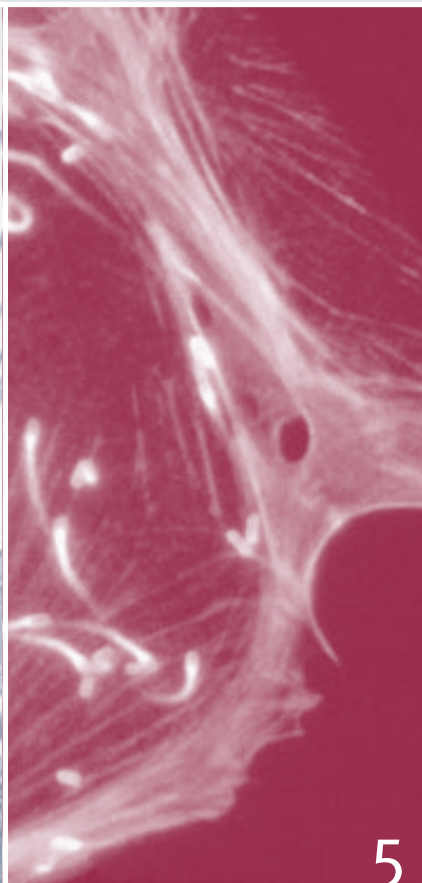


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NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

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CONTENTS

PAGE 2: FROM THE DIRECTOR

PAGE 3: NEW TECHNOLOGIES

PAGE 4: FROM THE ARCHIVES

PAGE 5: SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES

PAGE 6: DSPACE COMMUNITY GROWS

PAGE 7: SAVING ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

PAGE 8: DONORS TO THE LIBRARIES

PAGE 12: WHAT'S NEW

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Photo by Richard Howard

When Vannevar Bush wrote his legendary call to arms, “As We May Think,”¹ he challenged his fellow scientists and engineers to turn their post-war attention to the task of “making more accessible [the] bewildering store of knowledge.” The fragmentation, balkanization, and inaccessibility of scientific discovery brought about by World War II was fresh in the minds of scientists and engineers in 1945, and the passion evident in Bush’s rallying cry reflected his firm belief that “a record if it is to be useful to science, must be continuously extended, it must be stored, and above all it must be consulted.”

The problem for scientists and engineers, as Bush saw it, was not that too much was being published, but rather that the systems and structures available to manage and organize published information had been taxed “far beyond our present ability to make real use of the record.” Although Bush’s technical solution (“memex” or “memory extender”—a theoretical proto-hypertext computer system using microfilm cameras and readers) may seem quaint in hindsight, his hypothesis that humankind needed access to and command over the inherited knowledge of the ages is as true today as it was in 1945.

Generations of MIT faculty have believed and advanced Bush’s vision of a “ubiquitous, shareable knowledge network of research results.”

Sixty years later, Bush’s description of a fast, responsive, easy-to-use desktop system for information searching, retrieval, and management sounds a lot like the worldwide web, the Internet, and the robustly networked personal computing environment we now take for granted. Is it possible that the next 30 years will finally deliver the ubiquitous, shareable knowledge network of research results about which Bush could only dream? One thing we know for sure is that science will not wait patiently for the answer.

Powered by massive computing power, advanced by unimaginably large amounts of data, and enabled by advanced network capabilities, teams of researchers across the globe are inventing new pathways to discovery as well as creating new methods for capturing, analyzing, and sharing research output. In many disciplines fundamentally new research methodologies are emerging. Numerous branches of science are today evolving into dynamic, multi-sectored, highly heterogeneous enterprises. The physical sciences, engineering sciences, and life and health sciences—all significant at MIT—are at the forefront of these exciting developments in science.

Generations of MIT faculty have believed and advanced Bush’s vision of a “ubiquitous, shareable knowledge network of research results.”

