

November 2019

**Dear Parents and Families,**

*“Because that’s what Hermione does,” said Ron, shrugging. “When in doubt, go to the library.”*

This quote from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is excellent advice for any student. Based on data from our 2018 survey, it appears that many Tufts students do take this advice, as 99% of undergraduates report visiting our libraries during the course of a semester. On behalf of the staff at Tisch, the Lilly Music Library, and the W. Van Alan Clark, Jr. Library at the SMFA, I am very happy to be writing to you today to share how we support student academic work at Tufts.

As most students know, **Tufts libraries are almost always open**, which means we are a central space for students to study, work, and find focus. During the semester [Tisch Library](#), the main library on the Medford campus, opens at 7:45 a.m. seven days a week, and it stays open until 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, with a smaller late-night study space open until 3 a.m. (Fridays and Saturdays have somewhat shorter hours.) During the ten days of final exams, we extend those hours to be 24/7. The [Lilly Music Library](#), also in Medford in the Granoff Music Building, stays open until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and also extends hours during exams. The [SMFA Library](#) generally stays open until 9 p.m. All Tufts students can use any of the libraries. If your student hasn’t yet visited one of our spaces, please encourage them to do so.

**There is a specialist librarian for every major.** Our staff works closely with faculty to provide focused library support for particular courses and programs. [Librarians and professional staff are available](#) by appointment to help your student *at any stage* of their research or project – including when they are just getting started. We find students sometimes think they need to be far along or have a particular question before they talk with us; this is not the case! We are very good at helping people think about how they might approach their research question or their search for information. There are many ways to ask for assistance: making an in-person appointment, using email, using our chat window, or by phone. Students can also ask for help at the front desk, where we have well-trained student staff who can provide first-tier support for those “how

do I find x?” questions. [Research guides are available](#) to get students started, or for those who like to figure things out for themselves.

**We have lots of spaces for students to do different kinds of work.** In addition to the study carrels and tables that most academic libraries still have plenty of, Tisch has room for [individual and group study](#) with varying noise levels, the [Levine Research and Learning Center](#), and the [Tower Café](#). We are also the home of the [Digital Design Studio](#), a creative space where students can explore multimedia and graphic design projects as well as do 3D and poster printing. Tisch in particular is a large building (students sometimes tell us they didn’t realize until they were seniors that we have a “basement” level!). Encourage your student to explore all our spaces.

**We run workshops.** The library, along with our campus partners, provides [open workshops](#) covering a range of skill-building topics such as working with data, design, and coding. Collaborations in the Tisch Library building include [the DataLab](#), [Digital Collections and Archives](#), and the Academic Resource Center’s [new Writing Center](#) space.

**We have technology of all kinds.** Students can use the libraries to [print, scan, and borrow laptops](#), chargers, cameras and audio recorders.

**Our collections are extensive.** Library collections include [print books](#) and e-books, [journals, databases, film, music, images, data sets, government information](#), special collections of various types, and more. If we don’t have something, [we can get it](#) for your student. Materials can be found through our primary search engine, [JumboSearch](#), and via other tools on the library home page. Students and faculty with Tufts credentials can log in to access digital resources from anywhere.

Please encourage your student to get to know the services available to them through the library. We are here to help them be successful in their work at Tufts, and all of us greatly enjoy our work with students. “When in doubt,” make sure your student knows they can always “go to the library.”

With best wishes,

**Dorothy Meaney**  
**Director, Tisch Library**