



MIT LIBRARIES' NEWS

Table of Contents

authors@mit Series Successful
page 1

From the Director
page 2

Library as Place
page 3

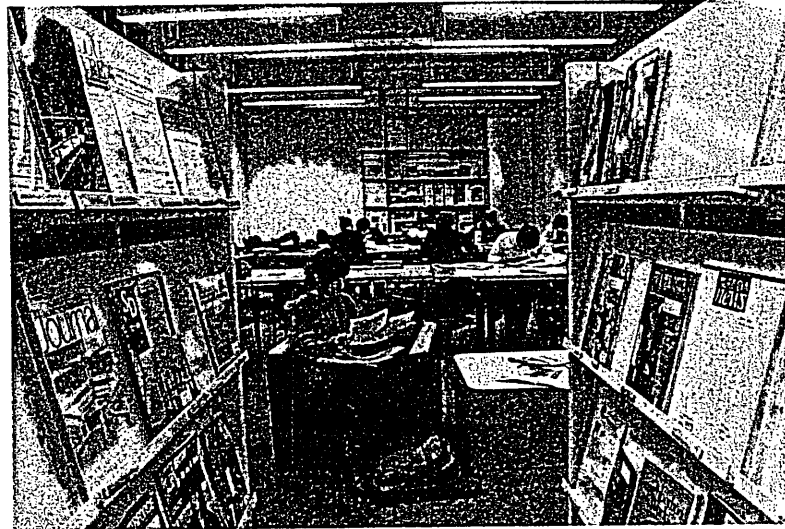
New Librarian Staff
page 5

Archives Help Preserve Building 20 Records
page 6

MIT Document Services for Faculty
page 6

New Assignments for Davis-Millis and Manoff
page 7

The Library: First Place or Last Place to Find Information?
page 8



Rotch Library Reading Room as seen from the current periodical stacks. Photograph by L. Barry Hetherington.

authors@mit Series Successful

Since it officially began in the Fall of 1996, authors@mit has garnered local and national attention. By March of this year, the popular series of author presentations had reached more than 5,000 people and events had been covered in *Tech Talk*, *The Boston Globe*, and on C-SPAN.

The series, sponsored jointly by the MIT Humanities and Dewey Libraries, and the MIT Press Bookstore, showcases authors either from MIT or published by the MIT Press and their works. Some of the authors who have participated in the series include: Irving Singer, Professor of Philosophy; Michael Dertouzos, Director of the Laboratory for Computer Science; Ann Pendleton-Jullian, Associate Professor of Architecture; Marvin Minsky, Toshiba Professor of Media Arts and Sciences, who spoke in his capacity as advisor to the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* at a birthday celebration for the computer, HAL; Pauline Maier, Professor of American History; Paul Krugman, Department of Economics; Steven Pinker, Director of the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience; and Richard Lester, Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Director of the Industrial Performance Center.

Theresa Tobin of the Humanities and Dewey Libraries and Jeremy Grainger of the MIT Press Bookstore collaborate on the series, which is designed to meet the following goals:

- *increasing awareness of the range of materials available in both the MIT Libraries and the MIT Press Bookstore;
- *creating venues for MIT authors to share their research and published efforts;
- *publicizing selected MIT Press publications;
- *building collegial relationships around the Institute.

Continued on page 4

From the Director

"With us books are tools for handy use; just as much so as the apparatus of the chemical or physical laboratories."
MIT President Francis Walker, 1893

The MIT Libraries of today provide far more than easy access to books. Since 1893, however, the time available to faculty to use such information tools has declined dramatically. Indeed, time may now be the scarcest commodity at MIT. The MIT Libraries still aim to provide faculty and students with "tools for handy use," but today we must do so with recognition of the many competing pressures on faculty time.

The deep, rich print and digital collections of MIT's Libraries provide an exceptional competitive advantage to the Institute; an advantage that cannot be matched by other – particularly newer – academic institutions. In MIT's fast-paced environment, the ability to search, browse, and quickly obtain information is a non-trivial asset. The Libraries recognize this reality, and are pursuing a two pronged approach to address the information needs of MIT's busy community.

Digital Desk Top Library

The MIT Libraries' web site:

<http://libraries.mit.edu>

is a powerful digital library on a faculty member's desk top. Click on *Resources* and you can use a reference collection, sign up to have tables of contents of journals delivered to you by e-mail, conduct a literature search, find out who is citing your publications, check on library hours and policies, read electronic versions of newspapers and journals, check the electronic card catalog to see if the Libraries own a book, report, or journal, and see if an item is on the shelf.

