



# MIT LIBRARIES' NEWS

## *A Report to the Faculty*

### *Libraries Add MIT Thesis Information to International Database*

In a change designed to increase access to MIT theses by scholars and researchers around the world, the Libraries has begun submitting abstracts of MIT theses to University Microfilms, Inc. (UMI), the publisher of Dissertation Abstracts International (DAI). Beginning with the 1990-91 academic year, all doctoral-level theses will be included in the UMI database.

Until now the only comprehensive index of MIT theses was the Libraries' catalogue, where search possibilities were limited to author or title. This made it difficult, especially for persons outside the Institute, to find out about theses written here if they did not have a specific citation. The Libraries' new CD-ROM-based catalogue (to be added later this year) will allow for extensive searching of theses including keyword searching, but outside access will be more dramatically improved by adding the MIT abstracts to

DAI. The UMI database is recognized as the most widely used information source for theses written in English, and because of its dissemination throughout the world, DAI is seen as important both as a tool for researchers and as exposure for authors.



*MIT theses waiting to be processed in the Institute Archives.  
Photograph by Ginny Such.*

The fee for putting an abstract into DAI is significant and has been the primary factor which prevented the Libraries from adding this service in the past. MIT graduate degree candi-

dates already pay a fee to have their theses preserved on microfiche, and adding the database charge would have nearly doubled that amount. Therefore the Libraries, as the distributor of thesis copies, has decided to pay the database fee itself, with the hope that the increased access to information about theses will lead to more requests for copies, and thereby offset the initial expense. Each MIT abstract in DAI will contain a statement about the availability of copies through the Libraries' Microreproduction Laboratory.

In addition to maintaining and distributing its database, UMI also distributes copies of most theses which are included in DAI. However, the Libraries, by retaining distribution of thesis copies, can insure that two features particularly important to reproductions of MIT theses be fulfilled. First, that a paper copy be in full-size format, not reduced; and second, that any non-print media which may accompany the thesis (such as videotapes, disks, holograms, etc.) be obtainable from the distributor. The technical nature of most MIT theses makes it important that these conditions be met, and UMI is unable to fulfill them.

The Libraries has always provided full cataloguing for all MIT graduate theses, something which is not done in most other academic research libraries. Currently, the records of theses written before 1974 are being converted to machine-readable form so that they will be included in Barton, the Libraries' online catalogue. Together with the enhanced searching capabilities of the new CD-ROM catalogue system and the availability of Barton over the campus and other networks, the addition of abstracts to the UMI database will improve access to MIT theses significantly.

*Keith Glavash, Head,  
Microreproduction Laboratory*

## *Libraries Host International Conference*

During the week of July 8-12, 1991, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries will be hosting the 14th biennial meeting of the International Association of Technological University Libraries. IATUL was founded in 1955 and includes in its membership the libraries of the major engineering and scientific institutions of higher education throughout the world. Currently, there are 168 members of IATUL, in 38 countries. MIT was a founding member, serves as the secretariat for the North American Regional Group, and is represented on the Board of Directors.

The Cambridge meeting is the first time in its history that IATUL has held one of its biennial sessions outside of Europe. Based on preliminary

registrations, we expect between 150 and 200 people to attend. The theme of this conference is *New Technologies and Information Services: Evolution or Revolution?* There will be approximately 40 papers delivered at a combination of plenary sessions, small group meetings, and a poster session. The opening session on July 8 will include addresses by the President of MIT, the President of Special Libraries Association, and the librarian of University College London. Other papers are being delivered by representatives of the British Library, the Indian Institute of Technology, Helsinki Technical University, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and CERN. Among the North American universities represented by speakers are Northwestern, Illinois, Dartmouth, California-Irvine, Washington (St. Louis), Arizona State, and MIT. In addition to these technical meetings, conference attendees will be visiting a number of libraries and museums in the Boston area.

