“The Dark Art” of managing an External Store

Jo Aitkins
Head of Public Services
University Library
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The University

- 23,000 students & 3,500 staff
- 8,500 distance learners mainly taught postgraduate
- 3 Colleges –
  - Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities
  - Medicine, Biological Sciences & Psychology
  - Science & Engineering
The David Wilson Library

- 1970s
- Extended and re-modelled 2008
Space the final frontier

Credit Wikipedia for Tardis Photo
Our External Store

- History
- Managing
- Organising
- Sharing
- Nearly Full?!?
- Full!
- The Future?
External Store - History

- Student residencies and alumni appeal
- Capacity (400,000 bks)
- Design, access and location
- Security, environment, shelving
- Furniture/equipment and other
- Cost versus benefit?
- Other costs?
Dear Friend,

Can I thank the University’s Convocation for taking the initiative in organising this appeal.

All of us who have been involved in University life know that an efficient well-run library is paramount. The current funding climate means that we have to look to other sources to find more than half the third of a million pounds that is required.

Please give as much as you can.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Kenneth Edwards,
Vice Chancellor
ALIBRARY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY - Leicester needs YOUR help.....

The University's 'engine room'

The 'engine room' of every place of learning must be the library. It's a place of learning, researching, and enlightenment - a place for serious study, casual browsing or just writing up notes. For many students it's the place where a large proportion of university life is spent and the place which most former students remember most. Ultimately it can be the place where degrees are gained - and lost.

To do its job properly the library must have the books and papers that are most wanted by the students and they should be reasonably accessible. The building should be pleasant to work in, with an environment that is conducive to serious study free from distractions.

Can Leicester meet the demands of tomorrow?

For a decade and a half Leicester University students have enjoyed what is acknowledged to be one of the best libraries in the country. An award-winning air-conditioned building with more than 800,000 works and nearly 900 reader places, the library has served several generations of students well.

Now, with student numbers increasing and 20,000 new volumes a year having to be housed, space is at a premium. On busy days there are 5,000 separate admissions with inevitable long queues at the issue desks, computer terminals and photo-copiers. On occasions it is not possible to find a seat.

Clearly unless action is taken urgently Leicester University's Library will grind to a halt through sheer over-crowding. The effect on the institution as a whole will be devastating.

How YOU can help

An enhancement plan costing one third of a million pounds has been worked out. An annexe would be built to house more than 100,000 of the less used works. This will create space in the main building to produce:

- more reader places
- better access for the most popular works
- proper storage for Leicester's priceless collection of rare books

The Government Universities Funding Council - the successor to the University Grants Committee - is contributing £150,000 but no more. To start work a further £180,000 needs to be raised. That is where you come in.

We need donations; pledges and tax-saving covenants

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

The sooner the University knows the money is coming the sooner work can start.

The future of Leicester University's Library is in YOUR hands - Please do not let us down
Our store
Filling

• But it’s empty?!
• Relegation policy
• Spurs to filling
• Our special trollies
• Never to return?
Managing

Whose Store is it anyway?
Managing

- Guardians/Guards
-Leaks & temperature
- Visitors

- What’s the oddest thing stored or found?
Managing - the challenges

- As a building site
- The Gifts!
- Adding gifts to our collections
- Not having a store!
- Benefits - staging and collection point & good PR
Organisation

- Classification..well we started off with good intentions!
Organisation

- What were we thinking? (barcodes)
- What were we thinking? (superseded editions)
- Is everything on the catalogue?
Organisation

- What happens if you need to re-organise?
- The art of shuffling
• Retrieval Service
• Service Standards
• External Users - number of items; move to the David Wilson Library
• Use in the Library only?
Sharing

DeMont.

EMUA

MACE
- Nearly full
- Tinkering
- Alternatives
- Just say no?
The BIG Picture

a Collections Policy

“For nearly 70 years library material was acquired on the implicit assumption that it was for permanent retention”

1992 Position paper
Policy not really change

Main Library

Stacks

Store
A NEW Collections Policy

“The main changes relate to eBooks (eBook first policy for teaching - subject to usability and other criteria being met), treatment of superseded student textbooks and clarification of policy on long term retention and disposal of items.”

Ben Wynne, Deputy Director, June 2015
Going forward

The Small Detail - systematic review of holdings
Going forward

Dark Store???
Going forward

Return to sender???
Going forward

Where do legacy print collections sit with digitisation and Open Access and what is eCollection Management? More than “replacing” print?
Will “space” be an issue in our Digital Library world?

Credit: Wikipedia for Tardis Photo
What other dark arts and conjuring tricks will we need in the future?
Questions?

thanks to Design Services University of Leicester for photographs and Dr Klaas Wiersema, from the Department of Physics and Astronomy

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