Tisch Library FY13 Materials Budget: We are pleased to report that the library will likely receive a 5% materials budget increase for FY13. We are grateful for this increase and believe it demonstrates the administration’s long-term commitment to preserving and building strong library collections. A 5% increase should cover inflation and perhaps give us a little room for growth. Analysts are currently predicting a 4-5% increase in journal costs in 2013. Given that journals constitute about 82% of our materials budget, a 5% increase may allow us to buy some of the research-level materials that have been identified through faculty/librarian discussions.

If money allows, we will collect in the areas identified in our FY13 budget request. These include:

- Social sciences: business, economics, and political science data; geospatial datasets compatible with GIS.
- Sciences and engineering: tools that combine data, literature, and software for the manipulation of the data. These tools make it possible for the researcher to search the literature, find data, and manipulate that data using one search engine.
- Humanities and arts: Arabic and Chinese-language materials; linguistics journals to support the new Cognitive Science major; art history facsimiles.

As always, we will prioritize our research purchases based on our interactions with the faculty and graduate students.

Replacing Air Handlers: Tisch has 5 air handlers: 3 that need replacement and 2 that need upgrading. This is too much work to do during a single summer, so it will be divided into summer 2012 and summer 2013. This summer, 2 air handlers will be replaced by one new air handler. In addition, 2 air handlers will be upgraded and a new air handler will be installed to provide dedicated controls for the special collections/Archives compact shelving area. In the summer of 2013, the third air handler will be replaced with a new handler.

We will have temporary cooling installed to assist with our environment, but there may be some challenges keeping all areas cool and there will be some periods of noise. The 3 air handlers being replaced have exceeded their useful life and are at some risk of complete failure, so it is particularly important that we move ahead. We expect work to begin the day after Commencement and continue until the start of fall term. More information will be provided at the meeting.

Learning Commons: Working with Lois Stanley, Director of University Space Management and Planning, we are moving forward to plan for “refreshing” the main floor of Tisch. The original concept some years ago was to implement a learning commons, and we are now in the process of envisioning how this concept has and should evolve to meet our current and future needs. Calendar year 2012 will serve as the rough time frame for conceptual design. We will engage an architectural firm to work with us to finalize the goals, determine the scope of the project, identify programmatic needs, engage all stakeholders, and provide preliminary design plans enabling Tufts to create price estimates.

A subsequent effort to identify an architectural firm for pursuing detailed design plans (as needed) would follow. The most optimistic timeframe would put any refresh construction to start during FY2014, but a number of factors could influence/alter this. Obtaining input from faculty and students at every step of this project is a high priority and we expect the need to engage the committee in discussion of this immediately in the fall.
Digital Humanities in the Classroom: Marie-Claire Beaulieu of the Classics department has been awarded an NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant for her project “Digital Humanities in the Classroom: Bridging the Gap between Teaching and Research.” The project will design and test an integrated platform through which students can collaboratively transcribe, edit, and translate Latin and Greek Texts, creating vetted open source digital editions, encoded with XML TEI markup.

Tisch staff members Christopher Barbour, Alexander May, and Alicia Morris will participate in the project, building on their experience with the Tisch Library Miscellany collection. We are pleased to be collaborating with the Perseus Project and Classics Department to create environments where students can work directly with rare and fragile manuscripts in an online environment and contribute original work to the scholarly community.