Tisch Library Director’s Report
Library Committee, November 9, 2011

ILL supplying Links to Digitized Copies: Starting this month, pre-1923 book requests are put into a special queue to check for availability in Google Books, the Internet Archive, and Hathi Trust. The patron will be sent an email with the link (if the item is found) and asked if they still want the item in print. We will track how many books are available this way and how many patrons opt to pursue print editions.

Fall Orientations: In addition to the Freshman Orientation Fair (included in the September Director’s Report), the library staff provided programs or participated in existing programs for teaching assistants, new faculty, and graduate student orientations.

Pre/post survey of skills for First Year Library Instruction: This fall we are asking English 1 and English 2 classes attending a library research session to complete a brief online survey before and after their library visit. The purpose of this library skills survey is to gain a better understanding of the research skills students have acquired prior to entering Tufts and to assess what they learn during their English 1 or English 2 library research session.

New Undergraduate Research Awards: A new annual award has been established recognizing exemplary research papers and projects using Tisch Library resources. All currently enrolled undergraduate individuals and groups are eligible to apply. One $500 first prize and one $250 second prize will be awarded for papers/projects in each of 3 categories: the first year writing program (ENG 1-4 or any course taken to fulfill the college writing requirement), 001-99 level courses, and 100-200 level courses. Applications will be accepted until April 6. Winners will be announced at the undergraduate ceremony on April 20. Complete information and applications are online: http://www.library.tufts.edu/tisch/award/

Digital Design Studio (DDS): The DDS is seeing a lot of activity and to date the startup has been smooth. There are 8 courses being supported at a high level, including: scoping the content, providing an outline, creating storage, and planning assessment. Other courses are supported at a lower level because the instructor is more heavily involved, or the project is smaller in scope. Instructors and students are using the facility and services to the maximum. There are already new courses being scheduled for next semester. Some stats: 493 students are involved in 13 courses resulting in approximately 129 projects.

Mobile Website Testing: Usability testing of our mobile website will commence soon. Assuming testing goes well, the site should be released by the end of the fall, if not sooner. The library’s web content—including catalog search—has been optimized for mobile devices.

QR Codes for Current Periodicals: We have added QR codes to the shelf labels for current periodicals in the library. The codes direct users to the online options for viewing the journals. This is an experiment to increase staff knowledge of QR codes and see what the user feedback is for these features.

Sloan Summit II: The Boston Library Consortium is holding its 2nd conference on Open Access in January 2012 at the Tufts School of Medicine. The first day will provide an opportunity for University administrators, especially provosts and vice presidents of research, to explore Open Access issues with BLC library directors and determine appropriate activities for their institutions. Speakers include James Neal (Columbia University), Diane Harley (University of California, Berkeley) and Mary Lee (Tufts University). The second day will be focused on a broader library audience.