Tisch Library Director's Report
Library Committee, April 17, 2013

Renovation Planning Project: The library continues to work with the University Planning Office to develop a cost estimate for the renovation plan. The estimate is being developed by areas in the plan, so that we can consider priorities and potentially phase implementation of parts of the plan.

HathiTrust: In February, Tufts finalized its membership in HathiTrust, a partnership of major research institutions and libraries. The HathiTrust Digital Library is a preservation repository of digitized texts. The organization provides access to these texts to all. By becoming a partner Tufts is contributing to preservation of scholarly knowledge, and also obtains downloading privileges of public domain content and specialized access to materials for users with print disabilities. The Tufts libraries are sharing the cost, with Tisch paying the vast majority. Annual expenses with the current pricing model should stay in the $15-20,000 range for the next few years.

Scan and Deliver: Tisch launched a new service this year to scan book chapters and journal articles from our print collections and deliver them via email to faculty. To date, we’ve received 125 requests. In addition, we’ve processed 283 requests which were initiated as Interlibrary Loan requests, but fulfilled with Scan and Deliver because we own the material. This total is an average of 47 requests per month. Based on the current volume, we were able to meet demand without additional staff resources. We will review the possibility of expanding the service to more members of the Tufts community, if this can be accomplished with assistance from student employees.

Circulation Policies: Tisch staff are working with staff from Ginn Library at Fletcher to coordinate lending policies. Our goal is to minimize or eliminate differences between library policies so that Medford circulation policies are as uniform as possible. This should particularly assist users who depend heavily on both libraries.

Image Workshops: This Spring, we offered two workshops about how to use images in presentations and multi-media projects. Special emphasis was placed on navigating copyright with images. These were open to all Tufts members, but particularly well attended by faculty as well as staff that work closely with faculty.

Teaching with Technology: The Annual Teaching with Technology Symposium will be held May 22-23 in Medford. Tisch hopes to participate in this event with faculty who have used the Digital Design Studio. We encourage faculty to attend! See https://sites.tufts.edu/teachwithtech/ for more information. The 2013 program is forthcoming.

Staff News: Josh Quan started April 16 as the Social Sciences Data Librarian. This position was created by revising an open position when a former Social Sciences Research and Instructions Librarian resigned. We have worked closely with multiple faculty for input on the growing faculty and student demand for support on the discovery and use of data sets. Josh comes to Tufts by way of Duke, where he worked in the Perkins Library for a couple of years. Josh will work with the departments of Anthropology, Economics, and Sociology, and will help build a program of support for the discovery and use of data across the Social Sciences.

We are currently interviewing finalists for our First Year Education Librarian, formerly held by Beth Rohloff. We hope to hire someone soon so we will have someone ready to go for our fall activities (such as our open house during orientation) and to work with faculty on Fall English 1 instruction sessions.

Finally, we congratulate Evan Simpson, Head of Research and Instruction, for his promotion from Assistant to Associate Librarian. Evan has been highly active in the Tufts community, is a significant contributor to the profession on national committees, and regularly presents at conferences as an invited speaker.