HVAC Project: All summer, our aged HVAC systems were under construction in the first phase of a deferred maintenance project to upgrade and replace the air handlers. Two air handlers were removed and replaced with a single air handler, while two others were upgraded. Interim cooling was installed to assist us this summer. Unexpected asbestos abatement delayed the project, so the final cut-over to the new air handler hasn’t occurred. In addition, a new air handler was installed to create a separate system for the special collections restricted shelving area. This will allow us to ensure a more consistent environment for our rare books, while we apply more energy conservation techniques (such as reducing heating/cooling during off-hours) in the majority of the building. Next summer a third air handler will be removed and replaced, completing the project and increasing our total capacity by roughly 30%.

Renovation Planning Project: In August, we started our project to plan a future interior renovation of Tisch Library. Originally conceived of as a “learning commons” initiative, the renovation presents the opportunity to enhance the public areas of the library, with a particular goal to facilitate collaboration in Tisch and respond to new technological demands. Aaron Cohen Associates (ACA) is the specialty planning firm hired for the engagement. They will be working all fall to identify opportunities to reuse existing library space and plan for future library needs. The Library Committee will devote its September meeting to discussion with ACA. In addition, ACA will be meeting with additional groups of faculty, students, and library staff, as well as a host of campus partners (such as the Academic Resource Center, UIT, and Dining Services) to discuss aspects of Tisch—what works well and what could be improved.

Staff Changes: Last year we posted 3 openings in Tisch, all of which were revisions of previously existing roles. Jodine Brown was hired as a staff assistant in the Administration office. Jodine had been working on a temporary assignment in the Dean’s office of the School of Engineering and began in Tisch in early June. Starting October 9, Bill Bloom will serve as the Head of Access Services, which supervises circulation, reserves, stacks maintenance, and interlibrary loan and document delivery operations and staff. Bill previously served as branch manager and as circulation manager of the St. Joseph County Public Library in South Bend, Indiana. His excellent track record leading innovative public services initiatives should make him a great contributor to Tisch. With our third position, a Social Sciences and Data Librarian to join the Research and Instruction team, we had to close the search unsuccessfully. We will repost the position emphasizing the importance of expertise with data sets and data intensive software packages as it relates to social sciences disciplines. Conversations with faculty in these departments have reinforced the existing need for greater support of this area.

Equipment Lending: FY12 saw major growth in the use of loaned equipment. We launched a new iPad lending program with 5 second-generation iPads in January. We have purchased additional iPads to lend this fall. Multimedia assignments tied to the Digital Design Studio caused circulation of cameras, video and audio recording equipment to rise to record levels. Demand for file storage seems insatiable, especially since students working on DDS projects tend to have large image, sound, and video files to manipulate as source material. We are pursuing a multi-pronged approach to this problem. Starting this term, students will have 3 options: 1. borrow Firewire hard drives Tisch offers on loan (we have limited quantities that won’t meet peak demand); 2. use network storage Tisch is purchasing from Tufts UIT (we are facilitating the file transfer process, but this does have extra technical steps for students to learn); or 3. purchase a personal drive (we will advise on the specifications needed). We hope this array of storage options will better meet student needs, based on last year’s experience with DDS.
**Fall Orientations**: The start of the school year brought an assortment of outreach to new members of the Tufts community. Over the summer, Tisch participated in the BLAST and BEST bridge programs (for A&S and SOE respectively). *Incoming undergraduates* were invited to the second annual Tisch Open House on Saturday, September 1. The event included tours, refreshments and entertainment, a raffle, and tables of information about services at Tisch, including tables from campus partners, such as the bookstore and the Academic Resource Center. Roughly 500 students attended, doubling last year’s attendance. *Teaching Assistants* and *Research Assistants* were offered an orientation session in late August. *New faculty* orientation is being held September 14. All of these programs attempt to provide an overview of library services and collections to familiarize the community with what Tisch has to offer. More context-specific programs for students are organized throughout the year in partnership with faculty to meet specific class needs.

**FY13 Materials Budget**: As reported in the spring, the Tisch FY13 materials budget was increased by 5%. The FY14 budget request will be reviewed with the committee using email later this month.

**Friends of Tufts Libraries Author Talks**: We are pleased to announce the 2012-13 schedule of Author Talks. We hope you can join us for these (all in the Hirsh Reading Room):

- **Sam Sommers**, Associate Professor of Psychology – *Situations Matter: Understanding How Context Transforms Your World*. Parents and Family Weekend, Friday, October 19, 2012, 3:30 – 5 PM.
- **Hugh Howard**, A74 – *Mr. and Mrs. Madison’s War: America’s First Couple and the Second War of Independence*. Thursday, November 15, 2012, 3:30 – 5 PM.
- **Sarah Sobieraj**, Assistant Professor of Sociology – *The Perils of Media-Centered Political Activism*. Thursday, February 21, 2013, 3:30 – 5 PM.