The Miscellany At Tisch Library

How a small digital collection caught the imagination of the scholarly community at Tufts University.

With some thoughts on the "New Normal"

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History

Year	Event
Spring 2010	Library school project for XML and IA course
Fall 2010	Tisch Library Director unveils site to *Friends of the Tufts Libraries*
Spring 2011	Tufts University Classics Department translates materials
Summer 2011	Tufts University Art Department attaches a summer scholar to research provenance
Fall 2011	Classics Department proposes an NEH grant for a phase II version

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The New Normal

Paradigm shift to a hybrid environment

The standard
- MARC record
- Collection level
- Brief description, cataloger's judgment
- Perfect

The new
- XML record
- Individual records
- Full description, with scholarly input
- Constant beta

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The Standard Method

Title	[Miscellaneous leaves from medieval manuscripts, early printed, and fine press books] 1432-1904
Publication Info.	[1100-1905, bulk 1432-1904].

Electronic Access:

Connect to the Tisch Miscellany

Location	Call No.		Status
Tisch Special Collections	Z1012 .M56	port. 1	LIB USE ONLY
Tisch Special Collections	Z1012 .M56	port. 2	LIB USE ONLY

Permanent link to this record: _http://library.tufts.edu:80/record=b1914156~S1_ ⓘ

Description	2 portfolios ([32] leaves of plates (some col.) : ill., ports., music) ; 50 cm.
Note	In Latin, Greek or English.
	Collection title and titles in contents note devised by cataloger.
Summary	This collection includes mounted pages from incunablula, manuscripts and early printed books with descriptions written on 3 X 5" cards attached to most leaves.
Contents	[Fifteenth century Italian illuminated manuscript missal] -- [Books of memorable deeds and utterances by Valerius Maximus and printed by Peter Schoeffer in 1471 in Mainz] -- [The History of Rome by Livy, handwritten on vellum in Rome in 1436] -- [Fifteenth century French musical manuscript missal] -- [Book of hours, Horae, printed by Antoine Vérard in early 16th century Paris] -- [Natural history by Pliny printed by Nicolas Jensen in 1476 Venice] -- [Lyra-Postilla by Sweyheyn and Pannartz, 1472 Rome] -- [Vellum manuscript leaf from the Bible, transcribed by hand in the 12th century] -- [Vellum manuscript fragment, 12 century] -- [Illustration from Anatomy by Vesalius printed by Johannes Oporinus, Basle, 1555] -- [Book of Hours, Horae, printed for Simon Vostre in Paris, 1488] -- [Book of Hours, Horae, 15th century France] -- [Leaf from the Catholicon by Joannes Balbus printed by John Gutenberg in Mainz, 1460] -- [Liber chronicarum (Nuremburg chronicle) by H. Schedel printed by Anton Koberger, 1493, Nuremburg] -- [Acts XVIL, verses 9-32, from Thompson's Bible printed by Jane Aiken, 1808, Philadelphia] -- [Latin Bible printed by Anton Koberger, 1497 Nuremburg]. [Third Book of the Georgis by Virgil printed by Johann Pruess, 1502, Strassburg, page XCI] -- [Bible, 9th German edition printed by Anton Koberger, 1483, Nuremburg] -- [Natural History by Pliny, printer, Johann Frobem, 1525, Basle, page 562] -- [Paradise regained, by John Milton, page 75, printed by the Doves Press in London, 1905 -- [Essays by Montaigne designed by Bruce Rogers and printed by Riverside Press in Cambridge between 1902 and 1904, page 55] -- [Sidonia the Sorceress by William Morris, 1893, Kelmscott Press, England, page 290] -- [Lives of illustrious men by Paulus Jovius printed by Henri Petri in 1577 in Basle, page 157] -- [Metamorphoses by Ovid, Helizabeth de Rusconibus, printer, 1527, Venice, page lxx] -- [Aldine Greek Bible, Aldus Manutius, printer, 1518, Venice] -- [Great Bible printed by Edwarde Whitchurche in London in 1549] -- [Page of Psalms from Baskerville Birmingham Bible, printed by John Baskerville in Birmingham, England, 1769] -- [Advancement of learning by Francis Bacon, John Haviland, printer, 1638, London, p. 97] -- [John, chapter vii, verses 2-23, from New Testament printed by Rober Barker in London, 1601] -- [Francis Russel, the Earl of Bedford, printed by I. & P. Knopton, London, 1740] -- [Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset ...] -- [George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham].
Subject	Early printed books.

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The New Model


```
<dc:title>Leaf from a fifteenth century gold
illuminated French Book of hours.</dc:title>
<dc:creator>Catholic Church.</dc:creator>
<dc:publisher>[France] : s.n.,</dc:publisher>
<dc:date>14--?.</dc:date>
<dc:format>1 leaf ; 180 mm.</dc:format>
```

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The Miscellany At Tisch Library

The Miscellany At Tisch Library **does not** claim to be perfect.

- Descriptive elements have been, and continue to be, corrected by scholars
- Not a true 1:1 Dublin Core Relationship—ie, it describes the thing, not the image
- Components break all the time

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The Miscellany At Tisch Library

The Miscellany At Tisch Library **does** try to get information into the hands of our students faculty and staff.

Success is both the project itself, and the creation of new skills and sustained interest for other projects

- [Margaret Henderson Floyd](#)
- [EEBO/ TEI](#)
- Possible collaboration with the Perseus Project through an NEH Grant

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Thanks!

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Rethinking Tech Services

How we used the Tisch Miscellany to reshape Technical Services

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Tisch Tech Services in 2008

- Very traditional workflows – entirely print based
- Electronic resources (journals) were managed in Collections
- Few e-book collections, if MARC records were loaded they were done by Systems Librarian
- No thought was given to non-MARC metadata

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How did we get there?

- Communication
- Looking for an opportunity
- Collaboration

Communication

- Conversations Within Technical Services (and a little reorganization)
- Advocating for Technical Services within the Library
- Advocating for Technical Services outside the Library

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Looking for an Opportunity

- At meetings, discussions
- Undertaking small projects
- It came from Tisch Library Collections Dept.

Collaboration

Tech Services and Collections worked together

- Creating the webpage
- Showcasing the webpage
    - To Friends of the Library
    - On Tisch Library Webpage
    - To faculty

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Collaboration

It got noticed
- Tufts Daily
- Tufts University Website
- Boston Globe
- Chronicle of Higher Education

But most importantly, it got used **by our faculty and students**
- Part of instruction and research
  - Classics Department
  - Art History Department

Other Opportunities

- Taxonomy
- NACO Training – linked data opportunity?
- Faculty Citation Project
- Managing E-Books
- Data Management Plans
  - NSF and NEH
- Creation of Metadata Best Practices
  - Student created multimedia

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Final Thoughts

- The new normal is a **hybrid environment** of traditional and new practices
- Have a strategy
- Keep trying things that will push you forward
- You never know what's going to catch the imagination of the people at your institution

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Thanks!

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