

Did you know that the Inforum Collection will cease to exist on May 1, 2018?

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT YOU?

The Faculty of Information administration is executing plans to dismantle and disperse the Inforum's print collection by May 1, 2018, and in its place, create student study space. Just as in 2014-2015, this is being framed as a collections vs. student space problem with an "either/or" solution, **but we at the Inforum continually see evidence that students want both collections and study spaces.**

Impact on all members of the community:

- You will no longer be able to browse the scope of scholarly and professional literature in the information and heritage disciplines. Inforum books will be scattered across Robarts and multiple U of T libraries.
- For those who prefer to read from the print format (e.g., for tactility, focused concentration, less eye strain), the print format will no longer be in the Inforum.
- Chances of recovering a misshelved book from Robarts' stacks are far lower than at the Inforum.
- Not everything is available online as a digital resource!
 - When you ask us a reference question, you will no longer be able to immediately consult information that is only available in print.
 - If you have a citation question, we will no longer be able to provide you with a complete and accurate answer on the spot, as some citation style guides are only available in print. (e.g., *APA*)
- When you want a new title ordered, there will not be an Inforum librarian to act on your request.

Impact on faculty and instructors:

- Expect a longer turnaround time for making digital scans of book chapters available to your class.
- You will lose the current level of in-person course support services, including no longer being able to drop off personal copies for course reserves, or having special items set aside for your class.
- Inforum staff will no longer be able to help you check the accuracy of a citation for an Inforum book (e.g., page number, publication date, chapter authors, etc.)
- We will no longer be able to waive your Inforum book fines.

Impact on students (including PhD, MMSt, and all MI concentrations):

- Need a book urgently, but someone else has it checked out? We will not be able to recall it for you.
- You will no longer be able to talk to an Inforum librarian about waiving Inforum book fines.
- Upon graduation, you will no longer be able to apply for the free Inforum external borrower's card. Our external borrower's card was a valuable resource for preparing for job interviews and keeping up with the professional and academic literature.

For alumni, professionals, and academics in the field:

- You will no longer be able to borrow books in your field unless you pay for a UTL reader's card. Inforum external borrower's cards are not recognized by other libraries.
- If Inforum books are moved to Robarts, note that Robarts' general collection is shelved in closed stacks.

What you can do to keep the Inforum collection within the Inforum:

1. Write to the Faculty administration to voice your concerns, and cc: Inforum librarians.
2. Encourage your colleagues in the community to show their support.

Facts about the Inforum Collection

The Inforum print collection continues to be in demand by our whole community, which consists of iSchool students, faculty members, staff, alumni, university colleagues, and professionals and academics in the information and heritage industries. In the last three years, despite aggressively reducing the size of the Inforum print collection, and despite the dip in overall circulation, the ratio of books being circulated vis-à-vis the size of our print collection has in fact dramatically risen:

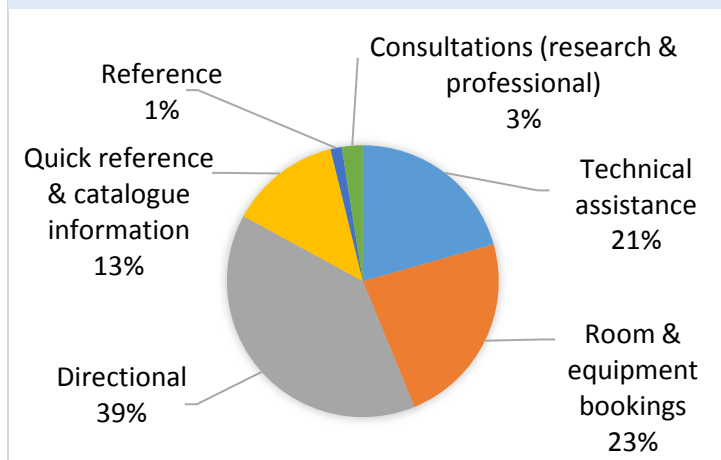
Year Reported	Total Inforum Book Circulation	Size of Inforum Circulating Book Collection	Ratio of Circulation to Size of Circulating Book Collection
2014-2015	13530	58011	1:4
2015-2016	11503	53073	2:9
2016-2017	9127 *	14869	3:5 *

*Note: Due to Inforum renovations in Summer 2016, circulation figures for 2016-2017 are only from Sept. 2016-Apr. 2017.

In contrast, using the latest publicly available figures from UTL (2013-2014), the same ratio (rounded to one digit) at **Robarts Library was only 1:7; at OISE, only 1:8, and at Engineering & Computer Science, only 1:8.** (Source: <https://onereach.library.utoronto.ca/sites/default/files/annualreport/2014/table1a.pdf>)

Based on data recorded during the 14-month period of Dec. 1, 2016 to Feb. 5, 2018, 17% of interactions between Inforum staff and the community, *beyond* circulation, teaching, and outreach activities, relied on

Figure 1. Types of service requests, beyond circulation, teaching, and outreach activities.



having access to the hybrid print-and-electronic collection environment within the Inforum. These interactions included quick reference and library catalogue questions, reference services, and in-depth research and/or professional consultations.

Despite the Inforum's online presence in our increasingly digital world, staff on the ground remain essential to delivering Inforum services. The majority of our service requests were received in person (88%). By contrast, only 7% of transactions took place by email, and 5% by phone.

The print collection remains a point of connection with academics and students from other disciplines, and a recruitment tool for prospective students. From Sept. 2016-Apr. 2017, 534 circulation transactions were made by borrowers other than University of Toronto graduate students, faculty, or staff. 598 instances of in-library use were also recorded. The UTL Chief Librarian has also referred to the Inforum collection as one of the centrally-located collections supporting the new Bachelor of Information program that launches in 2019 (cited in [Faculty Council package for Nov. 30, 2017](#), p. 111).

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