

## Concerns with proposed changes to Inforum print collection

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**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2018 11:58 AM

**To:** Wendy Duff

**Cc:** Kathleen Scheaffer; Elisa Sze; Nalini Singh

Dear Dean Duff,

I write to you expressing my concern regarding the possible dismantling of the Inforum's print collection. As a current UTL librarian, I regularly consult with the print collection for my professional practice and research interests. Although many of the titles are now at Downsview, what remains is a thoughtfully curated collection. I can always count on the Inforum's collection to have the book I'm looking for, and when checking out the title, I enjoy scanning the other interesting titles in the adjacent stacks - something that may no longer be possible with titles being located in different libraries around campus.

In the [iSchool's ALA self-study from 2017](#), it was mentioned that, "this collection is recognized as one of the strongest information studies collections in North America" (p. 212). How will dismantling the collection and moving items to Robarts Library, or to other libraries around St. George campus keep this collection "strong?" As a librarian, I believe that a subject-specific print collection can be defined as strong based on numbers and proximity, in one space close to the dedicated librarians who select and maintain the titles.

Although a recent email you circulated to the iSchool community (which found its way to [this site](#)) references the fact that other faculties (Rotman, Dentistry, etc.) have moved "much of their print holdings" out of the library space, it should also be noted that a print collection of high-use and new titles still exists in those spaces, within easy access to those faculties' constituencies.

Furthermore, if the ultimate result of removing the print collection is the creation of 30 additional study spaces for the area, is that small benefit really worth the loss of an entire print collection that is still used by many students, faculty, librarians, and alumni. In a of couple years, Robarts Commons will open adjacent to Bissell, with an additional 1,200 study spaces available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This increase in Robarts' space will also benefit iSchool students.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the 2015 report from the [iSchool's New Partnerships with the Central Library" Working Group](#), with one of the recommendations being, "Keep the collections, including course reserves, within the Bissell Building". With these reports and self-studies highlighting the value of the collection and need for its location to remain with the Inforum, I believe it's best to keep it where it is - close to the iSchool students and faculty, with easy and barrier-free access to all (including alumni) - and Inforum librarians to continue practicing their expertise in maintaining it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Heather Buchansky

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