



# MIT LIBRARIES' NEWS

## *A Report to the Faculty*

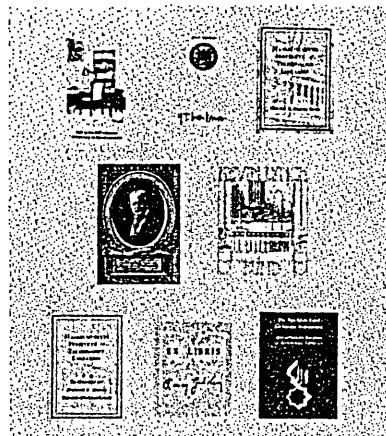
### ***Endowed and Memorial Book Funds***

A significant portion of the MIT Libraries' annual expenditures for new books comes from a variety of special funds. During the academic year that ended June 30, 1989, almost 20% of the funds for monographs were from these sources. The majority of the money is received from endowed book funds that are restricted to the Libraries' acquisitions program. A number of these funds were established in the 19th century, the first being the Charles Lewis Flint Fund that was started in 1889 by a graduate of that class. The Arthur Rotch Architectural Fund, founded in 1895, supports acquisitions in the architectural and planning library that bears the donor's name. The third fund started before 1900 was from a gift of William Hall Kerr of the Class of 1884 and is currently used for acquisitions in the Engineering Library. The single largest endowed fund in the Libraries is the Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture, established in 1981, the income from which is used to support acquisitions and staff in Rotch Library and Rotch Visual Collections.

The majority of funds supporting library acquisitions were founded in the second half of the 20th century. Most of them are designated for specific subject areas like the Joseph R. and Jan William Mares Fund in chemistry; the Harold A. Traver Fund in electrical engineering; the MIT Boston Stein Club Fund for maps; and the Frank Harvey Cilley Fund for humanities. Other funds are

designated for one of the major libraries and are used for a variety of subjects. Examples are the Davis R. Dewey and Bradley and Marguerite Dewey endowments that support collections in the Davis R. Dewey Library.

Most recently, endowed book funds have been set up in the memory of MIT faculty members.



*Endowed and Memorial Book Plates.  
(Photograph by the MIT Libraries' Microreproduction Laboratory)*

The Kevin Lynch Fund provides income for the purchase of library materials in urban planning and also supports an annual award for new publications. The income from a fund in memory of Harold R. Isaacs is used to acquire new books in the former professor's field of interest — political science. Other recently established funds in memory of MIT faculty, alumni and students are in a variety of subject areas including music, architecture, and linguistics.

In addition to endowed book funds, the Libraries also benefit from donations designated as expendable book funds. These come both as a memorial from family and friends and in recognition of some honor or achievement. A recent example is the David Lewallen Memorial. Funds were contributed by current and former members of the staff of the MIT Libraries in memory of a former Dewey Library staff member.

A substantial amount of financial support is received through the MIT Alumni Fund each year. Contributions made through the annual campaign are allocated to the subject area that reflects the major area of study of the donor unless otherwise designated. Donors of gifts of \$100 or more receive a listing of the books acquired each year.

All purchases made from endowed or expendable book funds are recognized by the placement of a special book plate on the inside of the cover of every book acquired. The standard library bookplate, two examples of which appear in the accompanying photograph, are inscribed with the name of the donor or fund or with any other information that the donor requests. Specially designed bookplates for endowed and major expendable funds can also be created; several examples of these are shown.

Information on the establishment of endowed or expendable book funds or on other aspects of funding for library acquisitions may be directed to the Director of the MIT Libraries.

*Jay K. Lucker, Director of Libraries*



An example of a deteriorating binding. (Photograph by the MIT Libraries' Microreproduction Laboratory)

## Libraries Receive NEH Grant for Preservation Microfilming

The collections of major research libraries are seriously threatened by the embrittlement of paper. Paper production techniques introduced by the industrial revolution have resulted in a permanent acid residue which causes the paper to disintegrate over time. Very recently there has been a heightened awareness of this problem among publishers and a growing trend toward using acid-neutral paper. With the exception of these very recent publications, however, virtually all books and journals published since 1850 are in various stages of self-destruction. Studies show that anywhere from 25 to 50 percent of books in libraries now have brittle paper, with the higher percentages on the East Coast where climate and pollution speed the process. The Library of Congress estimates that 78,000 volumes in its collection become brittle every year. At MIT, a study of paper conditions of pre-1960 engineering journals was carried out in 1982-83. Forty-six percent of the collection was determined to be in poor condition, forty-four percent in moderate condition, and only five percent in good condition. It is reasonable to assume that journals, as well as monographs, in other subject areas are in similar condition.

