Useful, Interesting, Rare: an approach to Collections Management

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Outline

- Background
- Collections Concept
- Collections Transformation Programme

Background:
a tale of two mountains

Collection Management & Content Supply

- Outside-in Collection

- E-resources

- Owned ➔ Licensed ➔ Open

- Isomorphism (Big Deals)

- Value of print

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- Western Bank Library (1959)
- Information Commons (2007)
- Health Sciences Library @ Royal Hallamshire Hospital

2000-2016 – closure of multiple departmental libraries

Mt. Letu

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'Making the Library Easier to Use'

Objectives:

- Merge Collections of Departmental Libraries
- Single Sequence with Promotion / Relegation
- Net Zero Collections Growth
- Repurpose Space

Issues:

- Anomalies
- Relationship with electronic collections
- Relationship with special collections
- Demonstrable Policy

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Comprehensive Content Strategy

- *"provides access to the content required for teaching and research"*

- *"builds, manages and shares collections of ongoing cultural value that showcases the University's research"*

- *"transforms academic publishing and scholarly communication"*

To Mount Doom…

Collection value:

- Academic
- **Cultural**
- *Symbolic*
- Organisational & Curatorial
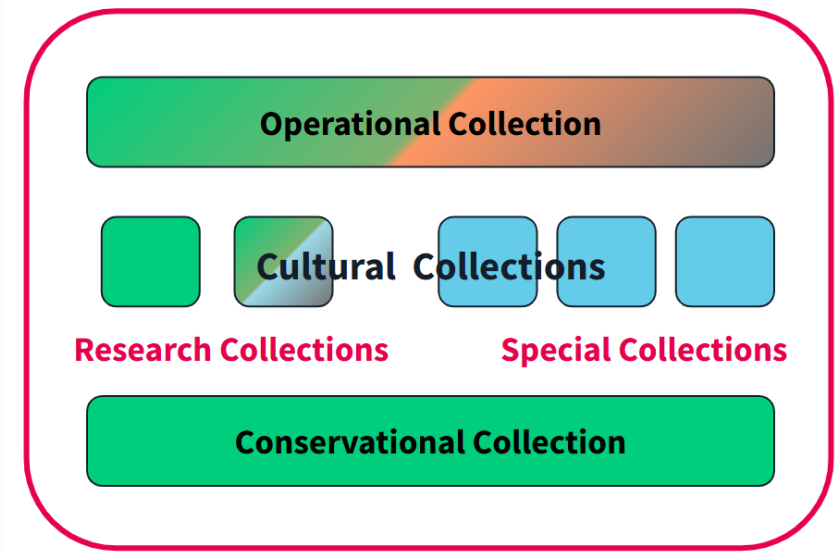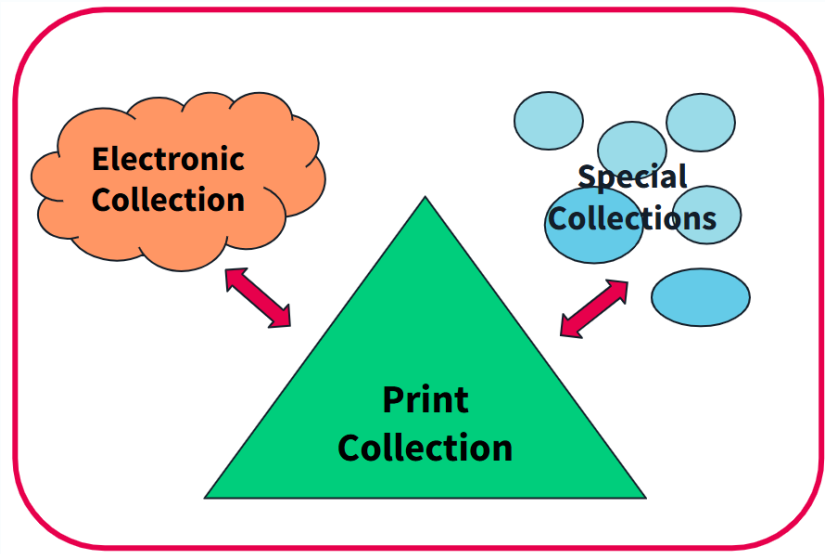- **Conservational**
- **Operational**
- Financial

