The Decision Tree & Collection Management

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Aims:

• What is a decision tree?
• How can it be used in collection management?
• Creating a tree for your library
Decision Tree

“A decision tree is a graph that uses a branching method to illustrate every possible outcome of a decision”

WhatIs.com
Why make a decision tree?

- Space at a premium in libraries so collections must “earn their keep”
- Need to make informed retention decisions
- Essential to keep our stakeholders on board
- Useful tool to reassure and explain
What we Did

excellence
collaboration
teaching
equality
innovativeness
co-operation
high
excitement
library

research
archives

discovery

preservation
catalogue

accessibility

inspiring
creative
non-censorship
scholarship
learnings
learning

engaging
confidence
sharing

integrity
steward
neutrality

neatness
areas
west
clarity

innovation
memory
conservation
enabling
Key Decision Strands

• Keep on open shelves
• Treat as a special collection
• Safe to relegate
A first attempt!
Results: Keep
• The second attempt was a little more sophisticated
Master Tree
Now over to you…

• In your allocated category groups decide what criteria you would use to decide what to keep on open shelves or what to treat as a special collection, or what to relegate
• Rank your criteria in priority order
• Now look at Bristol’s tree, try to follow the decision path
• What did we miss? What did we include that you didn’t?
• Have a look at what other groups thought..(we will collate the information and share it with you after the event)
Next steps

• At Bristol, making the decision tree acted as a springboard for further action
• We tested the decisions with library colleagues
• We tested scenarios and translated them in withdrawal/retention statistics
• Considered what these decisions mean for the size of the library collections and where they should be housed