Developing and implementing a Library Collections Policy to deliver and support ‘more’

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Policy versions:

» 2005 full Library Collections Policy written

» 2009 update of Key Policy Statements

» 2013 update to Key Policy Statements: our operational tool
Two dominant formats... access rather than ownership a critical factor

Policy accommodating variable factors: funding, space, research & teaching strategies

Balance between acquisition and withdrawal

Research pooling, and collaborative collection development

Cost of donations

Stores as a key element of collection management
Context of 2013 update
Background

» University growth plans

» Internationalisation / online

» Developing the ‘unique Edinburgh offer’

» Research Excellence
‘Growth,’ ‘increase’ = More!

‘Increase our total income per staff full-time equivalent (FTE) year-on-year, aiming for an increase of at least 10% in real terms’ (p.21)

‘Increase our headcount of non-EU international students by at least 2,000’ (p.27)

‘Increase the proportion of our building condition at grades A and B on a year-on-year basis, aiming for at least 90% by 2020’ (p.19)

‘Increase student satisfaction with learning resources (library, IT resources, study space and equipment) to at least 85%’ (p.19)

‘Increase our score (relative to the highest scoring institution) for the citations-based measure in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings to at least 94/100’ (p.11)

‘Increase our research grant income from EU and other overseas sources so that we enter the Russell Group upper quartile’ (p.27)

44 uses of the word ‘increase’ in the Strategic Plan
Process

» Developed through Library Collections Group

» Discussed at meetings with Heads of Schools

» Brought to College Library Committees

» Ratified by University Library Committee

» Note to Court for approval
Key Policy Statements (1)

1. Support teaching and research, and wider community – established as well as new methods of acquisition.

2. Heavily used general collections located where they can be best utilised by greatest concentration of users.

3. E-only model for acquisition and retention of journals.

Key Policy Statements (2)

5. Heritage and Special Collections developed to support learning and research.
6. Collect and preserve intellectual output.
7. Develop and implement Research Data Management policy and service.
8. Donations/transfers will be assessed prior to acceptance.
9. Deposits are only received as exception.
10. No more than one copy of a title is added or retained, unless...

11. Print journals will be assessed for relegation or disposal against long-term e-access.

12. Programme of transfer, relegation and disposal.

13. Proximity to other Libraries a factor in retention / discard of specialist categories of material.
Translation of strategy and policy:

» Main Library Redevelopment

» Rationalise/decant collections

» Materials budget

» New modes of acquisition

» Preservation

» Demonstrating usage
Redevelopment

» 1,723 to 2,140 study spaces (up 25%)
» 1.04M to 1.99M visits pa (up 90% from 2003/04 to 2013/14)
Rationalisation

» 107,314 books withdrawn = 2km

» £18k reinvested in materials

» Space value = £36k pa

» 200 new study spaces in 15/16

» Approx. 50% of collections from ML in store
Materials budget

» Increased 70.5% in ten years

» Growth linked to:

↑ student numbers (37% over ten years)

↑ publisher inflation charges (ave. 6% pa)
Methods of acquisition/access

No of e-books (purchased)
Enact policy: e-preference for books

- E-book latest edition
Student growth

37% growth in ten years

2005/06 - 2015/16
Resource usage by type 05/06 - 13/14

- E-journals: +239%
- Print loans: -6%
- E-book: +8006%
Recent updates: unique Edinburgh offer

» Pre-1900 Policy

» Books written and edited by UoE staff
Policy for Special Collections & Museums

» Legal constraints, ethical codes, professional standards

» Collections management systems

» Conservation and risk management

» Access and loans

» Environmental sustainability

» Collection development
What next?

» More Materials Budget, incl. Special Collections

» “Library national and international leadership”

» Mass digitisation

» Learning and Teaching Vision: Course Collections

» More offsite storage

» Review the Collections Policy
Happy to take any questions

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