Collaborative collection development in a federal world

Dr Nick Barratt
Director, Senate House Library
About the University of London

Federal member institution libraries
(KCL, UCL, RHUL, LSE, Birkbeck, Goldsmiths, QMUL, RCSSD, LSHTM, SOAS…)

Senate House Library

‘Tenant’ libraries
(NCH, NYU, BPS)

Integrated SAS libraries
(ILAS, ICWS, IMLR)

SAS libraries
(IHR, IALS, Classics, Warburg)

lnondon.ac.uk
Challenges

• Lack of strategy(ies) / financial sustainability
• No stock review since the 1980s
• ‘For a happier life, ditch Bliss’ (1992)
Infrastructure and identity

• Working together
  • Internal collection development group established November 2015
  • Federal collection advisory group established from 2016
  • SAS advisory groups established from 2016
  • Full rewrite of collection development strategy and management policy, within new strategic framework for the library

• Defining our collections
  • Redefining our core research strengths
  • Working with federal members to define ‘collaborative uniqueness’: special collections forum
Projects and partnerships

• Stock review, RFID tagging and reclassification (part of wider ‘modernisation programme’)

• Collaborative collection management framework with federal partners
  • Evaluation – 2018/19
  • Mapping – 2019/20
  • Management – 2020/21

• NBK and UKRR-M
Conclusions

• It takes time to reach a common agreement

• You have to start somewhere (procrastination doesn’t work)

• Uniqueness is key to identity, but shared knowledge of uniqueness improves the user experience

• We can’t keep everything – local collaborative storage solutions in partnership
Any questions?

Dr Nick Barratt
Director, Senate House Library
nick.barratt@london.ac.uk
www.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk