



MIT LIBRARIES' NEWS

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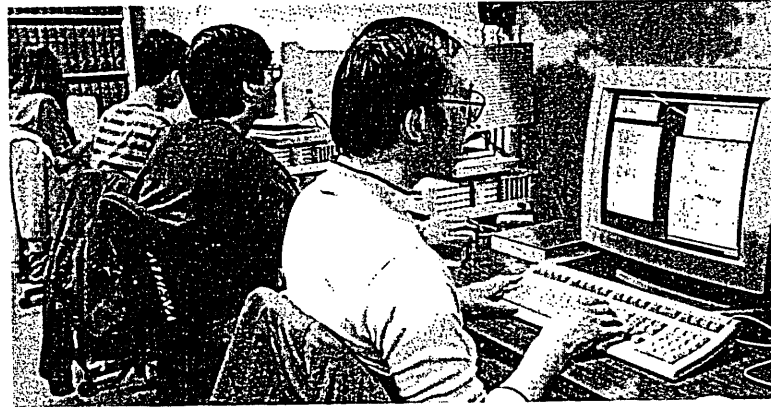
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Students at work in the Barker Engineering Library's Athena Cluster

Photo by L. Barry Hetherington

Medline Available on Athena Network

We are pleased to announce the availability of the Medline files on the Athena network. A joint project between The Libraries and Information Systems, the files are accessible to anyone with an Athena account.

Medline, produced by the National Library of Medicine, provides access to the international biomedical literature, including research, clinical practice, administration, policy issues, and health care services. The database contains references and abstracts to articles from over 4000 journals published in the United States and 70 other countries. Using the BRS/SearchMate software to search the files, you may retrieve citations by author, title, subject, keyword, journal title, grant number, molecular sequence number, gene symbol, etc. You may also qualify your search by date of publication, language, etc.

Currently available are the Medline files for 1991-1993. Updates are loaded on the Athena network monthly.

For further information contact David Ferriero, Associate Director of Libraries for Public Services, 3-7058, ferrier@mitvma.mit.edu.

*David Ferriero,
Associate Director of Libraries for Public Services*

Gift Earmarked for Technical Translations

Edwin G. Roos ('44) has pledged \$20,000 per year for the next five years to the MIT Libraries for the purchase of English translations of foreign language technical publications with preference given to publications in the fields of chemical engineering and materials science. Commercially available translations of foreign language technical research are expensive and currently there is no large accessible collection of them on the East Coast. This gift will help the Libraries provide access for MIT researchers to the translations of some important technical information and serve as an interlibrary loan center for these materials on the East Coast. For each of the next five years, half of the annual gift will be expended and half will be put in an endowed fund to ensure future purchases.

*Carol Zoppel,
Assistant to the Director of Libraries*

Information Services Study

During the period October 1991 through June 1992, the MIT Libraries conducted an Information Services Study to learn how faculty, research staff, and students in three disciplines gather information for their work. Funded by the Office of the Provost, the study focused on Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Management Science in the Sloan School of Management, and Materials Science and Engineering.

The Study, led by Chris Sherratt of the Science Library and a team of 12 MIT librarians, addressed such questions as:

- What methods do you use to gather information?
- What kinds of sources do you seek and use?
- Where do you seek and find information?
- How do you keep up in your field? Related fields?
- What impact has technology had on the way you gather information?

Three data collection methods were used in the Study:

(1) A critical incident survey, designed with the help of Michael A. Rappa, Assistant Professor of Management at the Sloan School, asked respondents about the new references they had cited in their most recently completed paper or research proposal.

(2) Interviews were conducted with at least ten faculty members or research staff from each discipline.

(3) Focus group discussions were held with two groups of graduate students.

The critical incident survey provided confirmation of some generally held views of information use; i.e., the reliance of scholars on journals as sources of new information; the importance of older as well as current material; the variety of ways information reaches them; and the increasing use of computer-based information sources.

The focus groups and interviews, as well as the formal survey, provided the Study Team with several themes for recommendations on strengthening library services:

- Continue and intensify efforts to mount electronic resources on the campus network and provide support for electronic access to those not locally mounted.

- Provide table of contents service information electronically.
- Offer current awareness services.
- Improve document delivery options for library users.
- Provide expertise in bibliographic file management to help our users control their personal collections.
- Provide "consultancy" service to individual faculty members or research groups.
- Review and assess ongoing instructional efforts.
- Strengthen publicity activities to inform the community about the Libraries' services and plans for the future.

The Final Report of the Information Services Study presents these results and recommendations in greater detail. The process of review of the recommendations by the three disciplines and by the Libraries has begun and implementation strategies are being drafted.

The Study was important, not only for the insights gained, but also for the instruments developed which will enable the Libraries to study other disciplines on campus.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Final Report, please contact Agnieszka Meyro, 3-5655 or ameyro@athena.mit.edu.