Reflecting this commitment, MIT’s mission statement includes an obligation to generate, disseminate, and preserve knowledge, and to work with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world’s great challenges. More recently, MIT President Susan Hockfield has spoken eloquently about the fusion of research and education at MIT, about MIT’s responsibility to advance knowledge in ways that will serve humankind, and about the crucial need for unfettered transmission of knowledge—especially through educational activities.

Thanks to strong alliances between librarians and MIT faculty, the MIT Libraries have been able to facilitate MIT’s deeply held commitment to knowledge creation and sharing.

- Through the creation and maintenance of DSpace, MIT faculty have access to a secure repository for their digital reports, research products, and educational objects.
- Through the Libraries’ instructional programs, MIT students and faculty can learn to use the contemporary research tools and techniques so critical to new research methodologies. Instructional offerings in bioinformatics, NCBI data systems, geographic information systems, social science data services, advanced substructure, reaction, and factual searching of organic and inorganic compounds, and copyright management strategies are but a few of the highly popular programs offered by the MIT Libraries over the course of the year.
- Through the Digital Library Research Group, and other web experts in the Libraries, new online productivity tools are routinely developed for the MIT community, even as the extraordinarily difficult challenges associated with preserving the digital output of interdisciplinary, inter-institutional research programs are assessed and addressed.

We imagine Vannevar Bush is watching and urging us forward. And we trust he approves of our progress—so far.

Ann J. Wolpert, Director of Libraries
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¹ <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/194507/bush>

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

BRING THE MIT LIBRARIES TO YOU

Searching for library books, journals, CDs, and other resources has come a long way since the card catalog. With online catalogs and rapid advances in technology, libraries can send alerts about new books directly to your computer, offer social bookmarking capabilities, and feature more intuitive online search functions. Many of these innovative ideas have been tested in MIT Libraries' beta projects. The MIT community is invited to try out these new tools.

The Latest Word on New Titles

Imagine getting notified as soon as the latest book in your field—or that CD you want to hear—arrives at the MIT Libraries. You can get up-to-date information about new books, music CDs, and DVDs at the Libraries by email, RSS feed, or on the Libraries' web site. New titles are posted weekly at libraries.mit.edu/help/rss/barton for over 60 subjects from “Graphic Novels and Manga” to “Economics” to “Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.” Subscribe to RSS feeds by subject or browse through subject areas on the web site. Links to catalog records in Barton, the Libraries' online catalog, show if the title is currently available and where you can locate it.

Virtual Browsery

For Humanities titles, also check out the beta version of the Humanities Library's Virtual Browsery at libraries.mit.edu/browsery. A blog format lets you browse the Humanities shelves online for new and topical books. You'll find biographies and prizewinners, as well as an “In the News” category that features books on current events. From the Virtual Browsery you can link to book reviews, see other books by the same author, check a book's availability, and discuss books with others in the MIT community.



Search Collections from iGoogle and Facebook

Search MIT Libraries' collections directly from your Google homepage or Facebook account by personalizing your web page with the Libraries' Google gadget or Facebook application. This feature provides a box for quick searches of the

Barton web catalog and Vera, the collection of online journals and databases. See: libraries.mit.edu/help-test/gadgets/betas.

MIT Course Catalogue Pickr

Students selecting classes for the upcoming semester can try Course Pickr, an interactive tool that provides access to course descriptions, times, locations, and data such as difficulty and units. Using a calendar, students can build schedules that allow them to see potential scheduling conflicts. The tool is based on technology from Project SIMILE, a joint project of CSAIL and the Libraries' Digital Library Research Group. See: people.csail.mit.edu/dfhuynh/projects/course-pickr.

MIT TechTV BETA

Getting started: Tutorials for 3.091



Video Tutorials

If you would like an introduction to library resources or simply need a refresher, check out the Libraries' new video tutorials. These screencasts walk viewers through the process of using and creating citations, evaluating information, and searching databases, as well as other helpful topics. Current tutorials from the Libraries are posted on the Libraries' web site at libraries.mit.edu/tutorials/video, and MIT TechTV at mitlibraries.techtv.mit.edu.

