Update since last Library Committee meeting on December 8, 2017.

Graduate Student Research Retreat. On Tuesday, January 16th we held our second day-long retreat for graduate students, focused on their work as researchers. The day included sessions on literature reviews for various disciplines, data management, text analysis, copyright, cleaning messy data, data visualization, visual note-taking, archives and primary sources, author rights and publishing, and “how to start writing when you don’t feel ready to write.” Sessions were led by Tisch librarians and DDS staff, and colleagues from Digital Collections and Archives, the DataLab, and the Academic Resource Center. There was also time for independent work and one-on-one consultations. We were very pleased to have double the number of participants this year (43 registered) including about half from the School of Engineering. We’ve debriefed and received some valuable feedback from attendees that will help us plan an even more effective retreat for 2019. Support from Tisch and partners is available year-round, of course, but the opportunity for grad students to focus on themselves for a day, meet each other, and have plenty of food and coffee available was much appreciated.

Staffing. A search is under way for an Arts & Humanities librarian, to replace Connie Reik, who retired in December. The posting is here: http://tufts.taleo.net/careersection/jobdetail.ftl?job=18001012&lang=en#

As previously mentioned, Susan Brady was named Coordinator of Document Delivery in December, and we will backfill her position shortly. This Library Assistant position will be adjusted slightly to reflect the cross-training and flexibility in responsibilities that we are building into the single point-of-service model for the front desk. Our open Digital Media Technologist position is under review and we expect to be able to move forward with that soon.

As you may know, the Classics department is hiring a senior software developer for the Perseids project. The office space for this person will be in the repository practice room in Tisch, alongside Alex May, Steve McDonald, and Travis Lilleberg. This should provide some good opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Strategic planning. We continue to work on laying a stronger foundation for the creation of the library’s next strategic plan. At an “all hands” meeting on January 18, we worked through an exercise in mapping user experience. It was a good step towards building greater capacity for more effective stakeholder outreach, and better staff engagement in strategic planning. We’ll use this experience and the insights gained to develop a ‘research plan’ – additional information to gather, both from and about the members of our community – that will help us clarify our strategic priorities. Deepening our understanding of user experience is also central to the service redesign involving the front desk and our research and instruction program.

Fun. After hours on Friday, December 1st, Tisch hosted a laser tag event sponsored by Tufts University Social Collective (TUSC). John Wescott, our partner in Student Activities, had this to report:

“The event was a HUGE success. Everything went so smoothly, Bill was tremendously helpful in getting us access to the loading docks and lights, and TUPD and Allied Security both reported they were very pleased with how the event ran. We didn't receive any complaints that I know of from those in the [late night] study room.

We had 421 students come through, with every game full from start to finish. Our student staff also did a tremendous job of cleaning up, removing all trash, and resetting the furniture so I hope everything is to your liking.”
Here are some photos from the event:

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10155990569841457.1073741834.108313651456&type=1&id=3dbfi1371e

We are going to follow this up with Glow-in-the-Dark mini golf, on Friday, March 9th. As long as we can schedule things so they don’t disrupt our normal course of business, we expect to collaborate with Student Activities on one such event each semester. Not all the time students spend in Tisch should be stressful!

Dorothy Meaney
Director, ad interim