Strategic Plan

As we approach the 20th anniversary of Tisch Library, it is exciting and essential to articulate the role of the 21st-century research library and reset our ambitions to align with the goals of the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering, and the larger University community. This three-year plan describes what we will be working on with enthusiasm, and where we have the greatest need to add resources.

The driving force of our strategic plan is the support of Tufts as a research university. We intend to invest in areas that will deepen our commitments to scholarly research and transform our services to meet rapidly emerging needs. We have articulated this activity in three parts:

- transforming spaces and services to enhance and enrich learning,
- curating and stewarding the scholarly record, and
- fostering research and knowledge creation.

The library has a vision for furniture, technology and services; we are modifying our collection strategies; and we are pursuing new tools and methods of scholarship.

Revised Mission Statement

*Tufts is a student-centered research university dedicated to the creation and application of knowledge.*

— University mission statement

Tisch Library is a strong partner in the pursuit of this mission. We do this by:

- Supporting and teaching the research process
- Enabling inquiry, discovery, creation and sharing of knowledge
- Contributing to the worldwide stewardship of the scholarly record

Tisch serves as the primary library and a core teaching resource for the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering, while collaborating with other libraries and units to provide essential services to the entire Tufts community.

Tisch Values

We embrace and prioritize the following values: partnerships and collaborative problem-solving; generosity and hospitality; innovation; flexibility and agility; and user focus. These values, while by no means comprehensive, will be essential to accomplish our goals effectively.

VIEW THE FULL PLAN

Snow Days

For months the snow accumulated, but the library forged on. Hundreds of visitors came through the doors on snowy days. Better yet, thousands of resources were still available (and heavily used) onsite and remotely.

Large Format Printer

The Digital Design Studio now offers design consultations and large format printing services for conference posters and other projects.
Changing Spaces
This was a big year to prepare spaces for new services.

Reference Desk: For the second half of the year, furniture borrowed from other parts of the building filled the area while we waited for the summer renovation.

Over the summer, new furniture, lighting, and electrical outlets were installed, adding 20 new (much needed) user seats and a fresh look to a major stop on the campus tour.

Microform Desk: This vacant service desk was transformed into a quiet computer area, with 12 workstations containing the full complement of our software, including Read&Write Gold (for accessibility) and Adobe Creative Suite.

Data Lab: The “Great Map Giveaway” last fall made it possible to clear out large cases and make room for a transformed GIS/Map room, now called the Data Lab. Tufts Technology Services (TTS) dramatically improved the space, adding new workstations. Tisch will collaborate with GIS staff to deliver support services.

Single Service Point: The DVD collection is now available as a browsable collection. Moved from level 3 restricted shelves to the main floor, the collection is more accessible and all borrowing—from books to equipment—now happens at the circulation desk on level 2.

DDS Recording Room: In collaboration with Paul Bergen in TTS, we upgraded our recording room. New lighting, added sound proofing, flexible furniture, and higher quality video equipment have vastly improved the quality of work that can be produced in the space. Supporting AS&E faculty course assignments continues as the room’s priority, but the room is also available for other academic purposes.

Lactation Room: Tisch now hosts a Lactation Room, available during all open library hours.

Trove for Digital Images: Collaborating with the Art & Art History department, Digital Collections and Archives (DCA), and TTS, we launched Trove, a repository for images, designed to meet teaching needs. Trove enables faculty to organize teaching material in a secure environment and has potential uses throughout the university.

First Year Education: Engagement of the library with English 1, 2 & 4 reached a high last year with 94% of classes opting to have a session with a librarian (24% opting for 2 sessions to increase learning).

Grants: Laura Wood secured an IMLS planning grant for $50K for her project “Repository Services for Accessible Course Content.” The project runs 5/15 to 4/16. Wood also became co-PI for a Mellon Foundation grant to the Boston Library Consortium to implement EAST, a regional monograph retention program.

Departures: We said farewell to several staff this year as they moved on to great opportunities: Jodine Brown, Regina Raboin, Laurie Sabol, and Pauline White.

Arrivals: We used staff turnover to revamp positions and address priorities in hiring.

We’re delighted to welcome 4 newcomers (clockwise from top left):

- Dorothy Meaney, in September, as Manager of Admin & Finance
- Megan Bresnahan, in January, as Sciences Collections Librarian
- Lydia Herring-Harrington, in April, as E-Resources & Metadata Services Librarian
- Chrissy Callahan, in April, as Staff Assistant in Administration

Reorganization: In order to unify our service points (see above) we also needed to rethink the organizational structure. When the Media desk closed, Dani Reardon joined Access Services. The Digital Design Studio now reports to Research and Instruction, led by Evan Simpson, with the department further reorganized, creating two team leads and shifting Megan into the department.

We start FY2016 with 4 open searches: 2 in Collections and 2 in R&I.

Promotions: Alicia Morris was promoted to the rank of Librarian. Congrats Alicia!

Graduate Research Fellowships: With GSAS, we cosponsored 4 students this summer.