Faculty services are increasingly available at the desk top as well. From the *Services* page faculty can request contemporary library orientation for a class, recall a book or journal from storage, suggest a purchase, request an article or book on interlibrary loan, order an item from Document Services, or ask a question.

Each individual MIT Library has its own distinctive home page, as well. From your desk top you can view slides at Rotch Visual Collections, see (and maybe even listen to) samples of sheet music at the Lewis Music Library, review new book lists at the Aero-Astro Library, research companies and indus-



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

tries at Dewey Library, and visit the Japanese Materials Science and Engineering page at the Science Library.

Specialized In-Library Collections

The distributed library system of MIT was invented at MIT to meet the Institute's unique needs. Since its earliest days, MIT has viewed this approach as a valuable educational innovation. Although some names and locations may have changed over the years, the MIT Libraries, distributed as they are across the campus, continue to reflect the excellence in educational and research programs central to MIT's mission. These in-library collections are a vital, preeminent resource, intensely utilized by MIT's faculty and students.

Today the Digital Desk Top Library provides convenient information over the campus network, while subject specialists, working with customized collections, provide knowledgeable service and direct support to MIT's faculty and students. The "tools for handy use" may have evolved over the years, but MIT's Libraries are working to ensure that they are still handy.

*Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries
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Library as Place

"At the beginning of the 21st century, the MIT Libraries as buildings housing physical collections with convenient spaces for users to consult those collections will continue to be important."

In spite of the optimism of these words in the Libraries' 1988 strategic plan, serious space shortages were already evident at that time. In the ten years since that time, they have become critical. An analysis of the Libraries' current space use and projected needs was carried out last fall. The results provide statistical corroboration for conditions which most library users have already recognized: inadequate space for both users and collections.

Space for Users – Seating

Standards used to calculate space needs for academic libraries recommend provision of seating for at least 25% of the student body. MIT Libraries provides seating for less than 13% of its students, within a campus environment with little other study space outside of residences. In a comparison with 20 other academic/research libraries similar in size, MIT was 9th in number of students and 17th in number of seats available. In addition, the types of seats provided are far from ideal and would require more space if they were. One well-regarded space planner, for instance, recommends that 85% of library seating should be individual accommodations, providing working surfaces cut off from immediately adjacent neighbors. Only 32% of MIT's seating is individual, and most of that lacks the partitions required to ensure minimal visual distraction. In addition to individual study space, the Libraries need more group study spaces to

support a teaching environment which increasingly stresses collaboration.

Space for Users – Technology

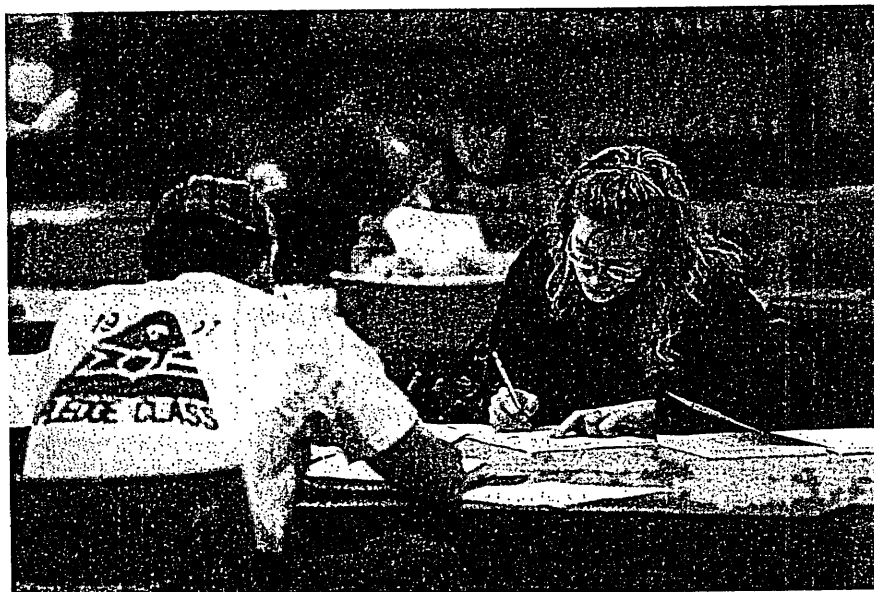
The Libraries currently provide over 300 computers for the use of library databases. While they have been placed within current spaces as well as they could be, the spatial arrangements are often undesirable, ergonomically unsatisfactory, and insufficient for peripherals such as printers. At the same time they have put considerable pressure on other uses of space. In addition, as the information world becomes more complex, with core information sources being delivered in electronic formats, there is a growing need for electronic seminar rooms within the Libraries where librarians can teach the use of new information products.

