Renovation Planning Project: In collaboration with the university Planning Office, the director has developed a proposal to renovate the library in three phases. The proposal has been shared with the Deans of A&S and SoE, as well as other senior VPs. The proposal will be shared with the Executive Capital Committee at their November meeting. It will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Capital Committee in order to enter a design phase for some or all of the project. The earliest we would commence renovations would be summer 2015.

Room 224: As a result of our planning process, one concept was identified that was (a) relatively small and (b) independent of other needs in the library. As a result, the library was granted approval to proceed with renovating room 224. This room was converted from a staff office for Interlibrary Loan and Documentary Delivery into a room designed for consultation services for students and faculty. Research and Instruction librarians will be able to schedule appointments for individuals and small groups in this room. The majority of the furniture and AV equipment has been installed. We are currently configuring the software image and waiting for delivery of the final furniture. We anticipate opening the room following a few days of staff training in early November.

Scan and Deliver: Tisch launched a new service last year to scan book chapters and journal articles from our print collections and deliver them via email to faculty. Use of the service increased over the summer as faculty travelled and we’ve received very positive feedback. We have extended the service to make it available to all staff and students, too.

Staff News: Erica Schattle started on June 24 as the First year Education Librarian. Erica has jumped into numerous start-of-year programming, including work with the BLAST cohort, the annual Tisch Open House during orientation, and coordinating instruction sessions for the first year writing program.

In June, our Digital Media Technologist (DMT) Bryan Revis resigned from Tufts to move to Florida. This left a sudden vacancy in the Digital Design Studio (DDS), just as faculty were beginning to make plans for fall term. We had planned to add a second DMT for the fall, so quickly went to work designing two openings for the DDS. Michael Callahan comes to Tufts from Boston University, where he was an instructional media specialist. He started October 15. Marc Raila comes to Tufts with solid experience in photography, as both an instructor and media lab manager. He started October 21. By having two DMTs, we’ll be able to increase the number of courses supported and extend the hours of high level support for students in the lab. The DDS is hosting an Open House to meet the new DMTs on October 22 from 12-1PM.

Plans to hire an additional IT support person have been postponed. The increased support is needed to allow us to maintain the growing fleet of workstations in the library and increased need for new technology services. In light of the TEAM initiative to reorganize IT support, we have hired a temporary staff member in the interim.
Website Redesign: The designs for our new website have been completed and we are now developing the code for the Drupal migration. Simultaneously, staff are working on revising content for the site. We expect the majority of the content will be ready for a soft launch in January. Further development of some capabilities, such as forms, will be worked on during the spring. We are also preparing several rounds of usability testing.

Bloomberg Terminal: In response to growing interests in finance by undergraduate students, Tufts will add a second Bloomberg terminal on the Medford campus. Previously, the single terminal was reserved for exclusive use by Fletcher students. Starting this fall, Ginn and Tisch Libraries are sharing the license costs for two terminals. Both will be located in Ginn library, where expertise is available to support users, and both will be available for AS&E and Fletcher students. Fletcher also supplied the computer for the second terminal. This specialized database is a high recurring cost, which in prior years caused Tisch Library and the Economics department to prioritize other collection needs.

Budget Request for FY2015: We are waiting for instructions and deadlines for the FY2015 budget request cycle. However, we have identified our collections needs for the coming year. The materials Budget Request is provided separately. We are seeking committee feedback on the document.