Tisch Library Director’s Report
Library Advisory Committee, February 13, 2013

Renovation Planning Project: The library is concluding its planning process with Aaron Cohen Associates (ACA) to conceptualize an interior renovation for Tisch. In subsequent stages, Tufts will estimate the costs of the plans and, if approved, move into a design phase. The focus of the plans is enhancing learning environments for students. Some key elements include: increasing the size and capabilities of the Digital Design Studio, adding group study space and flexible collaborative workspaces with technology, improving and increasing the amount of quiet study space, significantly increasing café seating, and implementing new spaces for research and instruction interactions to better reflect current and growing needs for in-depth research consultations. To add these features, we propose consolidating staff spaces and reducing space for print collections.

Staff Searches: We have 2 searches underway for Research and Instruction librarians to replace departed staff. For our Social Sciences Data Specialist position we are bringing two finalists to campus Feb 14-15. This existing position was modified to focus more intensely on our needs for support with student and faculty use of data sets (how to find data, how to interpret it, and how to reuse it), in addition to the more traditional research and instruction services in the social sciences. The original search did not yield a sufficient pool of qualified candidates, so the position was revised and the search repeated. We are also launching a search for a Coordinator of First Year Education. Beth Rohloff left to take another position on January 11. This position is vital for maintaining our orientation programs and coordinating instruction for English 01 writing courses for entering students.

Graduate Student Research Award: The Tisch Library Graduate Student Research Fellowships in the Humanities and the Arts will support the dissertation or thesis research of one doctoral student and one terminal master’s degree student working in the humanities and the arts within the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The aim of the fellowship is to promote the use of Tisch Library collections and services and to support graduate research in fields where funding opportunities are more difficult to find. The award was proposed by Tisch and is being developed in collaboration with the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Two $4000 awards will be made (one funded by Tisch and one by GSAS) for summer research. We expect to make the awards in May, with faculty involvement in the selection process, coordinated through CHAT.

Building Improvements: During spring break, Tisch will improve the accessibility of our entrance by adding another magnetic security gate and relocating the button to open the door hands-free upon exiting. The new gate will widen the gates to better align with the 4 doors. During December, the carpeting around the reference desk was replaced to repair growing tears and worn areas. The vendor installed the wrong carpet, so this will be fixed over spring break. Lastly, a reminder that this summer will conclude our two-year project to upgrade the Tisch HVAC air handler units. The majority of the work was done in summer 2012. This summer, one air handling unit will be removed and the final new unit installed. We have been coordinating with Facilities and Operations staff to conserve energy by scheduling zones of the library to reflect the use of those spaces (e.g. not heating most staff spaces or the classrooms on the weekend).