Tisch Library Director’s Report
October 2017

Tisch Library update since the Library Committee meeting in September 2017.

New staff. Elliot Brandow, currently at Wellesley College, will join us on October 26 as Social Sciences Team Lead in Research & Instruction. We have completed the search for the Arts & Humanities Team Lead, and expect to make an offer to our top candidate this week. The search for the Coordinator of Document Delivery – the position that oversees Interlibrary Loan, document delivery, scan & deliver, and streaming media for all three branches of Tisch – should be completed by the end of next week. Lauren McKinney will join the Director’s Office as staff assistant on October 30.

We are working on posting the position to replace Connie Reik, who retires from Research & Instruction at the end of December. The goal is to have someone in place there prior to the start of the spring semester.

Shared print partnerships. As you may remember, Tufts Libraries are members of the Eastern Academic Scholars Trust (https://eastlibraries.org/), a regional initiative to which we have made commitments to retain print copies of selected monographs for an extended period of time. (The current commitment is 15 years.) EAST has now added a serials/journals component to the program. We are committed by virtue of our membership agreement to participate in this part of the program as well. However, given the scope of the work involved in identifying the titles that would be assigned to Tufts and the timing of our system migration this summer, we will be in the second cohort of journal partners rather than the first.

The Tufts Libraries are also members of the Hathi Trust Digital Library (https://www.hathitrust.org/) which has recently initiated its own shared print preservation program. We signed an MOU in September committing Tisch and Ginn titles to that as well. Our retention commitment there is a subset of the titles we already committed to EAST, although the time frame for that commitment is 25 years.

Industry-wide collaboration in shared print is (perhaps an obvious) next step here. A Shared Print Monograph Collaboration Summit is being planned for next year. The planning group includes representatives from EAST, HathiTrust, IvyPlus, and large regional library consortia from California, Michigan and North Carolina. The Boston Library Consortium is well-represented via EAST.

Digital Scholarship at Tufts. Tisch Library provides a range of services that support digital scholarship:

- Digital collections and access to digital scholarship, including specialized capacity for images
- Access to and preservation of faculty and student scholarship through deposit services for the Tufts Digital Library
• Digitization services, including self-service for format conversions, outsourcing of sophisticated or large projects, digitization of library materials for accessibility needs
• Acquisitions of content/collections—both digital and analog
• Data Management Plan assistance for faculty submitting research proposals
• RDM best practices as part of the Research Data Management System
• Multimedia assignment design across the curriculum via the Digital Design Studio
• Data services (discovery, interpretation, reuse), statistics, and GIS in partnership with the DataLab
• Consultations with faculty and students on metadata, related research, repositories, copyright and intellectual property guidance
• Metadata creation for some projects and materials, and metadata consultations, taxonomy development, and digital text technology assistance for new projects
• Open access publishing
• Digital exhibit creation
• HathiTrust Digital Library access and services for purposes of data mining projects

As digital humanities efforts, data science curricula, and initiatives such as DISC move forward at Tufts, Tisch is taking a lead role in ensuring library involvement in planning for necessary services and spaces. We have begun to pull our staff who are engaged in this work into a cross-library ‘team’ and are bringing this area of growth at Tufts to the Tufts Libraries Council agenda.

This project has been a significant effort, all coordinated by Harriet Chenkin. The lecture from Gerhard Steidl, his master class with students, the opening reception, and our Family Weekend panel discussion were all very well received; the coverage from Tufts Now and the Daily has been terrific. Please make sure you find time to enjoy the show!

Dorothy Meaney
October 19, 2017