FROM THE DEAN’S DESK: OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH
by Celine Lang and Deb Cook
Each year, research results from billions of dollars of federally funded basic and applied research are reported in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. The exorbitant cost of these journals, in some cases as high as $20,000 per title per year, limits or prohibits access to these results. Open Access advocates argue that the U.S. taxpayers who underwrite the research have a right to expect free and timely access to research findings. Others argue that open access will improve the quality of science: “Improved access will enable universities to maximize their own investment in research, and widen the potential for discovery as the results are more readily available for others to build upon” (David Shulenburger, Vice President for Academic affairs, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges).

Advocates of Open Access scored a victory this month when the Consolidated Appropriations Act was signed into law, making permanent the National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy (previously subject to annual review). About 3,000 new manuscripts are added to freely-accessible PubMed Central every month, and about 2,000,000 visitors access the public databases at NIH every day.

NEW LIBRARY BLOG
by Rebecca Weber, Instruction Librarian
Did you know that 346,000,000 people worldwide read blogs? Did you know that the Evans Library recently launched one? Well, we did! The Library Blog provides information about the library, its resources, its services, and its events. If you have a topic you’d like to see in the blog, please email me at weberr@fit.edu or post your comment to the blog! You can find it by going to the LINK (www.lib.fit.edu) and clicking on Library Blog under Express Links or by visiting http://www.evanslibrary.wordpress.com.
We’d love to hear from you.

LIBRARY APPRECIATION MONTH
On March 20th, Governor Charlie Crist signed a proclamation to honor Florida libraries, a cornerstone of Florida’s educational system, as part of Library Appreciation Month. Governor Crist cited the importance of libraries that help “people find, evaluate, and use information.”

DISPLAYS
Continuing in the Library are two displays. One celebrates Florida Tech’s 50th anniversary. The other is a colorful collection of miniature landscapes by Celine Lang called Other Worlds.