Space for Collections – Storage

Most university campuses, faced with growing library collections and public space needs, and

with the rising value of central campus real estate, have begun to use off-site storage for parts of the library collection. MIT Libraries were an "early adopter" of this solution, opening a storage facility in Building N57 in the early 1980's, and subsequently contracting to rent additional space in the Harvard Depository in Southboro. Early issues of journals and retrospective MIT theses were moved to storage without significant detriment to effective use of the collection. In addition, in 1963, the Dewey Decimal Collection of books acquired before that time was moved to N57 and a fiche catalog was created to provide bibliographic access. In the interim period, as all other materials have become integrated into an online catalog, the fiche catalog has come to be rarely used, with the result that this substantial collection of interesting and useful historical material is largely unknown to users. Finally, the point has now been reached where staff need to send more recent journal runs and books to storage,

Continued on page 4



Students studying in the Science Library. Photograph by L. Barry Hetherington.

Library as Place (continued)

continually making labor-intensive decisions and record changes, and leaving users with seriously fragmented collections and disruptions in the research process.

The Libraries currently have approximately 20% of their collections in storage (500,000 volumes). While there is no magic number to serve as a warning that the point of "too much" is approaching, comparative data is again useful. In 1994, a survey of the Association of Research Libraries showed that the median number of volumes housed in remote storage was 232,846, with the third quartile at 400,000. MIT Libraries that year housed 465,000 volumes in remote storage.

Space for Collections – Shelving

Again the data illustrate what most library users know: that the Libraries' shelves are too full for convenient or effective use. The case of the Hayden facility is illustrative. The Humanities and Science libraries and the Hayden basement together hold approximately 557,600 volumes on 60,350 linear feet of shelving, an average of approximately 9.25 volumes per foot. Library space planners suggest a formula of six volumes per foot as the "average comfortable capacity" if "space is provided for growth." The shelves in Hayden were estimated to be approximately 88-89% full in November, a time of the year when circulation is heavy and therefore shelf density is lighter. Space-planners suggest that 86% should be considered "complete working capacity" and that "new space should be available, not just planned for, by the time that figure is reached."

Space for Collections – Anticipated Need

MIT Libraries' collections have grown at an average of 2% a year over the last ten years. There is some expectation that this rate will begin to decline as inflation impedes the ability to maintain journal subscriptions and as more library funds are directed toward electronic resources. However, at least half of the volume growth is in formats such as books and music scores where there is no significant transition to electronic distribution in progress, where print publication is still growing, and where prices are not undergoing unfettered inflation.

The virtual library is not imminent. A 1994 report of an AAU (Association of American Universities) Research Libraries Project task force estimated that in 2015, 50% of scientific and technical information would still be produced and distributed in a print-on-paper system, 30% would be produced and

distributed using a mix of print and electronic options, and only 20% would reflect the exclusive use of computing and communications technologies. Likewise, space planners at Cornell University, in an article entitled *What Size Libraries for 2010?*, concluded "that there is so much uncertainty regarding the development of technology that it would be imprudent to develop a planning strategy for the next two decades with technology as the linchpin."

Libraries will need to support both print and digital formats, and provide appropriate space for a fluctuating mix, well into the 21st century. The MIT Libraries seek a long-term solution to space shortages which will provide students and faculty with library space that will facilitate and enhance teaching, learning, and research in an increasingly complicated information environment. In the shorter term, hard choices will be required for the use of current space, including an inevitable increase in the transfer of collections to storage. We seek your support in both endeavors.

The full space report is available at:

<http://macfadden.mit.edu:9500/space97/>.

Carol Fleishauer
Associate Director for Collections

authors@mit (continued)

Series organizers have already lined up commitments for the 1998-1999 series from Liane Lefaivre, author of *Leon Battista Alberti's Hypnerotomachia Poliphili: re-cognizing the architectural body in the early Italian Renaissance*; Robert Weinberg of the Whitehead Institute and author of *One Renegade Cell*; and John Hedjuk, Architect/poet and author of *Such Places as Memory: poems 1953-1996*. Faculty are encouraged to contact Theresa Tobin if they are interested in participating in the series next year.

Planning is also underway to establish a collection of sound and video tapes of the series in the MIT Libraries and to make selected tapes available for purchase through the MIT Press Bookstore.

