

Re: Letter of support for keeping the print collections at the iSchool Inforum

corinneabba@gmail.com on behalf of corinne abba [corinne.abba@alumni.utoronto.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 12:29 PM

To: Wendy Duff; Kathleen Scheaffer; fiaa.president@gmail.com; Nalini Singh; Elisa Sze

February 20th, 2018

It has been brought to my attention

that the library collection housed at the iSchool Inforum (Faculty of Information, Claude Bissell building) may be in jeopardy.

I write to you today in support

of keeping the print collection at Bissell, and in favour of making decisions of this nature with transparency and in consultation with stakeholders and members of the iSchool community.

I

believe that the print collection is a vital and necessary part of the iSchool Inforum, and that this collection should be kept and preserved as a cohesive and specialized collection. The collection in its physical form leads to browsability, provides cohesiveness, demonstrates historical value, and facilitates serendipitous encounters.

Limiting

access by making the Inforum's print resources part of a closed collection, or by integrating it into a larger collection, creates barriers to access for UofT students, faculty, and staff. It obstructs its use and the building of relationships between past, current, and future information professionals, and it limits the ability of iSchool alumni, other members of the profession, and the public to browse and access the collection.

The

collection should be where its users are, in the Inforum, in proximity to the Inforum librarians and library technicians who are the most knowledgeable about the collection and its many uses by the community. A localized collection also ensures opportunities for training current iSchool students through onsite jobs, learning experiences, and practicum opportunities.

As

an iSchool alumni, I hope that the community and stakeholders that you serve, including iSchool students, Inforum librarians and staff, teaching and research faculty, and alumni, have been consulted on the proposal to move the collection, and that you value transparency throughout this process.

Thank

2/23/2018

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you for your attention to this matter,

Corinne Abba