

Tisch Library Strategic Plan FY2015 to FY2017

Introduction

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 needs to add resources: whether in terms of human effort or other financial needs, whether adding new resources or redeploying existing resources.

The driving force of our strategic plan is the support of Tufts as a research university. Tisch Library has, through sustained financial investment from AS&E, emerged from substandard conditions for a college library into a solid and admirable place supporting the work of the two schools. Our record of service initiatives and innovations is stellar. Our collections are vastly improved to keep pace with the needs of our scholars (especially in the realm of digital licensed collections). And most importantly, our relationships with the faculty and with other administrative units and programs, as well as with external institutional partners, are strong and growing.

Therefore, in moving forward with these strengths, 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. In many respects, these three areas of focus are very traditional. What makes them essential for Tisch Library is the extent to which they allow us to catch up and make progress in aspects of librarianship where we have lagged, but where we know we can contribute to the excellence of the Tufts experience.

What is a 21st century research library? As the university members create and consume scholarship, they make new **discoveries** (discovery of ideas, of content, or of expertise), they identify, forge, and renew **partnerships**, and they both seek and fuel their **inspiration**. In turn, the opportunity for inspiration, for partnership, and for discovery **generates new scholarship**. Tisch Library endeavors to support all these activities in varied ways. Tisch Library is changed by the community's scholarship and also influences the scholarly possibilities.

Revised mission statement¹

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
- User focus

These values, while by no means comprehensive, will be essential to accomplish our goals effectively.

Strategic goals, with preliminary objectives

During the next three academic and fiscal years, the staff at Tisch Library will prioritize efforts in the following three areas:

I. **Transforming Spaces and Services to Enhance and Enrich Learning**

In 2016, Tisch Library will have been open for 20 years. In that time, libraries have changed enormously. Technology has enabled new roles and capabilities. It is time to refresh the interior of the building to reflect these changes and meet these needs. Beyond the furniture and technology needs, the library has also generated a vision for new services and new ways to deliver our services. We will be moving forward to implement these changes and fundraise for the renovation.

- a. Increase both technology-rich collaborative learning environments and places for quiet study

¹ The prior mission statement of Tisch Library was: “Tisch Library supports the mission of Tufts University in providing students with the knowledge and skills for them to grow as intellectually curious and critically involved members of society with a lifelong commitment to learning.”

- b. Strengthen support for training and use of research software
- c. Consolidate service points and expand in-depth consultation services
- d. Teach the tools and services that help students pursue new forms of scholarship and equip them with the skills to become sophisticated digital citizens; assist faculty in embedding emerging digital and media skills in the curriculum
- e. Develop programming that links curricular and co-curricular activities to promote academic excellence and student creativity
- f. Develop robust programming for graduate students that addresses their needs throughout the professional lifecycle – as students, teachers, researchers, and authors

II. Curating and Stewarding the Scholarly Record

Research libraries are concerned not only with providing access to collections for today's community, but also in preparing for scholarship in the future. This requires planning for collecting and preserving scholarship in coherent ways. The abundance of information sources for scholarship requires new collecting modes and models. Libraries are actively pursuing coordinated efforts to partner in sharing resources that will enable shared access and management of print and digital content. Tisch Library is engaged regionally and nationally in these efforts, as well as coordinating across the university. We must deepen collecting for the long term in those areas that support our research strengths, our existing collection strengths, and the University's mission.

- a. Identify locations and delivery/access models for physical collections
- b. Develop deep collections in areas that reflect the research strengths of the university
- c. Join with outside partners to solve stewardship challenges at regional and national levels

III. Fostering Research and Knowledge Creation

Technology has also influenced the creation and distribution of scholarship. Our talented student body needs support to learn tools and methodologies for working with data and digital objects. Our faculty need to be able to store and reuse digital materials. Our researchers need education and infrastructure to comply with new federal mandates for data management. And once the new ideas and results are ready for sharing, how will Tufts participate in emerging modes of scholarly communication? The library has a role to educate, advocate, and respond so that new scholarship can be distributed.

- a. Transform our current digital asset infrastructure to increase the capacity to manage the evolving range of digital formats
- b. Lead in the design of a robust set of services to support the creation, dissemination, preservation and discovery of born-digital and digitized content
- c. Develop new services that enable the open dissemination of Tufts scholarship to maximize research visibility and impact