Information on the series can be obtained by visiting the following WWW site:

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/bookstore/events/>.

Theresa Tobin, Humanities and Dewey Librarian
x3-5670

New Librarian Staff



New librarian staff (from left to right) Kimberly Maxwell, Erja Kajosalo, and Carl Jones. Photograph by L. Barry Hetherington.

Please join us in welcoming three new librarians to our staff. Each of them brings breadth and depth of job experience, educational background and life experience that will greatly benefit the Libraries. We look forward to working with them and hope that you will also have a chance to meet them.

Kimberly Maxwell was appointed Assistant Librarian for Serials Acquisitions, effective October 6, 1997. In this position she is responsible for all functions relating to serials acquisitions – periodicals, non-periodical serials, and depository government documents.

Kimberly comes to MIT from the Treasury Management Association in Washington, D.C., where she served as Information Specialist. Prior to that she was a research assistant and web designer at the Association of Research Libraries, working with the Statistics and Measurement Program and Office of Scholarly Communication. She has also worked at Bowdoin's Hawthorne-Longfellow Library and at a high school library. She is a graduate of Bowdoin College and has an MSLS degree from the Catholic University of America.

Erja Kajosalo joined the staff of the Libraries as Assistant Engineering and Science Librarian for Chemistry on October 6th. She comes to MIT from Edmonton, Canada where she completed her MLIS degree at the University of Alberta. She also holds a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Turku in Finland, and has a Programming/System Analysis Diploma from the Honeywell Bull Institute for Continuing Studies in Calgary, Alberta.

Erja's work experience includes over six years of chemistry laboratory work, four years of computer programming, indexing for the H.W. Wilson Company and completion of a library practicum at the John W. Scott Health Science Library at the University of Alberta.

Carl Jones is the new Head of the MIT Libraries' Systems Office. He comes to us from Wellesley College, where he was the Systems Librarian. Prior to his work at Wellesley, Carl was the Systems Librarian at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island where he helped get the University onto the Internet with NSF funding. He has also worked in the technical support arm of Innovative Interfaces, a library automation company.

Carl earned an MLIS degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a BA degree in Philosophy and Visual Arts from Antioch College. He has also completed the coursework for a Master's degree in the History of Art from the University of California, Berkeley.

Carol Zoppel, Editor

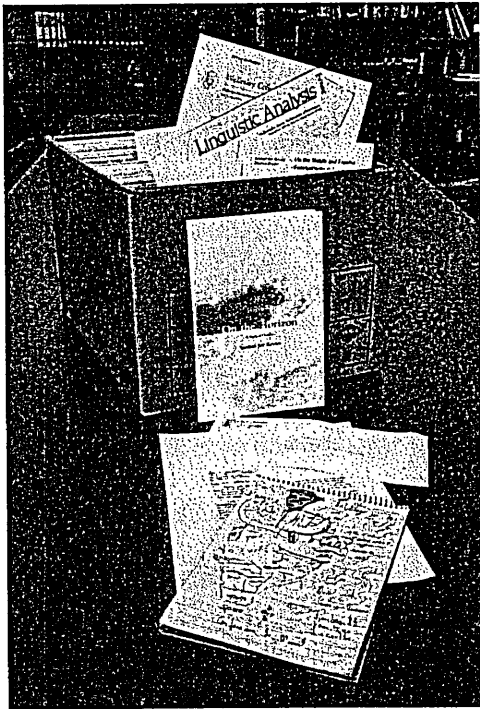
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Edited and designed by Carol Zoppel.

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Archives Help Preserve Building 20 Records



The personal papers of Samuel Jay Keyser, Professor of Linguistics, Dixieland musician, poet, and Special Assistant to the Provost, are among the many interesting collections received recently by the MIT Libraries' Institute Archives and Special Collections through the efforts of the Building 20 Records Project. Photograph by L. Barry Hetherington.

Many new collections have been donated or transferred to the MIT Libraries' Institute Archives and Special Collections as a result of the Building 20 Records Project. In addition to these tangible results, the Project Archivists have advised offices and faculty members about good records keeping practices, promoted library services, and provided other forms of outreach. Through the end of April, the Project Archivists continued to stay one step ahead of the moving crews as the Archives completed its work in Building 20, and as Physical Plant closed off and decommissioned each of the wings. The Archives also participated in the planning of a commemorative event, *MIT's Building 20: The Magical Incubator*, which was held March 26-27, 1998. Key contributions made by the Project Archivists included serving on the celebration committee (headed by Professor Paul Penfield), researching a timeline, designing displays, and providing information about the building's history and former occupants.