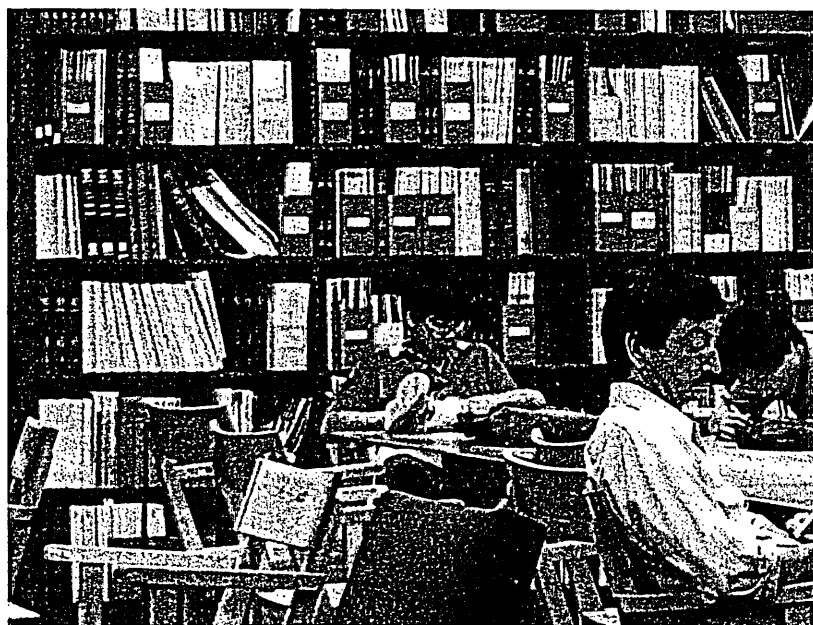
*Jay K. Lucker,  
Director of Libraries*

## *The Psychology Liaison Program*

All those involved in the education of undergraduates at MIT have the objective to improve learning and the students' ability to communicate their new knowledge. The Psychology Liaison Program took steps in the fulfillment of this objective.

In February of 1990, Les Perelman, Assistant Dean and Coordinator of the Writing Requirement, and Theresa Tobin, the Humanities Librarian, attended the Earlham/Eckerd Conference on Bibliographic Instruction. The theme of the conference was faculty/librarian collaboration. In bringing the conference back home to MIT, Les and Theresa met with Professor Jeremy Wolfe to plan instruction for his very large (500 undergraduates) *Introduction to Psychology* course. In that meeting, the Psychology Liaison program was born.

*(Continued on the next page)*



*Students studying in the Science Library.  
Photograph by Ginny Such.*

The program linked a librarian to each of the sections of the course. Each librarian taught the necessary skills to navigate through the source material in psychology and through the physical environment of the MIT Libraries. The instruction took place, in or out of class time, at the discretion of the section leader. The teaching was both in the classroom and in the library, at the discretion of the librarian.

The planning for the Fall, 1990 course began in May, 1990 when Les and Theresa prepared a presentation on the Earlham/Eckerd Conference to a meeting of public service librarians. At this time a call for volunteers for the proposed program was made. From then until July, the Libraries' Instruction Committee prepared a set of meetings for the participating librarians, to begin in mid July, 1990 and continue until the first weeks of classes. In those meetings program objectives, and actions to achieve them, were set by the group and group members trained each other on some of the newer resources in the libraries, e.g. *Social Sciences Index* on CD-ROM and *Psychlit*, a CD-ROM version of *Psychological Abstracts*.

The librarian volunteers, 23 of them, set goals in collaboration with Professor Wolfe and Les Perelman. These goals included the following:

- \*the students gain knowledge of the resources in the psychological literature and in the Libraries' services;

- \*they are able to discriminate between popular and scholarly literature and between primary and secondary materials;

- \*they learn when and how to cite these sources appropriately.

The success of the program was due to this healthy collaboration among the faculty, writing requirement staff and the librarians. The success can be measured in the increased quality of the papers submitted in fulfillment of course requirements and the writing requirement. Both Professors Wolfe and Perelman have attested to this. The success can also be measured by the growth in the sophistication of the questions asked of the librarian staff.

