

RE: Support for keeping the print collections in the Inforum

Dan D'Agostino [d.dagostino@utoronto.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Miguel Torrens; Kathleen Scheaffer; Elisa Sze; Nalini Singh
Cc: Wendy Duff; Lari Langford; Larry Alford
Attachments: 2017_-_Naomi_S_Baron_-_The~1.pdf (407 KB)

Colleagues,

As an alumnus of the iSchool, and an information professional the University of Toronto, I too am shocked at this decision. That it was arrived at without consulting the professional staff who work with the collection reflects a fundamental lack of respect for information professionals which, in the starkest terms, is antithetical to the very mission of the iSchool. That this decision should ignore the wishes of the community, as surveyed by UTL Partnerships Working Group, shows a distressing lack of concern for the very community that sustains the iSchool. That this decision seems to be based in part on the idea that print is superfluous to the education of iSchool students contradicts the most recent evidence in the LIS literature itself which shows students overwhelmingly preferring print over digital for longer works (see the 2017 article by Barron et al, attached). Finally, that the decision should be made to move much of the collection to the Robarts stacks shows an appalling lack of due diligence. A simple visit to the Robarts stacks would have been enough to demonstrate the poor and unusable state of the shelving in many areas, as well as the lack of even the most basic signage encouraging users to locate staff for help in searching vastly over-crowded shelves. In what way is moving any part of the collection to the Robarts stacks adequate to the needs of iSchool students, let alone any kind of enhancement? Does the iSchool administration really want to send the message that housing the print collection this way is good enough for fee-paying, future information professionals?

This decision then, by any measure, was ill-informed and ill-considered. Sincere and meaningful consultation with all stakeholders should be embraced not disregarded. I concur with my colleagues' suggestion, "that the need for space and the need for an on-site collection should not be pitted against each other, but resolved creatively, while following due process, so that both important needs can be met."

I will be following this issue very closely, and can assure you that I will be keeping other colleagues and iSchool alumni informed.

Best,
Dan D'Agostino
Social Science Selector
University of Toronto Libraries

From: Miguel Torrens**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2018 8:21 AM**To:** Kathleen Scheaffer <kathleen.scheaffer@utoronto.ca>; Elisa Sze <elisa.sze@utoronto.ca>; Nalin Sahni <nalin.sahni@gmail.com>**Cc:** Wendy Duff <wendy.duff@utoronto.ca>; Lari Langford <lari.langford@utoronto.ca>; Larry Alford <larry.alford@utoronto.ca>**Subject:** Re: Support for keeping the print collections in the Inforum**Dear Kathleen and FIS colleagues**

I read with dismay your letter informing us of the attempt by Administration to dismantle and disperse the Inforum collections. As a librarian, collection development bibliographer, an alumnus of the Faculty and a

professional with 37 years of service in the field I am totally appalled by such a blatant attack against the very foundation of our profession. What hope would there be if our future professionals were educated in such environment?

You and your colleagues have my full support in your fight against the dismantling and dispersion of the Inforum collections.

**Miguel A. Torrens, bibliographer
Collection Development Dept.
University of Toronto Libraries**

From: Kathleen Scheaffer [<mailto:kathleen.scheaffer@utoronto.ca>]

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 1:34 PM

To: librarianscommittee@utfa.org

Cc: Elisa Sze <elisa.sze@utoronto.ca>; Nalini Singh <nalini.singh@utoronto.ca>

Subject: CALL FOR ACTION: Support for keeping the print collections in the Inforum

Hello all,

My colleagues, cced, and I are quite concerned about iSchool Administration's attempt to dismantle our collection and disperse it into Robarts as well as other U of T libraries on May 1, 2018. There are serious ramifications to this move. With permission, we have attached a letter of concern from an alumnus. We have also attached a fact sheet outlining the impact of implementing this action would have on each of our user groups. The attached fact sheet also details how folks can show their support to keep the Inforum collection in the Inforum.

Dismantling our collection is antithetical to the recommendations that the UTL Partnerships Working Group of 2014-2015 made, which was based upon community consultations. The first two Faculty Council approved recommendations from that Working Group were:

- Keep the collections, including course reserves, within the Bissell Building
- Keep all Inforum staff and services within the Inforum.

It is alarming that this move is being made without consultation with our users or the approval of our Faculty Council. Additionally, this has flown below the radar for many as it was buried in one small paragraph in a 180 page RFP, that was sent to faculty as an FYI (in that document, it erroneously said the collection would be moved to Downsview). Please also note, this is being implemented while my cced colleagues are on research leave (a major reason librarians eschew research leaves). Elisa is the collections librarian here and Nalini, as our reference librarian draws upon the collection for her work - not to mention our 3 technicians whose work is tied to the collection.

I raised opposition to moving the Inforum collection at the Faculty Meeting that was on February 8, when Dean Duff shared with faculty and librarians that this move was underway. Shock and opposition was expressed by some of faculty members present. Elisa, Nalini, and I met with the Dean on February 15, 2018, where we discussed the proposed move of the Inforum collection, and expressed the negative impacts on our user communities that we believe will occur as a result.

We recommended to her that the Inforum collection not be moved. We emphasized that major changes of this nature require full, open, and wide consultation with our various stakeholders. We acknowledged the need for more space in the Faculty, and suggested that the need for space and the

need for an on-site collection should not be pitted against each other, but resolved creatively, while following due process, so that both important needs can be met.

The Dean mentioned that she will be attending a MISC meeting and a FIAA meeting to discuss this issue. We asked that wider community venues where different groups of people can hear one another's views, be held in a timely manner, given that the move is set for May 1, 2018, and that the results of community feedback be made public.

Please see the correspondence an alumnus sent below, her attached letter, and the attached fact sheet that Elisa, Nalini and I have put together.

[MoA](#), Article 5, bullet #3, last sentence, "A librarian shall ensure the fullest possible access to library materials." Please join us in our pursuit to ensure our collection remains accessible to our stakeholders and the public.

With appreciation,

Kathleen, on behalf Elisa, Nalini, and myself

Kathleen Scheaffer
pronouns: she & her/ they & them

[Librarian, Outreach and Instructional Services Coordinator](#)
Faculty of Information
University of Toronto

[Chair](#)
Librarians Committee
UTFA

[Strategic Co-Lead](#)
Digital Tattoo Project

From: Stephanie Abba
Sent: February 14, 2018 9:15 AM
To: Wendy Duff; Lari Langford; Kathleen Scheaffer
Cc: Elisa Sze; Nalini Singh; Natalina Moro; Anna Oh; Meera Thirunavukarasu; Eden Rusnell;
amber.shortell@mail.utoronto.ca; mussa.ischool@utoronto.ca
Subject: letter of support for keeping the print collections in the Inforum

Dear Dean Duff, Lari, and Kathleen;

For the last week or so there have been rumours circulating in the iSchool community that the print collection at Bissell is again under fire as it was in 2014/15. 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 the members of the wider iSchool

community.

Please find my full letter attached as a PDF.

Best wishes to all,
Stephanie Abba
iSchool alumni (2017)