



MIT LIBRARIES' NEWS

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New Music Library Opens



Photo by L. Barry Hetherington.

There is a brand new library on campus. The Rosalind Denny Lewis Music Library opened its doors this October after a five-month renovation that transformed the old music library into a dynamic facility. This past May, the entire contents of the library were placed in storage so that the old library space could be demolished. Construction lasted from July until October when the library was essentially completed. The Lewis Library incorporates an elegant beauty along with the practical functionality demanded by today's academic libraries.

Designed by MIT Architect, Melanie Brothers, the Lewis Library incorporates a highly efficient use of space that expanded the old library by 2,500 square feet. The extensive collection of 10,000 books, 25,000 music scores, and 20,000 recordings is housed in compact shelving (on movable tracks) which will allow the collection to expand well into the 21st century. A curved mezzanine

contains 22 custom-built listening carrels, a listening lounge, group listening/viewing room, conference room, librarian's office, and audio preservation room. Along the outside of the mezzanine are 19 glass panels which contain an etched piece of music composed specifically for the library by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and MIT Professor of Music, John Harbison. The first floor features a custom-built circulation desk, staff offices, shelving, reading areas, display case, and a special collections room with climate control. Artist and MIT alumnus John Powell designed the library's front door, light fixtures, and mezzanine glass panels. The exquisite woodwork seen throughout the library consists of sycamore with a mahogany trim.

Fundraising efforts for the new library were spearheaded by Ellen Harris, Prof. of Music, and then Associate Provost for the Arts, and completed

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From the Director

My 93 year old father-in-law has had a life-long fascination with technology. Lingered over dessert last weekend, he got to reminiscing about the astonishing technological advances he has experienced in his life. I asked him what he thought about all this technology; what impact had it made on the way people lived their lives? His response may interest you. The technology that made life easier or safer or more efficient, he said, quickly replaced older ways of doing things. Electric lights replaced gas lights, central heat replaced coal stoves, radio replaced going downtown to hear the headlines read from the balcony of the newspaper offices. Technology that provided options or alternatives, he said, added new ways of doing things but did not displace old ways of doing things. Television did not eliminate radio, microwave ovens did not eliminate stoves (although take-out may), helicopters did not replace automobiles. Technology that provided options made life more interesting, but almost always more complicated.

As I traveled through the MIT Libraries this week, I took care to observe the ways the Libraries are used by the MIT community. My totally unscientific conclusion is that for every person at a workstation, there were at least 20 people using print resources. Now, in the interest of full disclosure, I must confess that I am an enthusiastic proponent of the digital library. My career reflects my confidence in the value of information technology in libraries. I know from personal experience that electronic index and abstract services can be vastly superior to print indices. I appreciate and use full-text databases on a regular basis. In my daily work, I consult the online reference tools in the MIT Libraries' Virtual Reference Collection (<http://nimrod.mit.edu/common/reference/tools.html>). I'd be lost without my WWW bookmarks. And yet my office and home are full of books and journals, and I, too, regularly use the print resources of the MIT Libraries.

So how shall the MIT Libraries understand and deploy the marvelous capabilities of new information technology in the context of MIT's real work and finite resources? Perhaps through the reflections and insights of a 93 year old technology buff. Where information technology makes life easier, or safer, or more efficient for the MIT community, we must push as hard as we can to advance our expertise and expand our offerings. Where information technology provides alternatives or options to traditional ways of education and research, we must be prepared for complications, complexity, and a considerably more interesting service environment.

How will we know which is which? By working closely with the wonderful variety of world-class faculty and students of MIT. Through a first-hand understanding of the working needs and ways of our community we will gain the knowledge we need to determine the appropriate role for our traditional mission, and discover exciting new ways to support research and education within our community.

*Ann Wolpert,
Director, MIT Libraries
617-253-5297*



Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries. Photo by Richard Howard.

MIT Libraries Join Northeast Research Libraries Consortium (NERL)

A new consortium of research libraries in the Northeast was created in July, 1996, for the primary purpose of jointly licensing significant files or collections of electronic materials. The intent is to obtain more favorable licensing terms (including both price and use) than each individual library could obtain on its own. In addition, in the future the consortium may be able to jointly mount and archive files when the information provider will not do so in a way which satisfactorily meets the needs of the libraries. In addition to MIT, the consortium includes the following institutions: Boston University, Brown University, Columbia University, University of Connecticut, Cornell University, Dartmouth University, Harvard University, University of Massachusetts, New York State Library, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, Syracuse University, and Yale University.

