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](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/download/downloads/id/149/collections_strategy.pdf)
Questions? Discussion?