New Initiatives:

**Textbooks on Reserve**: In an effort to assist current students with the increasing burden of the cost of textbooks, we are experimenting with purchasing copies of textbooks to place on reserve. In collaboration with Rob Mack, Associate Dean for Student Success and Advising, we selected 24 classes for the fall term and purchased the required texts (1-5 copies, depending on enrollment). Faculty of these classes have been notified and have responded positively, agreeing to share the information on their course pages. Students have also been notified directly via email. We changed our policy so that reserve materials may leave the building. We will monitor the use of these materials and repeat the pilot for the spring semester. Dean Glaser has provided some discretionary funding to cover the costs. This initiative, its progress, and the options for longer term action to address textbook costs will be a topic of our next Library Committee meeting.

**Special Collections Exhibit**: **Beyond Words** is an exhibit of illuminated manuscripts running simultaneously at the Gardner Museum, the McMullen Museum (Boston College), and Houghton Library (Harvard). Tisch has three manuscripts from our special collections in this exhibit, which has been described as the most ambitious exhibit of medieval and Renaissance books in North America. The [Wall Street Journal review](follow the link, then click on the “Full Text” tab) calls the exhibit “extraordinary”: “Every work in this show, whether sacred or secular, was laboriously -- reverently -- created as a unique artwork glorifying the acquisition of knowledge.”

Recent Improvements:

**Carpet**: Over 27,000 square feet of carpet was replaced in Tisch Library public areas this summer. This included a dire area near the Tower Café back door along P-Row but was mostly focused on the lower level (Level 1). We hope this will drastically reduce the tripping hazards in the building and lower our duct tape costs. We are exceedingly grateful to AS&E for funding the replacement.

**SMFA**: The W. Van Alan Clark Library at the SMFA has joined the Lilly Music Library as a branch library of Tisch. This summer we imported the bibliographic data for the roughly 27,000 volumes. We also placed new barcodes on each item to make it compatible with our software and equipment. The Tisch staff is delighted with our three new colleagues and continues to collaborate with them to integrate their work into our infrastructure (e.g. migrate their library website and subject guides, unify policies, etc.).

**Video Streaming**: With the assistance of TTS, we have switched to a new streaming service for videos. The new service makes it possible to stream our videos at higher resolution, create the streaming access in a fraction of the former time, and improve the security of the content. Once the DVD is converted, we use Kaltura and are able to create playlists for faculty to link to from course websites.

Current Challenges:

**Staff Vacancies**: A confluence of circumstances (retirements and resignations) left us with multiple vacancies—some of which are for highly specialized and in-demand skillsets. We are currently trying to fill 5 vacant positions: Assistant Director for Research & Instruction (R&I), Team Lead for Sciences and Social Sciences (in R&I), R&I Librarian for Engineering, Mathematics, and Business, Librarian for Research
Data, and a Library Assistant in our metadata and cataloging unit. We also have two staff members on leave. The staff have and are going to extraordinary lengths to continue our work at our high standards for performance, but there are several areas (such as Engineering support) in which we are struggling to provide adequate services.

**Unwanted Fliers:** Tisch library has had to search for and remove fliers which espouse racist views. These fliers have been found in the book stacks. We continue to monitor the building and have been collaborating with and assisted by the Tufts Police. The fliers were found by library staff and library student workers.

**Flexible Teaching Space:** We are increasingly aware of the shortage of space for teaching with technology and in flexible ways. This shortage is felt by our librarians in scheduling instruction sessions for courses and in responding to requests for use of the two teaching rooms with technology (the Mark Lab and Room 223/ERC). Demand is high for ad hoc library needs (“can my class come next Tuesday for guidance using specialized subject databases?”), correlated ad hoc needs (overflow space for GIS instruction or Digital Design workshops), and semester long requests (using the room as the classroom for a full semester).

**Upcoming Events:**

**Community Day:** Library staff will participate in Community Day on October 2. We plan to have button making and our prize wheel out in celebration of our friends and neighbors.

**Parents and Family Weekend:** Our first Author Talk of the year will feature Prof. Julian Agyeman and his latest book, *Sharing Cities: A Case for Truly Smart and Sustainable Cities*. Please join us! Friday, October 21, from 3:30-5 PM in the Hirsh Reading Room. On Saturday, October 22, we will host an Open House and Rare Book Exhibit to welcome parents and families into the library to learn about our services.

**November Author Talk:** On November 2, 2016, Elijah Wald (G15) will speak about his book, *Dylan Goes Electric: Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night that Split the Sixties*. From 3:30-5:00 PM in the Hirsh Reading Room.