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# Focus on collections

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The majority of the articles in this edition of *SCONUL Focus* relate to the theme of collections. This edition begins by presenting an overview of the British Library's content strategy for 2013 – 2015. This article highlights a number of key strategic issues, some of which are picked up in other articles which embrace the theme by focusing on developments at the local, practitioner level. The variety of topics included reflects the many facets that collections - their development, management, promotion and use – include.

In an increasingly digital age, it is satisfying to be able to highlight the importance that physical collections still hold within our libraries and learning spaces. A number of articles in this edition focus on the physical collections – the importance of special collections and exhibitions, partnership working, as well as ensuring we have an understanding of how physical collections are being used by the communities we serve.

However this themed edition of *SCONUL Focus* could not be complete without embracing the impact that the digital age has had in relation to resource management, discovery, access and use. Therefore, this edition includes articles on a range of topics from the development of policies and models for delivering e-content, systems developments for accessing e-resources and putting the user at the heart of purchasing decision making by the adoption of patron-driven acquisition models.

Economic challenges necessitate that issues of efficiency and equity are addressed if the considerable return on investment in our collections is to be realised. Hence this issue also explores the use of resource allocation models and looks at interventions to ensure that end users have the digital skills necessary to exploit the content available to them.

Hopefully the variety of content included in this themed edition will provide something of interest to all *SCONUL Focus* readers. Enjoy!