In Fall 2012 I received a Faculty Development grant for travel (plane ticket) and accommodations (room from airbnb website) in New York City for attendance at the New York Art Book Fair at Moma PS1 (Sep 27th-Oct 2nd).

The Book fair includes the presence of distributors, publishers, initiatives and authors of art and art-related publications worldwide as well as lectures and presentations by designers and artists whose practices include publishing. Design programs such as Werkplaatz Typographie and Yale MFA Graphic Design also had presentation spaces in PS1 that included student projects. These programs have similar pedagogical aims to the OTIS MFA Graphic Design Department of which I am also faculty, therefore it was useful to see the student outcomes and be able to discuss the work with students and coordinators in person.

The field of graphic design increasingly deals with not only the graphic translation of others ideas, but also the initiation of projects and the production and dissemination of initiatives. At the book fair, I was able to gain insight and knowledge as well as collect publications of many initiatives who are directly related to my personal research (The pedagogy and support-ecologies of the self-initiated graphic designer) as well as my course development at OTIS.

I will share the printed publications with my courses in the Communication Arts department (including my colleagues), and direct the students to research further the initiatives that I discovered that may be of interest to them. The publications could be said to represent current trends in design and production in graphic design and therefore will be interesting for the students to handle and inspect them personally.

Additionally, I attended lectures each day which were recorded and will direct students and colleagues to the online archive of video from the events. I was able to meet with many international colleagues during the fair and made connections with (and strengthen existing relationships) a few new people and initiatives (Casco Utrecht, Werkplaatz Utrecht) which will aid in my upcoming design pedagogy research project.

I would not have been able to attend the fair without support from OTIS and am grateful to have received the grant.

LINKS:
http://nyartbookfair.com
http://www.are.na
http://www.ustream.tv/channel/theclassroom
http://www.cascoprojects.org
https://www.aaschool.ac.uk/PUBLIC/AAPUBLICATIONS/aboutpublications.php
http://www.onomatopee.net/