We are no longer trying to build one collection to rule them all
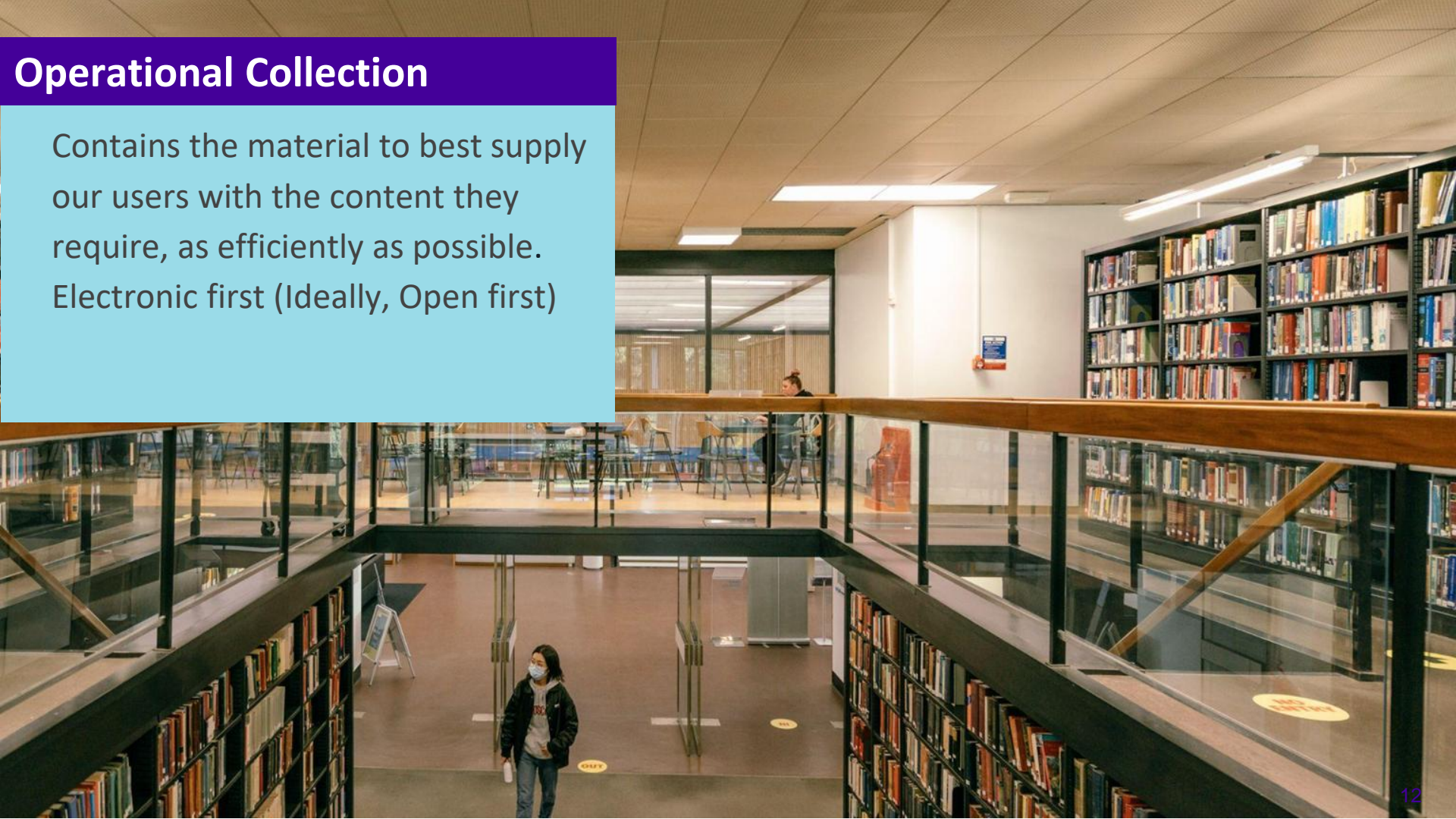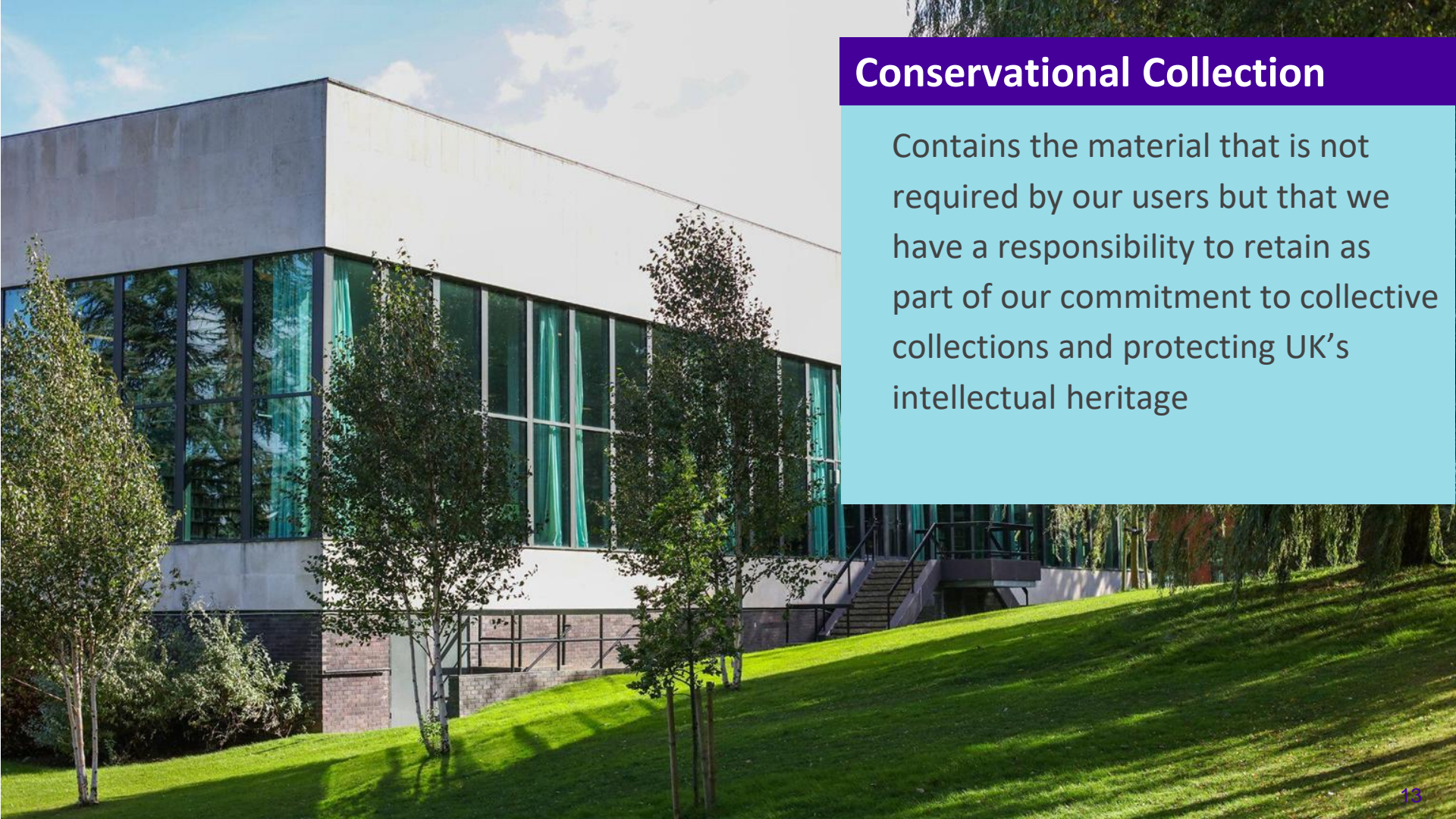
Collections Concept