Over the summer, the Libraries' Instruction Committee offered two workshops to improve the teaching skills of the librarian volunteers. One was taught by Susan Jurow of the Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Services, entitled *Presentation Skills for BI (Bibliographic Instruction) Librarians*; the second was given by Trish Ridgeway of the University of Pennsylvania, entitled *Improving Your Teaching Skills*.

With the help of these workshops the librarians prepared classes on the many aspects of library research and included active learning techniques in their presentation. The topics of the class presentations included the following:

- \*How to narrow a topic;
- \*How to write research papers;
- \*How to discriminate between scholarly and popular literature;
- \*How to identify primary and secondary sources;
- \*How to use appropriate indexes, both paper and electronic;
- \*How to construct a search using Boolean operators;
- \*When and how to cite sources;
- \*How to avoid plagiarism;
- \*How to locate materials and navigate the MIT Libraries;
- \*Other local resources that exist and how to access them.

MIT librarians are eager to repeat this program in the Fall of 1991 and to create similar, if smaller, programs for other undergraduate courses. A member of the librarian staff is currently working with Les Perelman and Debra Aczel of the Integrated Studies program to devise a similar librarian/liaison program that would pair librarians from different disciplines, e.g. an engineering librarian with a humanities librarian. This would insure that the interdisciplinary approach to study was reflected in the bibliographic instruction as well. If your courses require library research, please contact the Libraries' Instruction Committee through its Chair, Theresa Tobin, Humanities Library, 14S-226; 253-5674 or [tat@athena.mit.edu](mailto:tat@athena.mit.edu). If you prefer, you can also contact the librarian subject specialist in your area. The resources of the MIT Libraries are rich and varied and can be much more accessible to your students with the help of the librarians. Your students will learn information skills they can use throughout their lifetimes.

Theresa A. Tobin,  
Humanities Librarian

## ARL/CAUSE/ EDUCOM Coalition for Networked Information

The Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) is a newcomer to the information technology world of higher education, but it is playing an increasingly important role for the MIT Libraries. CNI has begun to influence both the academic/research

library arena and the Libraries' operations and services within the Institute. Although only a bit more than one year old, CNI has grown and moved forward vigorously, and as a founding member, MIT has taken an active role in CNI activities. The mission of CNI is "to promote the creation of and access to information resources in networked environments in order to enrich scholarship and to enhance intellectual productivity".

An initial goal of CNI has been to envision and support the future for the proposed National Research and Education Network (NREN). The capabilities of the existing network structure are already impressive, and CNI is working to understand, plan, and realize the potential of a gigabit network for research and education. The NREN legislation has been moving forward in the current session of Congress; there are still the questions of how the NREN will be funded and its governance structure, but it seems safe to say that the concept of the NREN resonates well politically and educationally.

The coalition provides a much needed discussion and communications forum for librarians, technologists, and information managers in higher education. Its governing structure is comprised of an executive board and an executive director. CNI is supported by the headquarters of the the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). CNI now has 150 members, far exceeding initial expectations. Membership is composed of institutions from all levels of higher education and from associations, bibliographic utilities, information providers, and networks.

Each CNI member has two representatives to the CNI Task

Force which functions as a communications and discussion body. The Task Force has met three times and continues to make progress in grappling with and envisioning new opportunities for the national network. The Task Force serves to share perspectives, undertake activities itself and in partnership with others and to discuss policy and strategic issues oriented toward a powerful, flexible, and universally accessible resource of networked information.

The two Task Force representatives from MIT are Marilyn McMillan, Director, Information Systems Planning, Information Systems (IS) and Greg Anderson, Associate Director for Systems and Planning, in the Libraries.

The Task Force has formed seven working groups to explore the issues, projects, and progress in several areas related to networked information. Participation in the working groups is not limited to CNI Task Force representatives. Rather CNI is interested in finding people with the expertise and interest in this type of work and who have ideas or projects which can contribute to our shared knowledge.

