

## **Frequently Asked Questions on iSchool 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Renovation (April to September 2016)**

- **Why are we undertaking this renovation? What will be the result?**
  - By modernizing, adding specialized labs, and reshaping the space for current needs, the iSchool will maximize the collaboration opportunities for students and faculty.
  - This agile environment will support a mixture of lectures, small break-out group activities, hands-on object and document based activities, and e-learning tools within the span of one three-hour class.
  - Students will benefit from this dedicated space for capstone projects, course assignments and extra-curricular learning, especially those that involve collaborative knowledge exchange, proto-typing, and discovery.
  - This easily accessible facility will be available 24 hours a day for research, experimentation, and co-curricular events as conferences, symposiums, receptions, and hack-a-thons.
  - This intellectual hub will attract potential students, and provide new opportunities for students to learn, experiment, and explore.
- **What are the actual features we can expect?**
  - There will be a new lounge, a gallery wall for Museum Studies students; rooms for networking, event space (with a kitchenette and appliances for heating food); a Skype Booth, group meeting and collaboration spaces; seminar room/project space; updated classroom (with built in video displays and an interactive ceiling projector); research labs; new blackout blinds; circulation & reference desk; 3D printing area; technology stations; and Inforum Collections (General Collection, Reference Collection, current periodicals, and Course Reserves).
  - **4<sup>th</sup> Floor:** Circulation & reference desks; book stacks, Inforum staff and Career Officer's offices, study hubs, project space, host public events, lounge seating, Semaphore Demonstration Lab, project meeting rooms, re-configurable furniture, classroom, charging stations, with 24 hour fob access to all areas except the book stacks and staff offices.
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Floor:** state of the art research labs, multi-purpose seminar/meeting/project rooms, prototyping space, Skype zone for confidential calls or long-distance meetings, iDB Lab, Digital Preservation Lab, maker spaces, study space, coffee-making abilities/kitchenette
- **When will this project start, and end?**
  - The renovations will begin on Saturday, April 9, and we anticipate construction will be completed in early September.
  - The last day of Inforum service will be April 1. Collections and other contents are slated for removal from April 2 onwards. Service will resume at temporary Robarts location on April 4. However, the End-of-Term iTea will be held in the Inforum on Thursday, April 7.
- **Can we see a video or plans of what it will look like?**
  - No video unfortunately, but we hope to have a draft rendering of what the space will look like (see it on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor), and a final drawing as we get closer to construction.
- **How much will it cost and where is the money coming from?**
  - The project cost is \$3 million, and will be paid by the Graduate Expansion Funds.

- **Will there be noise and pollution from asbestos? Will it travel throughout building? Will it be safe for staff and doctoral students to be in building?**
  - An asbestos abatement process will be safely carried out by the contractors. Construction work is expected to occur from 7 am to 4 pm on weekdays. Some weekend work may also be necessary.
  - Inforum staff working on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor will be temporarily housed at Robarts Library, where they will still be available to students. The Careers Officer will be relocated in the Bissell building in Room 616.
  - All floors in the building can expect occasional loud noises during the construction period.
- **Is the Semaphore Research Cluster on the 7th floor of Robarts Library moving? What about KMDI's demonstration space on the first floor of Robarts?**
  - Semaphore has demonstrated its capacity to build inspiring collaborative research spaces that integrate faculty, post-doctoral researchers, students and technologies as a conduit for public engagement in research. The Cluster will remain on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - KMDI's Demonstration Space will move to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Bissell.
- **What is iDB and where will it be located?**
  - iDatabase (iDB) was created through a CFI-funded research grant, managed by Professor Kelly Lyons, to be located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The new lab is focussed on researching big data and databases.
  - The goal of this grant is for students and faculty to devise solutions that can simultaneously cope with the volume, velocity, variety, and veracity of data. We plan to extend existing techniques of structure discovery, keyword intelligence and temporal aggregation to big data repositories of unstructured data.
- **I would like further information/have a question. Who should I contact?**
  - You can stay informed through the iSchool's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, as well as the notice board beside the circulation desk in the Inforum, or in Faculty Council meetings.
  - Also, watch for Inforum-related news and service updates on the Inforum's website as well as its [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts.
  - If your questions haven't been addressed through these methods, please contact the Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floor working groups, Prof. Cara Krmpotich. She can be reached at [ischool.renovation@utoronto.ca](mailto:ischool.renovation@utoronto.ca)

## FOR STUDENTS

- **Will our tuition rise as a result of these renovation costs?**
  - No. These renovations are being completely covered by a separate capital fund.
- **Where will summer classes be held?**
  - We will conduct classes in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floor classrooms. Exam space will be announced after plans have been finalized.
- **Convocation is usually held in the Inforum. Where will we be now?**
  - On June 16<sup>th</sup>, graduating students will be invited to join us for an awards presentation and reception across the street, in Desautels Hall, at the Rotman School of Management, 125 St George St. More information will be sent out via email.
- **Will there be a space just for Museum Studies students?**
  - Students in this program produce between 12 to 15 exhibitions each year as part of

their studies. Facilities to prototype and exhibit art and material heritage will be provided through a gallery wall, which has movable parts.

- The double layered wall allows students to drill into it without having to worry about any electrical, plumbing, etc., behind it. The wall will also have magnetic paint so students can quickly arrange and rearrange images and text on the wall. Additionally, students can experiment with curation, text labels, lighting, hanging, etc.
- **Where will the Inforum and Career Office staff work during the renovation?**
  - As of April 4, all staff working on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor will be moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Robarts Library, the “Digital Studio,” in the Media Commons area, where they will still be available to iSchool students. There will be signage directing you to the appropriate location.
  - The Careers Officer will be relocated in the Bissell building to Room 616.
- **Where do we go for Inforum services and loans?**
  - Inforum collections and staff will have a temporary home at Robarts Library beginning April 4. Tech loans and course reserves will be available in this temporary Inforum space to be set up on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Robarts in the “Digital Studio space” (near the Information Commons area).
  - An Information/Circulation Desk, a few user workstations, individual study carrels, worktables, and a reference consultation space will also be available.
  - Staff will be available to help you with reference & research services.
  - Copying, printing and scanning will be available @ Robarts Information Commons.
  - The Inforum general collection can be accessed @ Robarts on the 13th floor (check out from Robarts circulation services or self-checkout).
- **I am a prospective student and cannot see spaces. How do I know if the renovated spaces will be an attractive feature to me?**
  - The iSchool is providing incoming students with the ability to study and experiment in a space that allows them to go onto careers where they actively shape information and museum practice, theory and policy.
  - The renovation planning committee has mounted some drawings on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Bissell that will offer a preview of the configuration of the updated premises.
  - We work hard to make sure our building and digital spaces support the pursuit of student excellence. This renovation makes the iSchool’s academic library be part of an integrated, accessible, and agile collaborative learning and research space for students and faculty members.
  - This open, dynamic, participatory hub is crucial to having an incubator and co-laboratory space as a means to model and test emerging information and museological praxis. It will be an enhanced research centre and learning space that will continue to be the intellectual and social hub of the Faculty.
- **Since there will be 24 hour access, will it be safe for me to be there at night?**
  - All spaces must meet University standards for safety and security. Careful consideration is being made to provide a safe working environment.
  - After-hours access to the Inforum will only be accessible via fob.
  - After-hours lab access will only be accessible to students who are members of that lab, via fob.
- **Where will classes be held if the project goes over deadline, and into the fall?**
  - The renovation committee is currently working on backup plans, and will share with those affected if and when it is necessary.