



MIT LIBRARIES' NEWS

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The MIT Libraries On Your Desktop

The Athena Library Locker makes it easy for you to take advantage of many traditional library services, as well as tap into the wonderful world of electronic information. From your Athena workstation or dial-up account, you will get the following menu options:

New At The Libraries!
News about new services and facilities available to enhance your teaching and research activities;

The Basics: Hours, Locations, etc.;

BARTON: The MIT Libraries' Catalog
Access the the Libraries' online catalog;

Need Help?
A combination of bulletin-board-type information (list of subject/reference specialists, thesis specifications, etc.) and connections to actual services (online catalogues at other colleges and universities; access to OWL; electronic forms to request photocopies, literature searches, to suggest a purchase, etc.);

Suggestions
Space for you to tell us how we're doing and what else you'd like to see in the Athena Library Locker.

To Get Started: From an Athena workstation: **Add Library Library Demo**

David Ferriero,
Associate Director for Public Services



*Barker Engineering Library Reading Room.
Photo by Ginny Such*

Endowed Funds for Collections

Collection growth in the MIT Libraries benefits from a number of endowed funds. Funds can be established in a variety of ways, for example, to support collections in specific subject areas or in a specific library; for a specialized user community; or to support emerging areas of interest. These funds provide continuing support and can in the long term provide significant support for specific subject collections.

In fiscal year 1991/92, three new funds were established through the generosity of alumni and their families.

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The Ethel and Bernard Lippman Memorial Fund was established by Dr. Susan L. Kannenberg ('61) and Mr. Thomas M. Lippman in memory of their parents. The fund will be used to purchase materials in the field of physics.

Mrs. Mary S. Newman, widow of Robert B. Newman, MIT class of 1949 and late professor of Architecture, has established the Robert B. Newman Fund for Visual Collections in Building Technology. Materials acquired with the support of the fund will be housed in the Rotch Visual Collections, Room 7-304.

The Elmer A. Skonberg '29 Book Fund was established by Mrs. Skonberg in memory of her husband. It will be used to purchase new books, primarily general reference works, for the Barker Engineering Library.

The Libraries recognizes these funds as valuable resources for enhancing our collections in subject areas of great importance to the Institute. If you would like further information on endowed funds or other library development opportunities, please contact Tom Wilding, Senior Associate Director, at (617) 253-5653.

Carol A. Zoppel
Assistant to the Director of Libraries

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Edited and designed by Carol Zoppel.

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Dollar Falls, Subscription Prices Rise Again

In Fall, 1990, I reported to you in this newsletter on the relationship of the value of the dollar on the foreign currency market to journal subscription prices. When I wrote that article, the dollar had reached levels that were the lowest since World War II, and the Libraries (with approximately 47 percent of their journal titles published in Europe) expected a 15 to 20 percent increase in the cost of journal subscriptions for 1991. The actual increase that year was 19 percent. Following the Gulf War, the dollar gained strength, and price increases for 1992 averaged "only" 9 percent. Although much lower than that of the previous year, this increase still considerably exceeded the general inflation rate. It reflected such factors as higher production costs, expanding scholarly activity, and publishers' profits (in the case of certain publishers, not insignificant profits). Unfortunately, in recent months the value of the dollar has again plummeted. As a result, the Libraries expect the prices of subscriptions to increase by 16 to 19 percent in 1993, and we expect again to be forced to undertake a major journals review and cancellation project.

To greater or lesser degrees, all of the nation's research libraries face the same problem of insufficient funds for these substantial price increases. While libraries struggle to make appropriate decisions about the use of resources in response to this difficult economic climate, scholarly communication itself is threatened. In a recent article in *Publisher's Weekly*, Ann Okerson, of the Association of Research Libraries, demonstrated that if trends of the last five years continue into the future, by year 2007 ARL libraries will stop buying books in order to continue journal subscriptions, and by 2017 they will buy neither books nor journals. Research libraries are a primary market for scholarly publishing; the demise of their purchasing power will dramatically affect publishers' profits and viability. No one really expects the scenario to play out quite the way Ms. Okerson has projected. Many see electronic distribution of information as a potentially important change agent. Still, there are clearly hard times ahead for libraries and publishers, and not least for scholars themselves who seek to publish or to benefit from the published record.

Carol Fleishauer,
Associate Director for Collection Services



The Distributed Library Initiative: an MIT Umbrella Program on Electronic Library Services

On January 6, 1992 over 60 members of the MIT community, representing virtually all facets of the Institute's activities and services, met in an all-day working session to discuss a new program called the Distributed Library Initiative (DLI). The DLI event was a cooperative effort of the Academic Computing Council, Information Systems, and the Libraries. This landmark day was a synthesis of planning and strategic discussions among several groups at the Institute, and it was an important opportunity to inform and listen to the perspective of the MIT community.

The DLI brings together the goals and vision necessary to provide an extensive array of

coherent, affordable information services to MIT.