In response to this crisis in the condition of the holdings of the

nation's libraries, the National Endowment for the Humanities created a new Office of Preservation in 1985. The Office funds projects to preserve deteriorating humanities resources within a national framework of cooperation. Individual libraries are encouraged to seek funding to produce preservation microfilm of brittle materials which are not being filmed by other libraries or microfilm publishers.

The MIT Libraries have received a grant of \$125,000 from NEH to microfilm approximately 1350 volumes of 39 journal titles important to scholarship in the history of technology. Published between the 1820's and 1930's, these journals document the history of electricity and the history of transportation, two areas of technological change which have fundamentally altered society and shaped history in the past century. In addition, *Dingler's Polytechnisches Journal* covering the period 1820-1930 will be filmed. This journal is considered the single most important periodical in the history of technology in Europe, covering a wide spectrum of technological development including electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic systems. Bibliographic records for all titles filmed will be available on national networks and the film will be available through interlibrary loan.

Carol J. Fleishauer, Associate Director for Collection Management and Technical Services

## Recent Developments In Government Documents

The Federal government is the world's largest producer and disseminator of information. Government agencies, in search of more efficient means to manage the rising tide of data, have increasingly turned to electronic systems. In the last few years technological advances have opened up opportunities for cost effective collection management and dissemination of information. Almost every Federal agency's information activities now involve electronic formats. The Securities and Exchange Commission, for example, has recently automated collection and dissemination of millions of pages of securities filings and registrations. The Bureau of the Census has sold magnetic tapes of its data products for over twenty years. The National Library of Medicine's holdings are available through the online MEDLARS databases.

While advances in information technology have offered the potential of improved, timely access to government information, they have also raised significant public policy issues. Among these are the ownership of information, the role of the public versus private sectors, and the impact on public access to information collected by the Federal government.

In order to promote the free flow of information, Congress has prohibited copyright of government data. This has prevented a government monopoly on information and has encouraged widespread use of a resource created with public funds. With electronic databases, however, the potential for Federal agencies to have a near-monopoly on information is much greater. Reproducing a database is considerably more complex than copying or re-publishing printed documents.

Traditionally, when the private sector has competed successfully for government information, it has done so by adding value to the data and producing a superior product. The advent of electronic systems has intensified competition. Agencies are finding that even databases created for internal purposes can sometimes prove to be highly marketable. With a relatively small effort agencies can add value on their own and produce a successful product without

the participation of the private sector. Instead of viewing such competition as ultimately beneficial to the public as consumer, Federal policy tends to discourage government agencies from competing with the private sector.

The belief that functions managed by the private sector are inherently more economically efficient has also resulted in increased contracting out of government information services. Especially indicative of this trend was the Reagan administration's ongoing efforts to privatize the National Technical Information Service, the clearinghouse for unclassified, government-generated technical literature. Ironically, since NTIS is operated on a cost recovery basis, privatization would not contribute to reducing the Federal deficit. After considerable opposition from Congress and the library and research communities the plans have been withdrawn.

A major concern to the user community in the NTIS privatization controversy and with government information as a whole is the rising cost of information to the consumer. User fees, permitted by law and current Federal policy, are increasingly applied to recover the cost of dissemination. The initial expense in creating electronic databases has added to the pressures on agencies to recover costs. Fees for government information, however, can become a limitation on access, and add to concerns that government information - and particularly information in electronic format - might only be available to those able to pay for it.

But, an even greater cause for concern among the academic and research community has been restrictions on data in the name of national security. The Reagan administration broadened regulations to favor classification and eliminated automatic declassification after a prescribed length of time. The results of federally-funded research may now even be reclassified after the information has been in the public domain.