Vera Upgrade

The MIT Libraries are also improving Vera (Virtual Electronic Resource Access) libraries.mit.edu/vera, the collection of online journals and databases. The new version of Vera will offer the ability to search multiple databases simultaneously. For example, users will be able to search the Libraries' Barton catalog, Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Proquest Research Library all at once, with the results merged. Appropriate databases will be grouped together to search several broad subject areas.

If you'd like to participate in usability tests of the new version of Vera, or have comments, please email webmaster@libraries.mit.edu.

More to Come

To keep up with the Libraries' latest beta projects, bookmark libraries.mit.edu/betas or visit the Libraries' news blog at libraries.mit.edu/news. The Libraries welcome feedback from the MIT community about any of the beta projects, email betas-lib@mit.edu.

VAIL BALLOON PRINTS TO BE DIGITIZED

Thanks to the generosity of Thomas F. Peterson, Jr., '57, the MIT Libraries will begin a project to digitize its Vail Balloon Print Collection. The prints are part of the Vail Collection, originally collected by George Dering, and purchased and given to the Institute in 1912 by Theodore Vail, former president of AT&T and member of the MIT Corporation.

Consisting of over 1,200 items, the collection is replete with wonderful images providing visual documentation of man's vision of flying vehicles and human flight. Images range from the fanciful, to depictions of real events, such as the balloon sent up by the Montgolfier brothers in 1783. Broadside, articles, and clippings recount the history of man's efforts to fly over the last three centuries, relating or commenting on individual efforts—some celebratory and other detailing the fatal results of failures.

The digitization of this premiere collection of prints will allow the world to better access these treasures; it is also a critical first step in their long-term preservation. The project will also serve as a model for future digitization projects within the Libraries.



A print from the Vail Balloon Collection

FROM THE ARCHIVES ACQUIRING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



A stained glass window design from a book in the Gaffield Collection.

The Institute Archives & Special Collections oversees over a thousand collections consisting of millions of items including personal papers, administrative records, photographs, research notebooks, publications, and rare book volumes. These materials arrive in the MIT Libraries in various ways. Some, such as the records of MIT offices and departments, are boxed up in offices and delivered directly to the Archives. Others arrive as donations or gifts to the Libraries.

As acquiring collections and managing them takes both time and staff resources, not all gifts offered to the MIT Libraries are accepted. Offers are reviewed to see if they fit the collecting policy and needs. For manuscript

collections some considerations are the strength of the MIT connection, if the material either adds to or fills in gaps in historical documentation, or if it sheds light on historically underrepresented communities or issues. Before a collection is brought in, the process often involves numerous contacts with the donor; a survey of the materials; negotiation; the sorting out of ownership and intellectual property rights; and finally packing and physical transfer. This process often continues over a number of years.

Throughout its history, the MIT Libraries has been given wonderful collections. A few of the noteworthy gifts in the past include: the Vail (electricity/physics) and Gaffield (glassmaking) book collections; the papers of electrical engineer Harold "Doc" Edgerton; mathematician Norbert Wiener; linguist Roman Jakobson; and architects Kevin Lynch and Howe, Manning, and Almy. More recent gifts include the papers of physicists Victor Weisskopf and Philip Morrison; computer science pioneer Jay Forrester; and linguist Kenneth Hale, as well as a set of *Annalen der Physik*, a physics journal that includes the original publication of papers by Einstein and other noted scientists.

To learn more about collections that have been donated to the Institute Archives, see libraries.mit.edu/archives.

