

FW: Inforum Print Collection

Nalini Singh

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 4:28 PM**To:** Nalini Singh

From:**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018 1:42 PM**To:** Wendy Duff**Cc:** Elisa Sze; Kathleen Scheaffer; Nalini Singh; Eden Rusnell; Anna Oh; Nadia Moro; Meera Thirunavukarasu**Subject:** Inforum Print Collection

Dear Dean Wendy Duff,

I am writing regarding plans to disperse the Inforum library's print collection. I would like to urge you to please reconsider.

I use the Inforum print collection many times each semester, even excluding course reserve items. I greatly value how beautifully curated the collection is. When looking for a specific book, I frequently spot other useful ones on its shelves. I enjoy browsing in the Inforum collection in a way I have not experienced at any other UofT library. If you dismantle the collection, that curated browsing experience will be entirely lost.

I also highly value the ability to easily consult books periodically as I work in the Inforum. I feel a sense of ease knowing that if I look up an important Museum or Library-related book, chances are I will be able to go over and easily consult it.

At a recent MISC meeting you put forward that iSchool students borrow more than twice as many books from Robarts as they do from the Inforum collection. You maintained on this count that it therefore made sense to move books to Robarts, since we are mostly going there for research. To me however, these numbers in fact seem shockingly low. This is an interdisciplinary program that delves heavily into very diverse areas of study. Robarts has hundreds, if not thousands more books than the Inforum collection. That iSchool students borrowed just two or three times the number of books from Robarts than the Inforum, rather than tens of times more, seems to me like a sign of the Inforum's high use.

I understand that there is a time and place for reducing or eliminating libraries' physical collections, and I am in fact overall in favour of innovative library collection decisions. Sometimes such moves meet a clear need of students, as observed by the librarians. Sometimes the physical collection sees little use. In this case however, I do not think any of those things are true.

As a CRO student studying both Libraries and Museums, I value the way that the collection closely pairs my two interests, alongside Archives and other disciplines within the iSchool. While the collection does not encapsulate the entirety of what iSchool students study, that would be impossible. We study Information; We study everything.

In the face of that interdisciplinary, far-reaching study, the Inforum library's collection offers us a bulwark, an intellectual home base where core texts can be found, and where we students can return again to the disciplines off of which we build.

I am also extremely disappointed in the administration's lack of consultation with students and Inforum librarians on this issue. From the second we heard about it, the move of the collection has been presented as a done deal—but done supposedly as a response to student demand for more space. If there is so much care for demand, please listen when we say that dispersing the collection is not the way to create more study space.

Yours Sincerely,

[name removed]

Master of Museum Studies Candidate

Master of Information Candidate | Library & Information Science

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