Tisch Library Director’s Report  
Library Committee, January 21, 2015

Qualitative studies:
We’ll be conducting two qualitative studies this spring to better understand user needs, one with faculty and one with students.

**Faculty Research Study:** Laura Walters will lead this study, conducting interviews with 40 faculty about the publication of their scholarship. Our goal is to better understand changing models of publishing, how this is affecting AS&E faculty, and consider whether new services can be developed to meet emerging needs.

**Student Focus Groups:** As is our custom biennially, the Data Assessment Team will be holding focus groups with undergraduate and graduate students. This year we will be exploring current use of and attitudes toward ebooks. The feedback will help us plan our collection development plans for various ebook packages.

**Closure of the Reference Desk**
We closed the reference desk for the fall term, but now we have removed it! Both the reference desk and the microform desk were removed over intersession to make way for added seating for library researchers (the microform desk was back near the current print periodicals on the main level). We took advantage of an opportunity to work with facilities on removing them. We will assemble some existing furniture into the spaces for the next few months while we select and order new furniture for both areas.

**Integration with Tufts Technology Services (TTS)**
Starting in January, the IT group serving Tisch Library will now report into the TTS organization. This includes the 4 permanent staff reporting to Thom Cox, Thom, and the student assistants they hire. There are no current plans to change the location of staff or delivery of services. We are in the process of examining budget issues to determine which funding beyond salaries will be shifted to TTS. Further discussion is needed about how new services will be developed and how decisions will be made prospectively.

**Large Format Printer**
Our large format printing service is now available. The printer is in the Digital Design Studio and can be used with payment by Jumbo Cash (for supply cost recovery). DDS staff will provide design and production assistance during designated hours. 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. We will be publicizing the service soon.

**Staffing**
Megan Bresnahan has joined Tisch as the Science Collections Librarian on January 12. Formerly at the University of Colorado, Boulder, she is well versed in the complexities of publishing in the sciences and will conduct a significant portion of our negotiations with publishers. Regina Raboin has been appointed as the Associate Director for Library Education and Research of the Lamar Soutter Library at UMass Medical Center. Her last day at Tisch will be February 13. We will set in place temporary plans to cover Regina’s responsibilities while launching a search. Pauline White has retired from Tisch library after serving over 21 years as a shelving assistant. Her last day was January 9.
Print Management Strategy

Bibliographers have reached out to those faculty members who expressed a willingness to discuss the print management survey in more detail. As promised, we’re reporting on those conversations.

- Karen Vagts discussed the print management survey as part of her annual presentation before the SOE faculty. She has not had any additional follow-up from faculty concerned about the print collection. She’s focusing on department-level communications for engineering and math.

- Chris Barbour has discussed our philosophies around print and the important role it continues to play in the humanities with several members of the faculty including: Christelle Baskins, Marie-Claire Beaulieu, Laurence Senelick, Brian Epstein, Susan Setnik, Pedro Ángel Palou, Greg Carleton, and José Antonio Mazzotti.

- Martha Kelehan included an invitation to discuss the print management strategy in more depth in her fall emails to departments. She followed up with Chris Schmidt-Nowara in more detail addressing his concerns, where she reiterated our continuing support to purchasing print. Professor Ben Carp of History has since left Tufts, so Martha did not reach out to him.

As for our next steps, we are pursuing two directions. The collections department staff are continuing their analysis of the collections data process we completed this summer. They are using to understand collection strengths and weaknesses and beginning to identify areas where further weeding would be appropriate. Additionally, we continue to be participating in the efforts to establish a regional print retention program. The Boston Library Consortium has agreed to serve as host for the program, now called EAST (Eastern Academic Scholarship Trust). As president-elect for BLC, Laura Wood will be heavily involved in the growing plans for this project if the grant funding is secured.

De-accessioning Maps

The Map giveaway was a surprising success! We were surprised by the high level of student interest in the maps. More than half the maps were claimed. See:

http://tischlibrary.tufts.edu/great-maps-giveaway