Tom Rosko, Head, MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections
617 253 5688 rosko@mit.edu

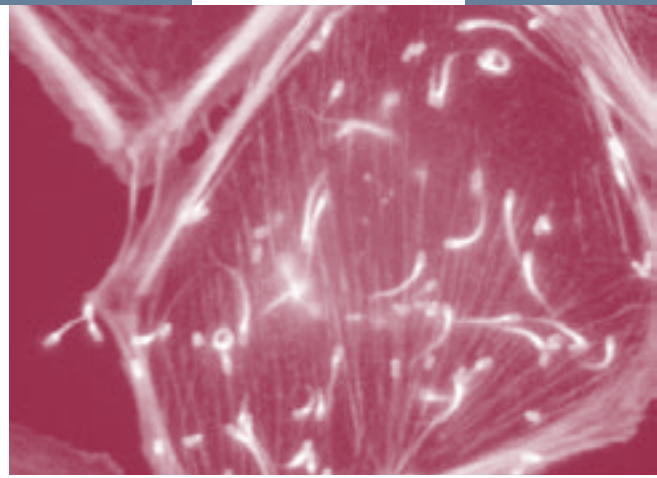
SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES

\$400,000 GIFT WILL SUPPORT LIFE SCIENCES COLLECTIONS

MIT's campus is quickly becoming an epicenter of biomedical research as renowned research centers such as the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, the Broad Institute, the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory have grown around MIT. For MIT's Libraries there is a continuing challenge to meet the needs of this large, dynamic part of the community with the most current life sciences literature, journals and databases.

A \$400,000 gift from the Clive W. Lacy and Mona M. Lacy Trusts was recently awarded to the Libraries to fund library collections in the life sciences. The gift will impact many areas of research at these centers, as well as MIT's Department of Biological Engineering, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), and Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department. New collections in the life sciences will help support vital research in the fields of developmental biology, stem cells, genetics, and genomics.

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research



The bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes* traveling in a cell

Over the years the Clive W. Lacy and Mona M. Lacy Trusts have also provided essential funding for library reference collections. The Lacy family's long and venerable connection to MIT includes several MIT alumni; Clive W. Lacy '15, John W. Lacy '42, Thomas B. Lacy '48 and William R. Lacy '43.

DONATION FUNDS PURCHASE OF EARLY MUSIC MANUSCRIPT FACSIMILES



Early Music Manuscript Facsimile

A memorial donation from Dr. Richard Breed '73, a former music library student assistant, has made it possible for the Lewis Music Library to obtain books, recordings, and facsimile editions of several important medieval and renaissance music manuscripts, including extraordinary full-color facsimiles representing some of the most significant music manuscripts from Europe before the year 1600. These facsimiles are of great value for teaching early music and music notation, as well as beautiful artistic works in their own right.

"The Breed donation allows a major advancement in our ability to teach and research medieval and Renaissance music at MIT. With new facsimiles, students can now study Tudor songs in their original notations or observe how music, art, and poetry all coexisted in a medieval French manuscript. New recordings and new scholarly books likewise bring exciting (and often conflicting) interpretations into classroom discussions. Thanks to the Breed donation, the world of early music will seem a much more living tradition at MIT," said Michael Scott Cuthbert, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music, MIT.

Dr. Breed '73 made the donation in memory of his mother, Mrs. Ruth Caryl Breed Licht. Breed developed his love of early music through courses that he took while a student at MIT. This connection between music and the library resulted in the gift in which he asked that the library purchase scores, books, and recordings of music from these historic periods. Such acquisitions will help the library fill many gaps and provide the MIT community with a wealth of new materials to study and enjoy.

DSpace COMMUNITY GROWS NEW NON-PROFIT CREATED TO SUPPORT USERS WORLDWIDE

In July the MIT Libraries and Hewlett Packard (HP) announced the formation of the DSpace Foundation, a non-profit organization that will provide leadership and support to the growing community of institutions that use DSpace, the open source software solution for accessing, managing and preserving scholarly works in a digital archive.



Photo by Richard Howard

Michele Kimpton

“The creation of the DSpace Foundation and Michele Kimpton’s appointment are important steps in the evolution of DSpace,” said Ann J. Wolpert, director, MIT Libraries. “Together these actions signal that both the platform and the community have successfully reached the point where an independent organization is needed to direct the project.”

The MIT Libraries and HP began developing DSpace after MIT expressed the need for a robust software platform to digitally store its collections and valuable research data, which had previously existed only in hard copies.

