

Collaborative print retention: a policy for Scotland

The Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL), the National Library of Scotland (NLS) and the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) have come together to develop this policy for all Scottish libraries.

The **aim** of the policy, at this stage, is to ensure that researchers, in the broadest sense, continue to have access to low-use print research materials.

It offers libraries, of all kinds, the opportunity to manage the risks associated with inadvertently disposing of important material, and providing a safe process for collections management of print research materials in Scotland. This collegiate approach will underwrite local collection policies which have been and are dependent on the mission, teaching and research of the parent institutions over centuries. Attention should now be given to an extension to non-print materials.

Scope

Although it is likely to be of most relevance to HE libraries initially, it is recognised that significant research materials are also held in the wider library community.

The NLS regards Scottish material (published in Scotland, or by Scots, or about Scots) as central to its collecting and preservation strategy. It will also continue to collect as much as possible of the UK published output, and to provide access to international publications as required by the users of Scotland's largest research library.

Recommendation

That a copy should be retained within Scotland of:-

- 1. Scottish material (published in Scotland, or by Scots, or about Scots, or relating to Scotland, to any aspect of Scottish life and culture, or to individual Scots). Such material, representing the intellectual capital of Scotland and held within Scottish libraries, is at the core of this collaborative print retention strategy.**
- 2. Unique items (within Scotland) which enhance the world class research collections held in Scotland and therefore should be retained for communal access and benefit.**

These criteria would be applied when an institution's own collections management procedures resulted in a risk that an item meeting the above criteria may no longer be retained within Scotland.

Rationale

Political devolution has made library and information services more aware of issues around the retention of a '**Scottish copy**' for the future. There has always been a distinct cultural identity, manifest in the separate education and legal systems. A strong sectoral and geographic collaborative network has been a feature of the Scottish information landscape for many years. This policy, together with sectoral guidance notes, will enhance this collaboration while supporting the shared service agenda.

It is recommended that this policy is reviewed after 3 years.

The Scottish Collection

The items in the Scottish collection will be distributed across many libraries, with a preponderance of print journals available in the NLS and the larger research libraries.

Since many libraries may hold such materials, retention would be arranged on a collaborative, distributed model. Any disposing library should check the holdings of the NLS first and offer to the NLS if not held there. Should the NLS not be able to add the item then, if the holding library is still minded to discard, other sectoral partner holdings should be checked. If the item is identified as a 'last copy' and the holding library is still minded to discard, then a library should be sought to hold the item on behalf of the community.

Updating catalogue records and services to ensure easy discovery and access is critical, together with the ability of researchers to find items through aggregated resource discovery tools.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and agreed by the:-

Chair of SCURL

Director of SLIC

Librarian of the NLS

In my capacity as Director/Librarian of

I am signing this Memorandum of Understanding and thereby agreeing to ensure, as far as possible, that this policy will be incorporated into the internal collection management procedures within my organisation.

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(SCURLScottishcopy9Jan2010)