



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LIBRARIES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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**TO:** Maurie McInnis, Executive Vice President and Provost

**FROM:** Douglas Dempster, Dean, College of Fine Arts

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Dempster".

Lorraine J. Haricombe, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine J. Haricombe".

**SUBJECT:** Fine Arts Library

**DATE:** Wednesday 4 April, 2018

**COPY:** Fine Arts Library Task Force

As you know, last fall we formed the Fine Arts Library (FAL) Task Force and charged them with exploring a range of scenarios for ensuring continued access to the Fine Arts collection currently housed in the Doty Fine Arts building (DFA). That task force has produced an admirably thorough report (attached) given the time constraints on their study. We are pleased to convey the report to you and to provide our thoughts on next steps.

The report makes clear that circulation from the Fine Arts Library collection is steadily declining and that browsing and other activity in the open stacks is sparse. Nonetheless, the report also documents that a significant amount of circulation activity continues and that access to a browseable core collection is a high priority for many faculty and students in the college and across campus.

After reviewing the scenarios evaluated by the task force, it is clear that there is currently no alternative location or practicable scenario that would provide the level and quality of access needed or desired. What's more, any discussion or consideration of further repurposing of stack space in the Fine Arts Library has become divisive for the college and counter-productive to rejuvenating the Fine Arts Library as a modern learning and research commons for the College of Fine Arts.

We therefore recommend the following:

1. Keep the Fine Arts Library collection on the fifth floor.
2. Improve average retrieval times for materials from remote locations.
3. Renovate and refurbish the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of DFA to increase shelving capacity, enhance wi-fi performance, increase electrical outlets, and provide furnishings and infrastructure appropriate for a modern research library.
4. Form a standing CoFA faculty and student advisory council to assure transparent communications and to advise on all significant matters affecting collections management in the FAL, including priorities for which materials could be returned to FAL from remote storage.

The Vice Provost and Director of the Libraries will solicit advice from this group on what parts of the collection should be browseable in FAL as opposed to remote storage, needed improvements to the facility, any future repurposing of library space, and staffing needs.

All major units of the college will be represented on this council. The council will be co-chaired by designees of the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and the Vice Provost and Director of UT Libraries.

Should these recommendations meet with your approval, the UT Libraries and the College of Fine Arts stand ready to implement them within the limits of our collective resources.