Nancy Heywood and Jeff Mifflin, Project Archivists
MIT Institute Archives, Building 20 Records Project

MIT Document Services for Faculty

Document Services is best known as the source for copies of MIT theses and technical reports, but many faculty don't realize that it also offers copies of articles from the journal collections here in the MIT Libraries. This can be an important and cost-effective service for faculty who don't have time either for themselves or their staff to come to the library to retrieve and copy articles. The standard charge for an article is \$6, including mailing or faxing anywhere on campus. Normal turnaround time is two to three days for most items. Materials that are not held by the MIT Libraries can be obtained through the Interlibrary Borrowing Office.

The easiest way to order articles is to use Document Services' new Web Order Form located at:

<http://libraries.mit.edu/docs/jnlorder.html>.

Payment by MIT account number or personal credit card is accepted. If you're not certain whether MIT has a particular journal in its collection, you can find out by logging on to Barton, the Libraries' online catalog at :

<http://libraries.mit.edu/services/barton.html>

or by calling any reference desk.

Document Services is located in the basement of Hayden Library, Room 14-0551, and can be reached by phone: X3-5668, fax: x3-1690, or e-mail: docs@mit.edu.

Keith Glavash, Head, Document Services
Joan Thompson, Document Resources Librarian

New Assignments for Davis-Millis and Manoff



Nina Davis-Millis. Photograph by L. Barry Hetherington.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the following new assignments for two outstanding members of the Libraries' staff. Both have served with distinction for many years as librarians at MIT and are now moving to well-deserved positions of greater responsibility.

Nina Davis-Millis has been appointed as the first Information Technology Librarian/Public Services in the MIT Libraries. In this role Nina will provide leadership for system-wide technology-based public services initiatives and projects.

During her 12 years at MIT Nina has served as Music Librarian, Associate Humanities Librarian, and Associate Head for Information Services in the Dewey and Humanities Libraries. She has also been increasingly involved in technology-related issues, serving on many such committees. Through these activities she has acquired an impressive understanding of how technology fits into the Libraries' public services programs and in what ways technology can be used as a tool to help deliver information.

Throughout her career Nina has been a thoughtful and articulate advocate for public services. The knowledge and skills she brings to this position will serve us well, and her commitment to the Institute and the Libraries will be a real benefit.

Marlene Manoff has been appointed Associate Head of the Humanities Library. In this position Marlene will provide day-to-day onsite leadership for Humanities Library staff and operations, and she will assist the staff in focusing on the Humanities Library's key mission of developing collections and delivering innovative information services to its users.

Marlene is very well-qualified to take on these additional responsibilities. As Collections Manager in the Humanities Library she has developed strong undergraduate collections supporting the teaching and research programs of the School of Humanities and Social Science. She has trained and coordinated the work of all Humanities Library subject specialists and personally selects materials in literature and women's studies. Marlene's impressive educational achievements add to her qualifications. In addition to her BA from the University of California, Berkeley and MLS from Simmons College, she has an MA in Comparative Literature from UCLA and a PhD in English from Brandeis. She has also established a national reputation as a leader in the area of electronic collection development and has served on ALA discussion groups and committees. Her last published piece was in *Scholarly Publishing: The Electronic Frontier* (MIT Press, 1996).

Ginny Steel
Associate Director for Public Services



Marlene Manoff. Photograph by L. Barry Hetherington.

The Library: First Place or Last Place to Find Information?

One of the questions MIT Libraries' staff ask with greater frequency these days is how MIT students, faculty, and staff find information. Does the availability of the WorldWideWeb combined with access to other information through the campus network mean that our users visit the Libraries less often? When students need information, do they even think of coming to the Libraries for assistance or to find relevant materials? And if they do visit, how satisfied are they with the Libraries' services, collections, and facilities?

To find answers to some of the questions above, a team of MIT librarians has undertaken a strategic initiative to survey undergraduate and graduate students in the coming months. With the assistance of the IDG Research Services Group, the team intends to sample the entire population of students with a goal of learning more about the way students seek information.

A future issue of this newsletter will include a summary of the survey findings and will present some of the conclusions drawn about future directions for the Libraries' efforts. This general student survey is the first step in a newly established program that will enable library staff to keep in closer touch with the ways our user community finds information. Having this information will make it possible for us to better tailor the Libraries' services and collections to meet the needs of the MIT students, faculty, and staff.

Ginny Steel
Associate Director for Public Services

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