

To: Wendy Duff, Dean, Faculty of Information (iSchool)
Lari Langford, Interim Director of the iSchool Inforum
Kathleen Scheaffer, Inforum Librarian, Outreach and Instructional Services Coordinator

February 14th, 2018

re: 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 among 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 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. **Having an on-site collection is vital.** I include in this the Inforum's special collections (the Subject Analysis Systems (SAS) collection and the C. Donald Cook Collection on Bibliographic Control (Cook collection)) currently kept elsewhere in the Bissell building.

Limiting access by making the print resources the Inforum holds part of a closed collection (by sending it to Downsview or elsewhere) creates barriers to access for U of T students, faculty, and staff, obstructs its use and the building of relationships between past, current, and future information professionals, and limits the ability of iSchool alumni, other members of the profession, and the public to browse/access the collection. In my brief time as an alumni I have already used the Inforum's collection and I know other members of the information community of the city - and beyond - do as well.

The collection should be where its users are - and that is in the Inforum, in proximity to the Inforum librarians and library technicians who are the most knowledgeable about the collection and many uses by the community.

Dean Duff, I ask you to actively consult with and solicit feedback from current iSchool students, Inforum librarians and staff, teaching and research faculty, and alumni on this proposal. **The iSchool is a community - it has many stakeholders with voices that should be heard and**

respected. Please let its many members share their ideas about what they think is best for the greater iSchool community.

With hope,
Stephanie Abba, iSchool alumni
graduated 2017

Cc: Nalini K. Singh, Librarian, Reference Services Coordinator
Elisa Sze, Librarian, Collections & Public Services Coordinator
Eden Rusnell, Librarian, Public Services
Nadia Moro, Senior Library Technician (Public Services & Collections)
Anna Oh, Library Technician (Course Support & Public Services)
Meera Thirunavukarasu, Library Technician
Amber Shortell, MISC President
Aurora Cacioppo, MUSSA President