peers

How?

- Subject-by-subject number-crunching using the COPAC Collection Management Tool (to reveal data on rarity/uniqueness) - first live chance to use the CCM Tool
- Combine with circ data from Sierra
 - Heavy reliance on 20 years' worth of circulation data in the LMS
- 'Put them together and what have you got?'
- Decide on parameters for decision-making

Working in a vacuum?

- No! Consideration given to:
 - Former Faculty Teams' acquisitions and collection policies
 - Faculty Team Librarians' handover notes
 - Previous REF/RAE assessments
 - UKRR obligations
 - What we anecdotally or otherwise know is going on
- Work of the previous Collections Officer
- Stock editing so far has followed due consultation with relevant Faculties/Schools either directly or via Library Reps, in particular Law
- Whole raft of different & complex information being brought together

Recording methodology

- Data indicating sector-wide holdings embedded into bibliographic records
- Data format at present invented by ourselves
- Looking to move to the standard proposed by phase 2 of the CCM Project (MARC 583, etc.)

Decisions, decisions & other outcomes so far

- Subject categorisation? Not that many decisions so far
- Need to see the whole picture across all subjects (interdisciplinary interrelatedness (!) of research)
- All this takes time and involves a degree of risk, but...
- We have an established team dedicated to collection assessment
- We have a methodology for getting the data together
- We have some parameters (e.g. 40% only at Leeds = rare = Heritage or Legacy)

Collection assessment & management at Leeds

– What next?

- Finish the assessment work on our Art & Humanities collections
- Make some definite decisions as to Heritage & Legacy
- Discard and relegation to Store decisions
- Look more at how our library collections mutually sit with Special Collections
- And....

...Do some collection development!!!

- Liaison with researchers and research units
- Look for current and projected areas of research interest and activity:
 - IR bibliometrics
 - Symplectic
 - Register of research interests?
 - Scrape academics' profile pages?
 - SciVal
 - REF (again)
- We'll get some idea what we have, and what we don't need, but recognising the gaps might be a whole different story

Further reading

LUL *Library Collections Strategy*

https://library.leeds.ac.uk/download/downloads/id/149/collections_strategy.pdf



Questions? Discussion?