*Carol Fleishauer,
Associate Director for Collection Services*

New Music Library Opens, (Cont.)

by Alan Brody, current Associate Provost for the Arts. Cherry ('41) and Mary Emerson, who have been strong supporters of the arts at MIT, offered to support the much desired and necessary renovation of the MIT Music Library in the spring of 1995. The Library is named in memory of Mary's mother, Rosalind Denny Lewis, wife of the late MIT professor, Warren K. "Doc" Lewis, and grandmother of Dean for Undergraduate Education, Rosalind Williams. Professor "Doc" Lewis was Cherry Emerson's advisor at MIT.

Many other donors have made very generous contributions to the project. These include Sandra and David Bakalar ('51), whose gift will name the Bakalar Listening Center; Lawrence C. Erdmann ('63), whose gift will name the Erdmann Special Collections Room; Cynthia du Pont Tobias ('72) and Professor Emeritus Warren Rohsenow, whose gifts will name the Roy Lamson Conference Room; Dr. W. Gerald Austen ('51); Norton Belknap ('50); Anne and Bruce Blomstrom ('59); Dorothea and Bradford Endicott ('49); Frances Fahnestock; Gordon P. Getty; Marilyn B. Hoffman; Robert B. Millard ('73); Carlos Prieto ('58); Raymond S. Stata ('57); Ruth and Daniel



Bakalar Listening Center. Photo by L. Barry Hetherington.

Vershow ('45); and Peter J. Wender ('71).

As might be expected, the new library has been enthusiastically received. Comments from students include the following: "In general, very cool. Almost makes me wish I weren't a senior." "I love it here!!" "My house will look like this!!" "This place rocks!!"



From the mezzanine, looking down into reading room. Photo by L. Barry Hetherington.

MIT now has a music library as compelling and attractive as its collection. Thanks to the generosity of donors and the hard work of library staff, architect Melanie Brothers, and Associate Provosts Harris and Brody, this project has become a reality. The Lewis Library will provide valuable music resources in a comfortable setting for generations to come. Music lovers rejoice!

*Peter Munstedt,
Music Librarian*



Circulation desk, with mezzanine above. Photo by L. Barry Hetherington.

Web Access to Engineering Database Now Available to MIT Community

MIT Libraries has contracted with Engineering Information (EI) to provide the MIT community with network access to the *Compendex* database. *Ei Compendex* is the most comprehensive engineering database in the world, with over three million summaries of journal articles, technical reports, and conference papers and proceedings in electronic form. The database covers the entire spectrum of engineering, in depth, with abstracts from over 2,600 international journals, conference papers and technical reports. It is the electronic equivalent of *Engineering Index*.

MIT has access to records from 1980 to the present. Each year, over 220,000 new abstracts are added from 175 disciplines and major specialties within these broad engineering areas: mechanical, civil, environmental, electrical, structural, process, materials science, solid state physics and superconductivity, bioengineering, energy, chemical, optics, air and water pollution, solid waste management, hazardous waste, road transportation, and transportation safety. Besides applied engineering, coverage also extends to manufacturing, quality control, and engineering management issues.

Compendex is the latest addition to an ever-growing list of MIT Libraries offerings that have been made available to the MIT community over the Net. Another major engineering database that has been available for several years (via FirstSearch) is *INSPEC*, which covers the journal and conference literature in the fields of physics, electronics and computing.

For access to these and other databases, consult the MIT Libraries' web pages at:

<http://nimrod.mit.edu/common/databases.html>

(Click on "Compendex" for EI's database and on "FirstSearch" for *INSPEC*).

Margret Lippert,
Associate Head, Engineering and Science Libraries

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Britt Named to Credit Union Board



Sheelah Britt. Photo by L. Barry Hethington.

Sheelah Britt, Head of the Libraries' Administrative Services Department, was named to the Board of Directors of MIT's Federal Employees' Credit Union, effective October 1, 1996. She fills the vacancy on the Board created by the retirement of Philip Keohan. Members of the Board are responsible for the overall direction of the Credit Union, including the following: establishing objectives, formulating policy, approving goals and programs, evaluating financial affairs and management practices, controlling assets, reviewing services and activities, and selecting the president/manager. Ms. Britt has been appointed to the Asset/Liability Management Committee, and the Loan Policy and Dividend Committee; two of the committees established to carry out the duties of the Board. Prior to her service on the Board, she served on the Credit Committee first as a member, and later as Chair. She will come up for re-election to the Board in March, 1997.

Ms. Britt has many years of experience at MIT. She oversees the Libraries' budget and is responsible for facilities, mail service and some aspects of personnel for the Libraries.