The expanding classification system has also included information not gathered at Federal expense. Privately collected data is restricted under export control regulations. The underlying justification is the "information mosaic" theory that innocuous pieces of data when assembled can be harmful in the aggregate. This principle has been the basis for restricting communication of scientific and technical information

even within the United States. The efforts have focused on limiting access by foreign nationals to sensitive unclassified information. Under its "Library Awareness Program" the Federal Bureau of Investigation urged librarians to identify library users who might be gathering data on behalf of hostile foreign governments. The Departments of Defense and Commerce have pressured professional societies to restrict access to conferences at which unclassified technical papers were to be presented.

In the last decade the Office of Management and Budget, an executive agency, has become the primary manager of Federal information activities. Through the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 it is charged with coordinating Federal information policy, controlling costs of collecting and disseminating information, and maximizing its usefulness. In recent years OMB has increasingly emphasized cost reduction in information management and supported an expanded role for the private sector in information dissemination.

In its current session, Congress is seeking to reauthorize the Paperwork Reduction Act and redefine the OMB role. The House bill, in its present version, has raised concerns in the library community that the private sector's role in information dissemination is emphasized too strongly over the government's role and that OMB's role needs to be further limited. For the first time, however, the bill supports dissemination of government information in electronic formats. There are also indications that the Bush administration is more inclined than its predecessor to support public access to electronic information.

The Association of Research Libraries has adopted the following principles on government information in electronic formats:

1. The open exchange of public information should be protected.
2. Federal policy should support the integrity and preservation of government electronic databases.
3. Copyright should not be applied to U.S. government information.
4. Diversity of sources of access to U.S. government information is in the public interest.

5. Government information should be available at low cost.

6. A system to provide equitable, no-fee access to basic public information is a requirement of a democratic society.

The MIT Libraries, as a member of the Association of Research Libraries, supports these principles.

Government information in electronic format will soon be available through the depository library program. The 1987 economic census data and the Congressional Record will be out on CD-ROM; an economic bulletin board and a Department of Energy technical report database have also been proposed. A major goal of these new services will be to improve the timeliness of data in depository libraries. Currently, numerous Federal databases can be accessed through online services available at all of the divisional and branch libraries and the Computerized Literature Search Service. Access to the National Technical Information Service database of technical report literature is available on CD-ROM at Barker Engineering Library; individual reports may be requested on demand.

*Robert L. Kehner, Assistant Dewey Librarian*

*MIT Libraries' News: A Report to the Faculty*, an official publication of the MIT Libraries is published three times a year. Edited by Carol A. Zoppel. Original design by MIT Design Services. Correspondence should be addressed to: The Director of Libraries, 14S-216, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

## New Librarian Staff



*Thomas Gregory (Greg) Anderson, Associate Director for Systems and Planning. (Photograph supplied by MIT Information Services)*

**T**homas Gregory (Greg) Anderson began his duties as Associate Director for the MIT Libraries on March 1, 1989. In this capacity he is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of automated library systems and planning for library programs and services.

Mr. Anderson received his undergraduate degree in German from Davidson College. He has an M.A. degree, also in German, from the University of Georgia and a Master of Science degree in library science from Catholic University. He began his professional library career at the Library of Congress where he worked in a variety of positions including two years as a reference librarian in the Library's Main Reading Room.

From 1984 to February 1989, Greg served as Head of the Systems Office at the University of Georgia's Library. From October 1985 to July 1987, he served concurrently as Acting Head of the Library Automation Group in the Office of Computing and Information Services.

Since his arrival at MIT, Greg has led the Libraries in a number of automation initiatives concerning the Libraries' catalogue: providing dial access to the catalogue, mounting it on the campus network, and planning for another incarnation of it in a CD-ROM format.

*Carol A. Zoppel, Assistant to the Director*

## The Boston Project: Optical Storage and Electronic Access for Visual Collections

**R**otch Visual Collections, the visual branch of Rotch Library for Architecture and Planning is the site of an innovative project to provide remote access and delivery of visual images from the library to Project Athena Visual workstations around the campus. The Boston Architecture Project combines an optical videodisc for image storage and a database of the library's catalogue records searchable on the campus network with image delivery over the campus network.