Collections Concept

Operational Collection

Contains the material to best supply our users with the content they require, as efficiently as possible. Electronic first (Ideally, Open first)

Conservational Collection

Contains the material that is not required by our users but that we have a responsibility to retain as part of our commitment to collective collections and protecting UK's intellectual heritage

Cultural Collections

Contains the material that is culturally significant that needs to be curated and promoted for its use in research

Collections Transformation Programme

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Collections Transformation Programme

Moving from the legacy concept (and MTLETU) to the future concept

- Write Collection Development Plans
- Reshape the physical collections
- Make process changes
  - Acquisitions
  - Withdrawals
  - Electronic Collection Management
  - Discovery

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Managing the Transition

- Resource limitations (Time, Space, Money)

- Aspiration rather than a major project

- Uncategorised Collections

What we have done so far

- Disbanded outlier collections

- Establish an ongoing plan for periodical withdrawal via UKRR

- Written Collection Development Plans for the Operational and 'Pilot' Cultural Collections

- Reorganised stock to allow for the creation of the Cultural Collections

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What we are doing now...

- Reshaping the Information Commons Collection in line with Operational Collection

- Building the 'Pilot' Cultural Collections

What we are doing next…

- Create further cultural collections

- Adopt shared approaches with Special Collections & Archives for cultural collections

- Analyse Unstructured holdings for 'last copies' to expand the Conservational Collection (as part of the UK PBC) & Withdraw non-criteria book stock

- Move Cultural Collections to preferred locations

Any questions?

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