

Summary of themes from the Decision Tree workshop.

Treat as a Special Collection?

Many of the decision strands were the same as those determined by Bristol.

There were differences of opinion regarding the date criteria, some said 1850, some 1901, some wanted a moving wall.

Some groups questioned whether the physical location of stock should be considered (e.g. does it need to be kept within a certain relative humidity range?)

All of the groups thought that the “local factor” was key and material relating to the locality of the institution should be preserved as a special collection.

Monetary value of items should be considered (this was omitted by Bristol)

Candidate for relegation? (either move to store or withdraw completely)

Many of the decision strands were the same as those determined by Bristol.

Scarcity/availability was a key determining factor as well as number of loans and when last borrowed.

Some groups asked the question is there an electronic copy? This was not considered by Bristol and potentially is an important omission, this is something that will now be factored into Bristol’s tree. It also begs a series of questions – do we trust the e-resource to be always available? Did we purchase the resource? Is part of a subscription or a patron driven decision?

Worthy of a place on the open shelves?

Again, comforting to see that all groups are asking the same questions.

Some groups thought we should consider the monetary value of material (very valuable material may need extra security such as for consultation in closed access areas).

Sensitivity of content was another strand that should potentially be considered (again not covered in Bristol’s tree)

Bristol’s take away thoughts from the day:

- Ownership of e- material should be factored into the decision making process
- Consideration should be given to whether or not a book has been digitised
- Could the decision tree be used for the acquisition process?