The seven working groups are:

- \*Non-commercial publishing;
- \*Commercial publishing;
- \*Architectures and standards;
- \*Legislation, codes, policies, and practices;
- \*Directories and resource information services;
- \*Teaching and learning;
- \*Management and professional and user education.

The present challenge for the Coalition is to move forward with an active agenda of encouraging projects and

contributions to the new world of networked information.

MIT's active involvement with CNI has taken several forms. We conducted one "synergy session" at the fall, 1990 meeting of the CNI Task Force. At that session, we explained how the model of the CNI was brought to the MIT campus and how that has facilitated cooperative work and information exchange among information providers at the Institute. The senior staff of the MIT Libraries, MIT Information Systems, and Project Athena have been meeting for over a year to pursue local and national issues which relate to our provision of networked information. We have found that some of the CNI activities transfer well to the MIT campus. For example, we have begun forming task-oriented groups to pursue specific projects such as mounting information databases on the campus network.

Finally, the NREN and CNI have generated a lot of interest and information. The resource information provided to the CNI Task Force members contains some interesting vision statements and strategies. Should anyone be interested in learning more, please feel free to contact:

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ganderso@athena.mit.edu  
Marilyn McMillan, x3-1347,  
mcmillan@eagle.mit.edu.

*Greg Anderson,  
Associate Director for Systems  
and Planning*

## New Humanities Librarian



Photograph by Walter Borawski.

**T**heresa A. Tobin was appointed Humanities Librarian, effective January 1, 1991.

Theresa began her career in the MIT Libraries on December 18, 1970 as a check-in assistant in the Acquisitions Department. She became Head of the Monographs Receipts Section, before transferring to the Humanities Library as Evening and Weekend Reference Assistant in 1977. In 1980, Theresa was promoted to the position of Assistant Humanities Librarian and then Associate Humanities Librarian in 1989. She was named Acting Humanities Librarian in April, 1990.

Over the last ten years, Theresa has been responsible for the development of collections in the areas of linguistics, philosophy, and history. She has also been an active participant in the public service programs in the Humanities Library, providing both expert level reference and instructional services. Most recently, she initiated and coordinated the Psych Liaison Program, (see article on page one) providing library instruction to

some 500 undergraduates in the *Introduction to Psychology* course.

Since 1986, Theresa has served as a consultant to the Centro e Investigaciones y Documentacion de la Costa Atlantica in Managua, Nicaragua.

In addition to her bachelor's degree in English from the State University of New York's College at New Paltz, Theresa has an M.S. in library science from Simmons College. She has also participated in HERS - New England Management Institute for Women in Higher Education.

*David S. Ferriero,*  
Associate Director for Public Services

## Libraries Enter Agreement with Engineering Information, Inc.

**E**ngineering Information, Inc. the publisher of *Engineering Index* and its online counterpart, *Compendex*, is producing a new CD-ROM index entitled *Ei Page One*, - and is doing it with the help of the MIT Libraries. *Ei Page One* is a citation database for engineering and technical literature that can be searched by keywords or journal browsing.

Since January, 1991, the Libraries have served as a document supplier to Engineering Information, sending photocopies of the title pages and tables of contents of recently published engineering conference proceedings. While Engineering Information's databases routinely cover a number of conference proceedings, the

company has difficulty obtaining bibliographic information for an even larger number. It is information on these more elusive proceedings that the Libraries are supplying. Titles are drawn from the Barker Engineering, Science, Lindgren and Aeronautics/Astronautics Libraries. To date over 629 pages, representing 71 titles have been sent.

The Libraries are very pleased not only to provide access to our fine collections in the engineering fields to those here at the Institute, but to use those collections to help create a more comprehensive research tool for scholars internationally.

*Ei Page One* will be available for use in the Barker Engineering Library (10-500) soon.

*Carol Zoppel, Assistant to the Director*

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