Collection categorisation at Bristol

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The approach

• Needed to categorise the collection in order to apply a retention policy
• Not enough simply to categorise using statistical evidence
• Bristol compiled a Decision Tree in order to capture the decision process for all print monographs
• Considered adopting the University of Leeds collections categories
• Linked Leeds model to Bristol’s decision process – it was a good fit
Leeds collections categories:

• **Heritage:** Collections of internationally significant depth or breadth which the library will continue to develop

• **Self-renewing:** Collections which do not have sufficient depth or breadth to be of national significance, but which are required to meet the needs of current research and teaching. Material will only be retained within these collections for as long as it is required

• **Legacy:** Collections which have historic strength. These may, in reflecting the output of a particular period or person, be of international or national significance, but they will have been developed to reflect current and recent research. Where these do not meet current research and teaching needs these will not be added to by using library funds

• **Finite:** These are collections which have neither historic strength, nor relevance to current teaching and research. These collections will be considered for withdrawal from the Library’s collections
The match:

- **Special Collections material**: Heritage
- **Research Reserve**: Legacy
- **Open shelves**: Self-renewing
- **Dispose**: Finite
Thanks for Listening