Carol Zoppel,
Assistant to the Director of Libraries

MIT Librarian Speaks at Library Roundtable in Japan

Each year the Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Library Center (KIT-LC) hosts the KIT International Roundtable for Library and Information Science in Kanazawa, Japan with a focus on the educational role of the library enhanced by new information technologies. Katherine Poole, Rotch Visual Collections Librarian, was among the five invited speakers to present papers at this year's Roundtable, July 18-19, 1996.

The speakers, who addressed various aspects of the Roundtable topic, *Uses of the Digital Library: the Instructional Revolution*, included keynote speaker, Richard Lanham, Professor Emeritus, UCLA; William Walker, Andrew W. Mellon Director, Research Libraries, New York Public Library; Rachael Anderson, Director, Arizona Health Sciences Library, University of Arizona; and Stanley Chodorow, Provost, University of Pennsylvania. Katherine's paper, *A Thirst for Images: Evolving Technologies in Visual Collections*, dealt with the impact of image and graphic technologies.

The Kanazawa Institute of Technology, a fully accredited private technical university, is Japan's largest institution of higher education specializing in engineering and technology. The MIT Libraries and the KIT-LC have enjoyed a close and fruitful relationship. Jay K. Lucker, Director Emeritus of the MIT Libraries, acted as consultant to KIT-LC, during its planning and construction and he spoke frequently at the annual International Seminars. The current KIT-LC director, Dr. Kakugyo Chiku, who is an architectural historian, was a visiting scholar at MIT, 1985-87. KIT-LC annually sponsors one faculty member's residency at MIT for professional development.

Katherine Poole, Rotch Visual Collections Librarian



Katherine Poole. Photo by L. Barry Hetherington.

Serials Cancellations

Last year, for the fourth time since 1987, serial prices increased steeply and the MIT Libraries conducted another review of the subscriptions. Librarians contacted the academic departments, laboratories and research centers to notify faculty about subscription cost increases and the necessity of a serial cancellation project. MIT's 1996 prices increased 13.5% compared to the 1995 prices. Through discussions with faculty members to review research priorities, the librarians identified the serials that had become less important to that research. The outcome is that over 700 serials were pruned from the Libraries' subscription list.

The prospects for 1997 include a more stable price environment and a stronger dollar. Estimates for price increases this year average eight to ten percent. This level, while still a concern, leaves a little room for reallocating funds. Modest amounts of money have been designated for the purchase of new journals and additional books in support of changing research interests, and the addition of some electronic information resources to be available on the campus network.

While the cancellation decisions were difficult, the participation of faculty members greatly assisted the librarians in making appropriate choices. These working relationships remain important to the MIT Libraries as we move forward.

Jennifer Banks, Head, Preservation & Collection Management Services

New Professional Staff



Diann Smothers (left) and Heather McMullen (right). Photo by L. Barry Hetherington.

Heather B. McMullen was appointed to the position of Assistant Dewey Librarian for Economics, effective July 15, 1996.

Heather holds a Master of Library and Information Science from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Western

Ontario. She also holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Waterloo where she specialized in international trade. Her undergraduate co-operative education experience includes a variety of research, marketing, and sector analysis positions in industry and government. Her library experience includes reference assistant positions at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Waterloo.

In her position at MIT, Heather is responsible for access, outreach, and collection services for the MIT economics community, as well as the delivery and collection management of ICPSR data files for all of the MIT community. She will provide service at the Dewey reference desk and assist the Sloan School Librarian in delivering services to the Sloan community.

Cynthia Diann Smothers was appointed to the position of Assistant Dewey and Humanities Librarian, effective July 15, 1996.

Diann holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina, as well as a B.A. from Haverford College. Before coming to MIT, she worked as a Graduate Assistant in the Reference Department of the Thomas Cooper Library at the University of South Carolina. She also held the Cooper-Davis Minority Fellowship at the University of South Carolina which combined academic scholarship with assistantships in library public services, technical services, and collection management.

In her MIT role, Diann is responsible for access, outreach, and collection services for foreign language and literature, and marketing. She will serve as liaison to faculty and students in these disciplines. Diann will provide reference services in both Dewey and Humanities Libraries.

Library Advisory Committees

The Libraries wish to acknowledge the contributions of our two advisory groups: the Corporation Visiting Committee for the Libraries and the Faculty Committee on the Library System. We would especially like to welcome the new members (indicated by a *) to the committees this year.