*David Ferrero,
Associate Director of Libraries for Public Services*

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Edited and designed by Carol Zoppel.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Director of Libraries,
Room 14S-216,
MIT,
Cambridge, MA 02139



*M.P. Bogan, (left) Head of the Libraries' Binding and Repair Section, demonstrates book binding techniques to Upward Bound students.
Photo by Ginny Such*

Upward Bound Students Visit Libraries

On October 21st, 15 high school students from MIT's Upward Bound program were introduced to the MIT Libraries' annual Library Day program. The program, initiated three years ago, is designed to expose students to a research library, demonstrate the importance of information gathering skills, and encourage students to consider librarianship as a career. The theme of this year's program was a behind the scenes look at how a book is ordered and eventually ends up on the shelf. The students were led through several library departments to get a hands-on look at the book ordering process. A highlight of the tour was a trip to the Binding and Repair Section located in the basement of the Hayden library where students witnessed a demonstration of the book binding process.

*Jennie Sandberg,
Assistant Humanities Librarian*

Harvard, Yale, and MIT Agree to Document Delivery of Science and Technology Materials

Several libraries at Harvard, Yale, and MIT have agreed to treat each other as preferred customers and preferred sources for free delivery of articles using facsimile transmission, or, in some cases, transmission over the Internet. Among the Harvard Libraries participating will be Cabot Science Library, Birkhoff Math Library, Kummel Geological Library, and the Physics Research Library. At Yale, the Geology, Chemistry, Engineering/Applied Sciences, Math, and Forestry Libraries will be participating, in addition to the Kline Science and Anthropology Libraries. The MIT Interlibrary Borrowing Office will be searching requests on the Yale and Harvard on-line catalogs via the Internet and directing requests to these libraries when appropriate. Likewise, MIT's Microreproduction Lab will supply articles to Harvard and Yale from Barker, Science, Lindgren, Aero, and Schering-Plough Libraries. We hope that this agreement will make it possible for us to supply science and technology articles more quickly than from other interlibrary loan suppliers, and we have established three business-days turn-around as our service goal. We will be participating on a trial basis for one-year during which time we will be analyzing the benefits of the project for all participants. If the project is successful, it may provide a basis for cooperative collections agreements between the three institutions.

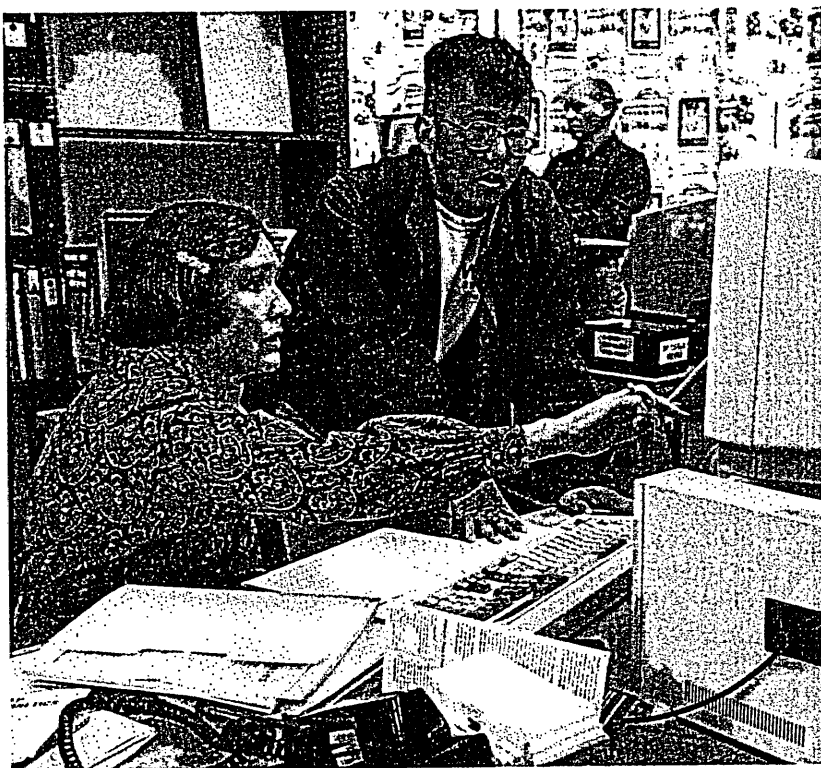
*Carol Fleishauer,
Associate Director for Collection Services*

Teaching Library Research Skills In The Information Age

It is now possible for a student at MIT to log into Athena from his or her dorm room and access a number of different computerized indexes like Engineering Index or PsycFirst to find journal articles on a particular topic. Students can also use their Athena accounts to see whether or not the journal is available in the MIT Libraries. If it is not owned by MIT, they can check the library catalog at Boston University or a growing number of catalogs at other universities around the country. Access to information has never been better and will probably continue to improve in the next few years as the MIT Libraries expand services available on the network and as more and more libraries make their catalogs accessible via the Internet.

As access to information increases and the amount of available information continues to grow, the development of critical thinking skills needed to evaluate and use information sources effectively will become increasingly important. Without proper training, library research in this computer age becomes a hit-or-miss proposition. Students need to be taught the skills necessary to retrieve information effectively. By teaching students that there is a logical process to library research, we can help them develop a "mental model" of the research process that works regardless of changes in technology.