Institutions can more easily share and preserve their collections with an archiving system that stores digital representations of analog artifacts, text, photos, audio and films. DSpace is a community-based open source platform capable of permanently storing data in a non-proprietary format, so researchers can access its contents for decades to come.

Because the archive is Internet-based, DSpace can be accessed from anywhere in the world via an Internet connection and federated with other archives.

“DSpace lets large institutions like libraries, research laboratories and universities preserve and share their valuable content online, creating a vast digital repository of information that allows for an unprecedented level of collaboration among the worldwide research community,” said Shane Robison, HP executive vice president and chief strategy and technology officer.

Jointly developed by the MIT Libraries and HP in 2000, today more than 250 projects worldwide are using the software to digitally capture, preserve and share their artifacts, documents, collections and research data.

Michele Kimpton, formerly of the Internet Archive (www.archive.org), will serve as executive director of the DSpace Foundation. At the Internet Archive Kimpton led web-archiving technology and services and initiated and managed several open source software projects to collect, access and preserve web pages from national libraries and archives.

More than 250 projects around the world are using DSpace and additional projects are getting underway, including:

- 2008 Virtual Olympic Museum/Beihang University: Beihang University in Beijing, one of China’s top universities, will use DSpace to archive the 2008 China Summer Olympics, creating a collection of materials about the Beijing games that can be shared over the Internet.
- Texas Digital Library: Currently, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, The University of Houston and The University of Texas are participating in a digital library designed to help scholars publish, share, find and use information, throughout the state of Texas. The library’s contents include open access journals, electronic theses and dissertations, faculty datasets, departmental databases, digital archives, course management and learning materials, digital media and special collections.
- University of Minnesota: The University Digital Conservancy is the institutional repository for the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. It is the digital arm of the University Archives. It also includes a separate subject domain-based repository, AgEcon Search, with 25,000+ working papers and 20+ current and historical journals in applied economics, running in a separate instance of DSpace.

To learn more about the new DSpace Federation and the use of DSpace worldwide, see www.dspace.org.

DSpace AT MIT

DSpace at MIT is MIT’s own installation of the DSpace platform and its institutional repository for capturing and curating the research and teaching output of MIT, in digital form. DSpace at MIT now consists of over 50 research communities and contains over 24,000 items, ranging from singular files, such as a scientific technical report or thesis, to complex objects such as multi-file web sites in the archived web pages of MIT’s OpenCourseWare. DSpace at MIT is accessible to researchers around the globe at <http://dspace.mit.edu>. For more information contact DSpace Product Manager, Sean Thomas, stthomas@mit.edu / 617.324.6198.



Photo by Donna Covey

Kenneth Hale

The loss of local languages and of the cultural systems which they express, has meant irretrievable loss of diverse and interesting intellectual wealth.

Kenneth Hale, "The Human Value of Local Languages"

SAVING ENDANGERED LANGUAGES PRESERVING THE WORK OF KENNETH HALE

MIT linguistics professor Kenneth Locke Hale (1934-2001) was a key figure in the study of endangered languages and cultures and was actively involved in causes promoting their preservation. Most of his fieldwork took place in the southwestern United States, Mexico, Central America, and Australia. Hale's research methods set standards followed by many practitioners in the field of linguistics. In addition to his scholarship and his talents as a polyglot, Hale inspired others in their work and in their commitment to studying, teaching, and maintaining many endangered languages.

In 2002, after Hale's death, the MIT Libraries received his personal library, papers and over 600 audiocassettes and reel-to-reel tapes of linguistic sessions Hale had recorded with peoples from around the world. The collection also included correspondence, project files, course teaching materials, writings, field notes, and transcriptions, as well as a large reference file of articles, papers, vocabularies, dictionaries, word lists and background material related to a multitude of languages.

"Ken's ability to elicit linguistic data from native speaker informants is legendary and the tapes can help new linguistic field researchers learn from his techniques. The tapes are full of natural spoken language from some languages that are threatened with disappearance," said Theresa Tobin, head of MIT's Humanities Library.

