

Parallel Sessions A
A4 - Benefits of Co-operation

Thursday, September 19, Room E, 10.30

Collaborative Collecting in Biomedical Libraries: Two Case Studies

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Academic libraries have long needed to reconcile rising costs with shrinking budgets and this is especially true in the STM (Scientific/Technical/Medical) field. Two pilot projects have therefore been commissioned to identify possible solutions,

- Biomedical collaboration in London: mapping resources for collaborative collection management, and
- Mapping medicine: collaborative collection management for biomedical resources

The former project forms part of the BL Co-operation and Partnership Programme whose main objectives are to support and assist libraries to work together in the key areas of access, collection development, record creation, bibliographic services, preservation and retention. This comprehensive project aims to facilitate partnerships between a group of libraries, which specialise in any aspect of biomedicine and other areas of medicine, by mapping their current serial subscriptions together into one database, that will be accessible to all the partners' of this project.

Mapping Medicine (Funded by the Wellcome Trust) has been designed to identify and map collection strengths; and to examine collection, retention, disposal and access policies. The ultimate goal is to devise a formal scheme to co-ordinate retention, disposal and access amongst participating libraries. A major benefit will be to ensure that they can dispose of less used material confident in the knowledge that it will remain available elsewhere and that as complete a record as possible of scientific and clinical research is kept for future use.

The projects are closely connected, both projects are collaborative and cross-sectoral in their approach, bringing together libraries of higher education, research institutions, the NHS, the Royal Colleges, medical societies and the British Library; the recognition that, by working together, biomedical libraries within London can maximise the use of resources whilst enhancing services to users.