Many view library instruction as merely an exercise in teaching students the practice of information retrieval, but library instruction can also teach students how to evaluate information sources and at the same time develop their critical thinking skills. Teaching students how to evaluate the usefulness of information, once found, will help them deal with the ever-



*Lindgren Librarian, Kathy Keefe, helps student in Science Library.
Photo by L. Barry Hetherington*

increasing amount of information available in their fields. Sonia Bodi, a librarian at North Park College in Illinois, reminds us that library instruction can help our students develop:

- An awareness of the information resources in a particular discipline
- The ability to judge the relevance and value of a resource
- The ability to recognize that multiple perspectives exist on an issue and the ability to retrieve articles on more than one perspective
- The ability to know what questions to ask
- The skill to find evidence to evaluate arguments
- The ability to evaluate the evidence once found
- Knowledge of the technologies available in the library to enhance information retrieval¹

One way to begin teaching our students these skills is by introducing them to the information sources available in their disciplines. By incorporating library instruction into the curriculum, we give students an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to become self-directed learners.

The reference staff of the MIT Libraries has developed a program of library instruction designed to introduce students to the collections, services, and research tools of the Libraries and to the variety of methods for evaluating information sources. Our goal is to help students develop their problem-solving skills. Instructional sessions may be held either in the classroom or in the library and are conducted by subject specialists on the Libraries' staff. A number of options are available including library tours,

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workshops geared to the use of specific indexes or computerized databases, and specially designed course-specific instruction.

The librarians of the MIT Libraries are eager to work with faculty to develop a program of library instruction that meets your needs. To find out more about the kinds of instruction available from the MIT Libraries or to be put in touch with a librarian in your field, contact: Jennie Sandberg, jssandbe@athena.mit.edu, 14S-230, 3-9349.

*Jennie Sandberg,
Assistant Humanities Librarian*

1adapted from *Collaborating with Faculty in Teaching Critical Thinking: The Role of Librarians, Research Strategies*, vol. 10, no.2, Spring 1992, p. 69-76

New Staff

New faces have been cropping up in the Libraries since last fall. One of them belongs to Peter Munstedt, who began his duties as Music Librarian in October. Formerly the Music Librarian of the Miller Nichols Library at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, he serves on the editorial boards of both the College Music Symposium and the Music Reference Services Quarterly and is Recording Review Editor of the ARSC (Association of Recorded Sound Collections) *Journal*. Peter holds a Ph.D in Musicology and an M.L.S. from the University of Kentucky, an M.A. in Musicology from the University of New Hampshire, and a B.A. in Fine Arts from Syracuse University.

Zhishan (Amanda) Xu joined the staff as Serials Cataloger in February. Amanda had worked as a Graduate Assistant cataloging monograph series in the Agriculture Library at the University of Illinois. She received her Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois in May 1992, and has an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from the Education College of the same university. Additionally, she holds a B.A. in English as an International Language from Shanghai International Studies University.

Two librarians began their tenure at the Institute with the new year; Anne Ward, Assistant Librarian in the Institute Archives, and Margret Lippert, Associate Head for Information Services in the Engineering and Science Libraries. Anne Ward, formerly Manuscript Archivist at Clemson University, has an M.L.S. from Simmons College and a B.A. in Studio



*New Librarians: from left to right, Peter Munstedt, Amanda Xu, Margret Lippert, Anne Ward.
Photo by Carol Zoppel*

Arts from Brandeis University. Margret Lippert comes to us from the University of Cincinnati where she was head of the Chemistry-Biology Library. Her range of experience is impressive: Engineering Reference Librarian at the University of Cincinnati, Medical Librarian at the Providence Hospital in Cincinnati, library systems analyst, English teacher and translator, and computer programmer. She has an M.S. in Library Science from the University of Kentucky and a B.A. in German Language and Literature from Queen College (NY).

*Carol Zoppel,
Assistant to the Director of Libraries*

Recently added to the Collections...

During the past year, the MIT Libraries added a number of important resources to the reference and general collections. For further information about any of these items, please speak with a reference librarian.

1992 World Competitiveness Report. Contains evaluations, based on 330 criteria, of how countries and companies compete in international markets. (Dewey Reference HF1414.W67 1992)

Black Biographical Dictionaries, 1790-1950. A microfiche set containing biographies of 30,000 African Americans. (Humanities Reference E185.96.B553 1987 Mfch).

Encyclopedia Hispanica. An international encyclopedia in Spanish. (Humanities Reference AE61.E53 1991).

New Palgrave Dictionary of Money and Finance. Contains over 1000 essays by leading experts on monetary and financial topics. (Dewey Reference HG151.N48 1992)

University of Michigan Delphi VI Forecast and Analysis of the U.S. Automotive Industry Through the Year 2000. Results of a survey of automotive industry experts on technological, marketing, and materials development within the automotive industry. (Dewey Reference: HD9710.U52.D364 1992)

*Jennifer Banks,
Head, Preservation & Collection Management Services*

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Office of the Director
Room 14S-216
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307