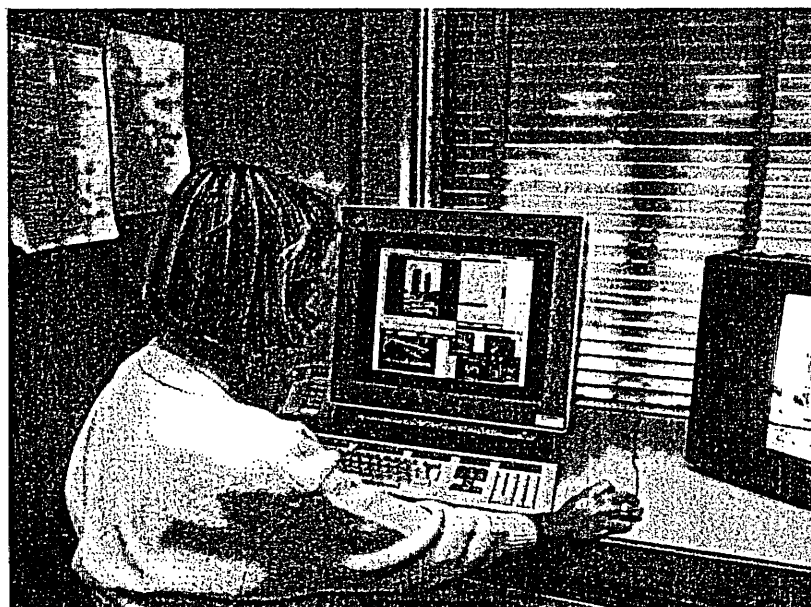
Rotch Visual Collections is home to a rich store of over 350,000 slides, photographs, videotapes, films and videodiscs of art, architecture and planning. Several parts of its collections have been stored on videodiscs. For this project some 7,000 slides and photographs of Boston, comprising some of the most heavily used materials by students and faculty in a wide variety of courses, were mastered onto a videodisc. An interactive user interface has been developed to link the parts of the project together for multimedia access.

At a campus workstation a user searches the Boston database, and retrieves, in a window, a brief description of 105 images of Boston City Hall or of one of the city's neighborhoods, such as the South End, or aerial views of the waterfront. A chosen image may be enlarged to fill the full screen. Or

the full record, detailing such information as the street address or architect's name, may be recalled in another window to find out more about the image. At this point the lightable window may be opened, (the very effective widget which makes this action possible was developed for the Boston Project by UROP student, Russell Williams) enabling a user to collect images from one or several searches to another window. There they may be manipulated - rearranged, added to or subtracted and commented on - and then saved to a personal file. In this way, students can do visual research or create presentations at their workstations. And they may work with images any time, whether the library is open or closed.

The Boston Project will be one of the resources available in the urban documents room in the new Rotch Library. It was developed under grant funding by Project Athena to the School of Architecture and Planning and the MIT Libraries and is one of the computational video projects grouped together in the School under the heading Visual Information Systems.

*Merrill W. Smith, Associate Rotch Librarian*



*The Boston Project in use. (Photograph supplied by Rotch Library)*

## HyperCard Applications in the MIT Libraries

Under the direction of Reference and Instruction Technology Specialist, Rich Hines, the Libraries have begun to use Hypermedia as a device for library orientation and instruction.

The first application was for Family Day in Fall, 1989. A five part, HyperCard guide was created to provide information about the Libraries' collections and resources, its services and staff, locations of all divisional and branch libraries, as well as a review of current and impending technological advances taking place in the Libraries. The HyperCard stacks were placed in the divisional libraries on Family Day for viewing by students and their families, as well as faculty, staff, and other interested patrons.

Subsequent applications have included use as an instructional tool during the Libraries' Career Days, when students of high school age from Boston and Cambridge visited the Libraries to learn about MIT, its library system and librarianship, as well as being introduced to bibliographic searching techniques.

Copies of the stacks are available; comments and ideas for future uses of hypermedia in the Libraries are also welcome; contact Rich Hines at x3-9354 (14S-230).

