Open Access Fund for Graduate Students
We have designated specific funds to support graduate students who wish to publish in open access venues. Student co-authors have access to funds via their faculty co-author (who can apply to FRAC). This fund is for the students who are publishing independently. The library will review the publishing venues and the graduate deans in SOE and A&S will review the student applications.

Subscription Agent Bankruptcy
Our journal subscription agent, Swets Information Services, BV, filed for bankruptcy in the Amsterdam courts in September. Through Swets, we ordered all our journals. Tufts’ counsel has reviewed the court statement, and we have officially withdrawn from our contract. Fortunately, we had not yet paid for our 2015 subscriptions, so our financial exposure is relatively low. We have reviewed our outstanding 2014 subscriptions to which we pre-paid Swets (with a hard bank guarantee) and estimate the Tisch Library share of the liability to be between $120,000-140,000. It is difficult to give an exact amount because some payments were in transition at the time of the bankruptcy and may be honored.

Tisch will take whatever liability we have from our one-time expenditures, as we do not want to cancel journal subscriptions for a one-year period (this wrecks havoc with research). Taking from one-time expenditures means that we will purchase fewer books and electronic journal archives in FY2015. In the meantime, we are working with Tufts purchasing on contracting with a new subscription vendor. Ebsco has agreed to honor the terms of the 2013 RFP. They have excellent credit ratings and have been an established company for decades. The total cost of our subscription renewal with Ebsco will be higher due to their service fees.

Closure of the Reference Desk
As you may have seen, the reference desk is no longer open. Last spring, we experimented with having graduate students at the desk to field directional and printer questions. Now, we are locating those student assistants at the main circulation desk. This move allows us to accomplish several goals: enhancing service at the circulation desk through cross training, reducing the confusion students reported about where to go to ask their questions, and fully separating the research and instruction librarians from more routine inquiries so that they can prioritize their time in Room 224 for consultations. We are still unsure how to use the big empty space of the reference desk while await renovation, but we are installing 2 workstations for library users and inquiring about the potential removal of the built-in desk.

De-accessioning Maps
We are giving away some of our topographical printed maps. Tisch Library is working with the GIS Center to repurpose the GIS room for more active learning and increased data services. All of these maps are now available online, and they are updated on a much more regular basis than the print maps. We have spoken with faculty, and we are keeping the few print maps that they still use. These are the Geological Maps that are kept in the file cabinets and atlases in the silver cases. Some of the topographical maps have value as
historical artifacts, and we have reached out to the academic, public library, and historical society communities to see if they wanted to take any of our maps. We have found homes for all of the Maine, Rhode Island, Michigan, historical NH maps, and also some of Ohio, Arkansas, and Hawaii. The Boston Public Library is also taking 3 cases of maps and historical posters. Remaining maps will be recycled by Tufts. Plus, we worked with Tufts Community Relations who reached out to art centers, historical societies, and geological societies to find home for the map cases.

If you are interested in these maps, you are welcome to take from the collection this week: Nov. 5-9 (8am to 1am M-Th and F 8-9, Sat 10am to 9pm, Sun 10-1am). The map room is on the entrance floor of Tisch Library near room 204. You are welcome to take any maps in or on top of the large black map cases.

Large Format Printer
Later this fall, we plan to launch a large format printing service. We will use JumboCash to recover expenses for these large print-outs. We are locating the printer in the Digital Design Studio so that faculty and staff can obtain some design and production assistance from our DDS desk assistants. We hope the printer will be useful for poster sessions, visualization projects, and other needs, at a significantly lower cost than a 3rd party vendor.