Briefly, the DLI is a five-year undertaking of the Libraries and Information Systems to upgrade significantly the electronic

library services to members of the MIT community. The DLI's five year plan establishes goals, resource requirements, priorities, and service targets to frame our efforts. The DLI focuses on providing high-quality production-level information services. The DLI will look broadly and inclusively at relevant research at MIT and elsewhere, and its delivery systems will be based upon local and national standards.

The DLI builds upon several vital elements that are already in place at MIT. The powerful distributed computing environment exemplified by Project Athena provides a highly-functional, flexible, and powerful system architecture upon which to build an array of information services. The dynamic research activities in computing and information provide an excellent opportunity to take those results and incorporate them into operational systems such as the DLI. This foundation will enable the DLI to build services; to test them in a dynamic

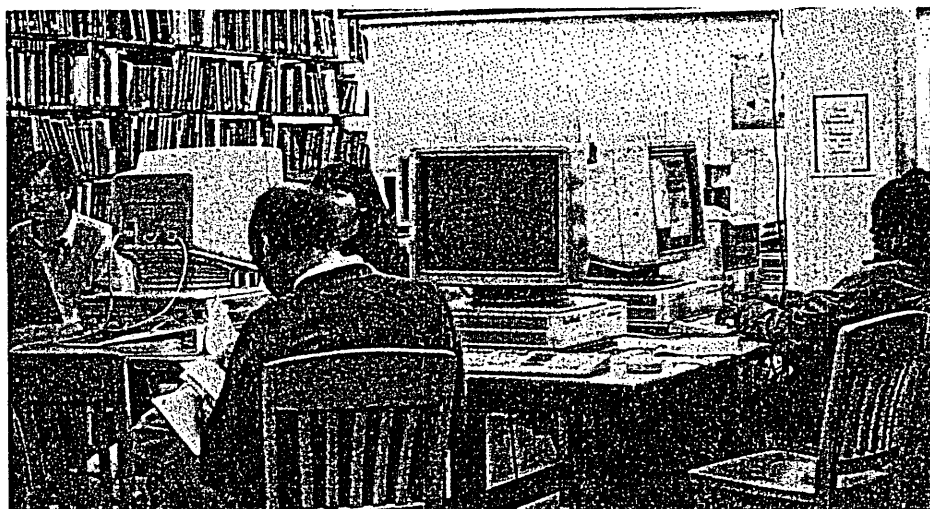
environment; and to populate the system with an array of valuable and diverse information sources.

The MIT Distributed Library Initiative has three goals:

- * Deliver coherent, affordable electronic library services to patrons.
- * Improve automation of library operations.
- * Rationalize operation and management of electronic library services.

Electronic library services to patrons have many facets. As more materials become available

electronically, media format becomes less of a distinction. For example, many library services today are dependent on the type of media — print, visual, micro-format, audio, electronic, etc. When information is in electronic



Athena Cluster in the basement of the Humanities and Science Libraries
Photo by Ginny Such

form, we can begin to treat the information equally and offer it through a consistent delivery system. The DLI will enable the Libraries to go beyond discovery of information in the Barton catalog to actual delivery of information content in electronic form. The DLI will distribute more widely the information that MIT owns; for example, theses and technical reports. We will make that information available to all patrons throughout MIT and, as appropriate, to users beyond the Institute. In addition, the DLI will support delivery of information important to the MIT mission no matter where it originates. Finally, the DLI will support a variety of patron services such as circulation renewal services, book purchasing requests, interlibrary borrowing, online reference services, etc.

The last two goals of the DLI are intended to strengthen and rationalize the Libraries' use of information technology. The Libraries are beginning the process of identifying a successor to our

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Students accessing a variety of CD-ROM databases on the Local Area Network (LAN) in the Humanities Library Photo by Ginny Such

Electronic Information Sources in The Humanities Library

If you have been in the Humanities Library within the past months, then you've probably noticed the bank of computers near the reference desk. Most of these computers are interconnected to form a local area network (LAN). The Humanities Library LAN makes it possible to access one CD-ROM on more than one machine, and also permits computers to share printers.

CD-Barton, the compact disk catalog of the MIT Libraries, provides information on all materials cataloged by MIT since 1964 (as well as a growing number of older titles). It is presently accessible at four stations on the Humanities LAN, including one with a large-screen monitor appropriate for the visually impaired.

CD-Barton does NOT index periodicals; if you are looking for journal articles, you will need to consult an index, either print or electronic. The Humanities LAN offers three indexes on CD-ROM. The *Academic Index* gives subject access to the last three years of approximately 550 humanities and social science journals. The titles it covers are both popular

and scholarly, and span a broad range of subject areas. The *Social Sciences Index*, available on three terminals, indexes English-language social science journals from 1983 to the present. *PsycLIT*, the electronic counterpart of *Psychological Abstracts*, includes abstracts of the international journal literature in psychology and related fields from 1974 on. It also permits searching for a topic in books or book chapters from 1987 to the present. *PsycLIT* can be searched on four terminals at Humanities. Both *Social Sciences Index* and *PsycLIT* can be searched on the large-screen monitor.

