Letter from the conference chairs

At times at the iSchool it can seem like we come from very different perspectives that do not always have the chance to intersect, and in part this conference was designed to accommodate this kind of collaboration and communication. Academic conferences tend to have very broad themes, in an attempt to be as inclusive as possible and to be open to individual interpretation. When the 2016 conference co-chairs came up with this year’s theme, “defying conventions,” we liked the idea of coming together and pushing boundaries. We also found that, as Master of Information and Master of Museum Studies students, we were facing professions in flux, requiring us to continually evolve.

For us, the content exceeded expectations when it came to diverse interpretations of our theme, as we never could have imagined the range of research our fellow students have undertaken in their respective programs. We were lucky to learn so much over the course of the two-day conference, and to participate in the fascinating conversations that resulted with those presenting and attending.

With the publication of the conference proceedings in partnership with the iJournal, we are thrilled to share eight of the conference presentations, and to include readers in the thoughtful intersections between talks that may have seemed very different in their descriptions on our program, but shared more common ideas than we might have expected. The conference was a great opportunity for students at the iSchool to come together, and we hope the proceedings inspire you to do the same.

Sincerely,
The Conference Chairs