*Rich Hines, Reference and Instruction Technology Specialist*

## Publications of Professional Engineering Societies

Professional societies, through the publication of conference proceedings, technical papers, journals, and a variety of other publications, are prominent sources of information in the engineering fields. The Barker Engineering Library maintains a comprehensive collection of materials published by the major engineering societies of the world. A small sample of the societies represented in the Barker collection follows.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (I.E.E.E.) is the nation's largest professional society for engineers with 300,000 members worldwide. It was formed in 1963 through a merger of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, founded in 1814, and the Institute of Radio Engineers, founded in 1912. The Society is dedicated to the advancement of the theory and application of electrical, electronic and computer engineering. To achieve these objectives, the Society's 10 regional groups and 700 local groups sponsor conferences, seminars, and educational programs. More than 20% of the world's technical literature in the areas of electrical engineering, computer science, robotics, power engineering, aeronautics and astronautics, nuclear engineering, operations research, communications, magnetics, information systems, energy and ocean engineering is published by the I.E.E.E. In addition to its voluminous publishing record, the Society is also

recognized for its work in establishing nearly 600 engineering standards.

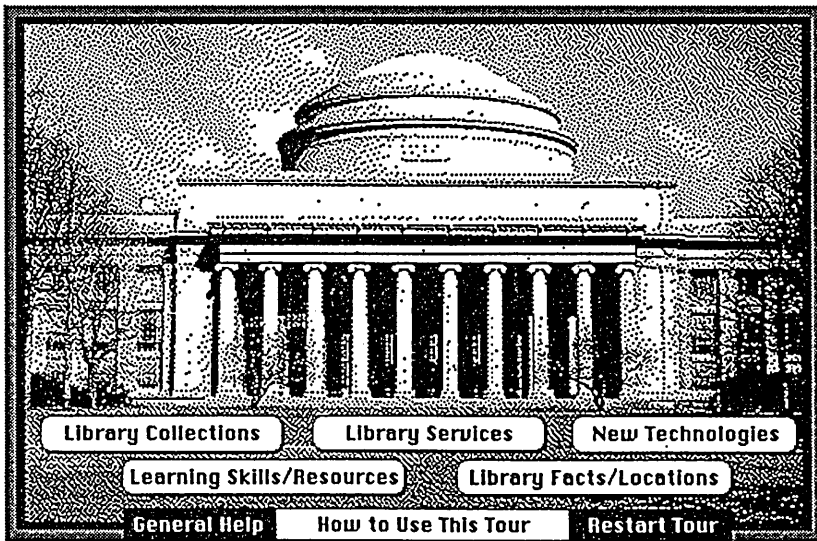
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (A.S.M.E.), founded in 1880, is the major professional society for mechanical engineers in the United States, with a membership of almost 104,000. Through the activities of 19 research committees and 31 divisions, the A.S.M.E. sponsors more than 30 conferences each year to promote the arts and sciences related to mechanical engineering. The publications of the A.S.M.E. cover such diverse fields as applied mechanics, biomechanical engineering, tribology, petroleum, solar energy engineering, power and production engineering.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (A.S.C.E.) has been in existence since 1852. The Society's nineteen regional groups and 141 local groups support research and development, education; international cooperation and legislative involvement in areas of interest to civil engineers. The Society conducts numerous conferences and continuing education programs as well as sponsors the national "Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Competitions." A wide range of interests is reflected in the publications of the A.S.C.E. including: geotechnical engineering, nuclear engineering, earth stabilization and earthquakes, hydropower, building construction, airports, pipelines and water resources. In addition, the A.S.C.E. is the sole U.S. distributor of the publications of the British Institute of Civil Engineers.

The Barker Engineering Library makes every effort to obtain all materials published by these important societies. The collection includes technical papers, conference proceedings, transactions, journals, books and standards from the societies mentioned, as well as many others. Anyone interested in obtaining more information about Barker's collection of society publications may contact the following subject specialist librarians:

Mechanical Engineering:	
<i>Mark Scott</i>	253-9367
Civil Engineering:	
<i>Carole Schildhauer</i>	253-9368
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science:	
<i>Linda Martinez</i>	253-9370

*Linda A. Martinez, Assistant Engineering Librarian*



*Main screen in MIT Libraries' HyperCard Library Orientation.*

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