The dissertation literature in all fields is covered by *Dissertations Abstracts on CD*. Citations for North American doctoral dissertations and some masters theses from 1861 are included; abstracts of dissertations are included from 1980 on.

Finally, the many library applications available through the Internet can be entered on the Humanities Library's Athena workstation. Readers of this newsletter may already be familiar with OWL, the Libraries' electronic refer-

ence service. If you are interested in exploring the holdings of other libraries, the telnet addresses of hundreds of library catalogs are listed on TechInfo. Anyone with an Athena account can also search *UnCover*, which offers keyword searching of over 10,000 periodicals published during the past several years. Reference staff at any of the libraries will be happy to show you how to access these services, and may be able to suggest other resources available on the network.

In searching any of the databases mentioned in this article, it's important to remember that the MIT Libraries do not own every item listed in each database. Once you find citations for which you wish to see the cited sources, search for them on CD-Barton to determine whether they are available here. If they are not, a reference librarian can refer you to another area library or help you obtain materials through interlibrary borrowing.

Nina Davis-Millis,
Associate Humanities Librarian



*Kathy Green, Acting Dewey Librarian
Photo by Ginny Such*

Staff Changes at Dewey Library

Kathy Green has been appointed Acting Dewey Librarian while the Libraries seek a replacement for retired Dewey Librarian, Edgar Davy, who after 20 years of leading Dewey, set out this summer for a new life in New Mexico. Kathy has served as Associate Dewey Librarian since August 1989 and as a reference librarian in Dewey from April 1986 to August 1988. Before coming to MIT she was a reference librarian at the University of Tennessee and interned both at the University of Rhode Island and Brown University. She received her B.A. in English and philosophy from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and her M.L.S. from the University of Rhode Island.

Kathy has coordinated reference services at Dewey since October 1987. She has been instrumental in moving reference services at MIT into the electronic age by spearheading the MIT Libraries' efforts to provide the OWL (Online With Libraries) electronic reference service available over Athena.

*Carol Zoppel,
Assistant to the Director of Libraries*

Access to Resources Outside MIT

The staff of the MIT Libraries, in addition to building information stores, both print and electronic, here on campus can provide physical access to collections beyond the walls of MIT through a series of local and national reciprocal arrangements:

Boston Library Consortium

Faculty may register for on site use and borrowing privileges of the following "neighbor" institutions: Boston College, Boston Public Library, Boston University, Brandeis University, the Massachusetts State Library, Northeastern University, Tufts University, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and at Boston, Wellesley College, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Your Boston Library Consortium card will be issued upon application at the Humanities Library reference desk, 14S-200.

Harvard Libraries

A letter of introduction providing restricted access to a Harvard Library may be obtained at any MIT reference desk providing that the material needed is not at MIT or any of the Boston Library Consortium libraries.

We have reciprocal borrowing arrangements with the following Harvard libraries:

Gordon McKay (engineering)
Apply at the Barker Engineering Library (10-500) reference desk.

Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine
Apply at the Science Library (14S-100) reference desk.

John G. Wolbach Library, Center for Astrophysics
Apply at the Science Library (14S-100) reference desk.

Physics Research Library
Apply at the Science Library (14S-100) reference desk.

Other Colleges & Universities

MIT participates in the OCLC Reciprocal Faculty Borrowing Program which provides borrowing privileges at over 150 colleges and universities around the country. Apply at the Office of the Director of Libraries, 14S-216.

InterLibrary Borrowing Service

This office will borrow materials and obtain photocopies from journals not available at MIT. Using a sophisticated national network, materials can be located, requested, and, often, delivered electronically to MIT. Requests may be placed at the Humanities Library reference desk (14S-200) or phoned to extension 3-5683. An electronic form for this service will soon be available through the Athena Library Locker.

*David Ferrero,
Associate Director for Public Services*

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present system which supports our acquisition, cataloging and circulation functions. To support fully the promise of the DLI, the Libraries will need a powerful system that enables efficient processing and management of information. The multi-year effort to define and identify such a system has begun. The Administrative Systems Development department of Information Systems has assigned Alan Chaiken, Senior Business Systems Analyst, to work with the Libraries to produce a Preliminary Analysis report on our system requirements. Finally, Information Services and the Libraries are working together to determine the proper balance between computing services support and the management of information. The collective goal is to enable each organization to accomplish what it does best and to utilize effectively the expertise that each brings to the DLI.

Progress will be measured by the success of the individual components of the DLI program and how well they meet the information needs of the community. The DLI projects are coordinated by the Information Systems/Libraries Steering Group.

Among current DLI activities are OWL (Online With Libraries) an electronic reference service on Athena, testing of the MEDLINE database on the campus network, development of a new version of the Barton database on the network, testing a new Athena front-end to library services, and support for CD-ROMs on the campus network.

Please contact me if you would like more information on the DLI.

*Greg Anderson,
Associate Director for Systems and Planning
ganderso@athena.mit.edu*

Subject Specialists in the MIT Libraries

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