Corporation Visiting Committee for the Libraries

Patrick J. McGovern, Chair
Millicent D. Abell
Andrew Braun*
Louis W. Cabot
Richard A. Carpenter
Richard T. Cockerill
Arthur Curley
Miriam A. Drake
Gideon I. Gartner
Josephine S. Jimenez*
Christian J. Matthew
Emily R. Mobley

A. Neil Pappalardo
L. Dennis Shapiro
Merrily E. Taylor
Reginald Van Lee
Mark Y.D. Wang
James F. Williams II

Faculty Committee on the Library System

Ex Officio:

Assistant Provost for Administration, Doreen Morris*
Vice President for Information Systems, James Bruce
Director of Libraries, Ann Wolpert
Library Staff Member, Carol Fleishauer
Staff to the Committee, Robin M. Deadrick*

Faculty:

June Matthews (1998) (Chair)
John W. Dower (1997)
Elizabeth J. Garrels (1999)*
Takehiko Nagakura (1999)*
Andrew Whittle (1999)*

Students:

Vicki Chin*
Arvind Parthasarathi*
Ming Xue*

Libraries' 1997 IAP Offerings

Information Alive! Engineering/Science Libraries' Technology Fair

January 9, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Room 14-0645 and 14-0637

Discover electronic databases, Web sites, and a wealth of other online information you'll need to survive at MIT and beyond! The Technology Fair will feature a dozen or more demonstrations of online resources in engineering and science. FREE online database searching - PRIZES

Blast Your Way Through the Aerospace Literature

January 9, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Aeronautics and Astronautics Library, Room 33-316

Learn how to find journal articles, conference papers, and technical reports in aeronautics and astronautics using the *Aerospace Index* on CD and NASA's own database at their website.

GeoRef: At the Library and by Remote

January 9, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Lindgren Library, Room 54-200

Delve into the literature of the geosciences using *GeoRef* on CD-ROM. This hands-on instruction session will cover quick searching tips, using the indexes and the thesaurus, customizing and printing/e-mailing citations. Participants will learn how to use the database in Macintosh format and how to access via Athena and the World Wide Web.

Becoming Fluent with Japan on the Net

January 13, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Room 1-115

Preregister by January 9 by calling x3-8095 or e-mail sherwood@mit.edu

Learn how to use the Internet to access Japanese sci/tech information, Japanese language learning tools, and interactive Japanese culture programs. A group of experts in each of these fields will give a series of short demonstrations. Each participant will have his or her own computer for a hands-on learning experience.

Out of the Shoe Box: Organizing & Preserving Your Personal Slide Collection

January 14, 10 a.m. - Noon

Rotch Visual Collections Library, Room 7-304

Preregister by January 10 by calling x3-7098 or e-mail kkpoole@mit.edu

Hands-on workshop offers an introduction to managing your slides to suit your needs. Covers slide identification; collection organization; indexing and retrieval; storage; labeling and binding.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Patents

January 16, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Room 5-234

Come and hear patent attorney Sam Pasternak of Choate, Hall and Stewart; Jack Turner of the MIT Technology Licensing Office; and Mary Pensyl of the MIT Libraries' Document Services Group discuss the ins and outs of the patent process.

Hands-On Online: Essentials of Online Searching for Academic Office Staff

January 21, 10 a.m. - Noon

Rotch Library, Room 7-238

Preregister by January 14 by calling x8-5594 or e-mail depopolo@mit.edu

Session demonstrating search methods for the Libraries' catalog, FirstSearch, and other online resources. Questions encouraged. Examples geared to office staff of Department of Urban Studies and Planning. Others welcome as space allows.

Chemical Abstracts Online Search Workshop - Introduction to Online Searching for Chemists

January 22, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Room 14-0645

Preregister by January 15 by calling x3-3528 or e-mail hyoo@mit.edu

Learn to use the basic command languages of STN in the Registry and CA files. At the end of this workshop, you will be able to use chemical names, molecular formulas or simple keywords to find the references of your interest. This workshop is designed for scientists who are new to online searching on STN.

Musician Look-Alike Contest

January 24, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Rosalind Denny Lewis Music Library, Room 14E-109

Contestants should preregister by January 10 by calling x3-5636 or e-mail pmunsted@mit.edu

The Lewis Music Library will hold its third annual Musician Look-Alike Contest. Contestants will dress up as their favorite musicians in any field of music. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. The event is open to observers as well as participants.

Chemical Abstracts Online Search Workshop - Structure Searching

January 29, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Room 14-0645

Preregister by January 22 by calling x3-3528 or e-mail hyoo@mit.edu

In "Structure Searching with STN Express" you will learn how to build structure diagrams and use the basic command language of STN to find chemical substances and references to those substances. This workshop is designed for those who are new to online searching and want to learn how to search substance-based files.

Charm School for the Engineering and Science Libraries

January 30, Noon - 4 p.m.

Lobbies 7 and 10

Instruction and advice on appropriate etiquette for the library.

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