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From biomedical library to e-only learning centre supported by a co-operative depot service

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The biomedical sciences group of the Catholic University of Leuven has decided to move as quickly as possible towards e-only provision of journals and to re-focus its library activities towards a student-centred learning centre. This will represent a significant change in the package of services offered and the physical space of the facility. This decision has been partly enabled by a co-operative initiative to provide a distributed depot service between Flemish biomedical libraries whereby only one copy of the paper journal need be retained in Flanders. The issues involved in the Leuven decision as well as the modalities of the Flemish initiative will be discussed.

Mel Collier is Professor at the Catholic University of Leuven and Director of the University Library. Formerly he was University Library Director at Tilburg (NL) and Head of Learning Development at De Montfort (GB). He is an experienced manager of ICT and educational development in universities, and has worked as a director in the private sector. His research and consultancy work is focused on digital libraries, learning development and change management.