

Fwd: Inforum Collection

Elisa Sze

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 11:53 AM**To:** Nalini Singh

Sent from mobile device

Begin forwarded message:

From: Whitney Kemble <whitney.kemble@utoronto.ca>
Date: February 23, 2018 at 11:50:34 AM EST
To: Wendy Duff <wendy.duff@utoronto.ca>
Cc: Lari Langford <lari.langford@utoronto.ca>, Larry Alford <larry.alford@utoronto.ca>, Kathleen Scheaffer <kathleen.scheaffer@utoronto.ca>, "[nalini.sahni@gmail.com](mailto:nalin.sahni@gmail.com)" <[nalini.sahni@gmail.com](mailto:nalin.sahni@gmail.com)>, Elisa Sze <elisa.sze@utoronto.ca>
Subject: Inforum Collection

Dear Dean Duff,

As a member of the UTFA Librarians Committee, a librarian at UTSC, and an alumnus of the Faculty of Information, I am writing to express my support for keeping the iSchool's library collection in the Inforum. I was very concerned to hear about the plan to move the Inforum's collection into Robarts, and I was disappointed that this plan developed with little to no consultation among the University of Toronto's library and iSchool communities.

The Inforum's collection is a unique and specialized collection built and maintained to serve a specialized community of users who spend their time in the Inforum and the Bissell building. Having access to the collection on-site where students and faculty are working and meeting is an asset. Although the distance to Robarts is not significant, having to leave one's workspace is a barrier, and access to the collection will be further negatively affected in a number of ways. The collection in its current cohesive state provides great browsability and discoverability for its specialized users, and the open stacks of the Inforum allow alumni access to the collection, unlike Robarts' closed stacks. Furthermore, the expertise of the Inforum librarians and staff promotes greater access to the collection through specialized assistance.

Beyond issues of logistics and access, I am surprised that the value of a discrete special collection is being undermined at the Faculty of Information, of all places within the university. Special discipline-specific library collections contain historical significance and specialized knowledge, and they contribute to deep learning and research experiences. I worry for the future of the university's other departmental collections when the faculty that trains librarians and other information professionals opts for collection centralization.

While work space is important to students and faculty, when I was a student at the iSchool I considered the collection to be a valuable part of my work space, and it greatly enhanced my learning experience. Also, the Inforum was recently renovated to improve study space for its users. I cannot speak for current iSchool students and faculty, but they should have an opportunity to voice

their thoughts on the issue through an appropriate collegial process that consults with all stakeholders. Such major decisions should be made transparently and consultatively.

Sincerely,
Whitney Kemble

Whitney Kemble

Liaison Librarian, Department of Historical & Cultural Studies

Library

Pronouns: She/Her

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