Tobin has managed the linguistics collection for the Libraries since 1980 and knows the value of Hale's research first-hand. She had the opportunity to travel with Hale to Managua, Nicaragua while she volunteered as a library consultant at the same research center as Hale (Centro de Investigaciones y Documentación de la Costa Atlántica—CIDCA). While Hale was documenting the Ulwa language, she had the benefit of seeing him prepare for his initial conversations in Ulwa using texts and grammars of related languages. Years later, when Hale's collection came to the Libraries, she had the task of identifying the items in his library that would be added to the collection.

"Processing a person's library is a little like peeking at their scrapbooks or diaries," said Tobin. Hale's collection revealed his travels, his penchant for dictionaries and vocabularies, receipts for snacks at airports and from bookstores large and small, cigar "rings" and foreign currency used as bookmarks. Some of the volumes she discovered were beginning readers or vocabularies produced by people he had trained while acquiring data on their languages.

"The Humanities Library linguistics collection has been enhanced by many publications and volumes not available in any other research library in the U.S." said Tobin.

According to Tobin, preservation of Hale's audiocassettes and reel-to-reel tapes is an urgent concern. Currently they cannot be safely played and therefore are not accessible to researchers. As the tapes disintegrate, the world stands to lose knowledge of these languages.

With funding, the Libraries hope to better preserve Hale's papers and audio recordings and make them more widely available. Digitizing Hale's audio recordings would create a tremendous resource for researchers studying endangered languages and aboriginal cultures, and the history of the development of linguistics practice. Improved access to the recordings would also allow current linguists to study Hale's pedagogical model, which continues to advance the practice of field linguistics.

To learn more about helping with this project, contact: Sharon Stanczak, Director of Development
617.452.2123 stanczak@mit.edu

HONOR ROLL: DONORS TO THE MIT LIBRARIES JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007

I gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of the MIT Libraries in Fiscal Year 2007. Philanthropy is key to the Libraries' ability to provide our community with the most up-to-date and innovative resources and services possible.

Ann J. Wolpert, Director, MIT Libraries

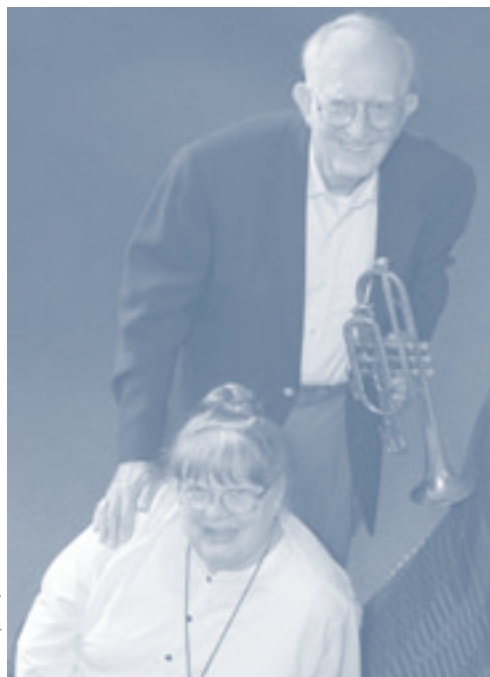


Photo by Ed Quinn

Vilma and Lionel Kinney

This listing acknowledges donors of gifts, pledges and payments of \$100 and greater during FY07 (July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007). Every attempt has been made to report accurately. We apologize for any omissions or errors, and encourage you to contact Jos Wanschers, Development Officer at 617-253-9323, jgwansch@mit.edu, if you notice any inaccuracies.

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PBS FILMS IN BARKER LIBRARY



Barker Library recently hosted a film crew from the PBS show, *Closer to the Truth: Science, Meaning and the Future*. The program interviews leading scientists, scholars and artists to debate the latest discoveries and their impact on the human condition. The PBS crew was in Barker to tape an interview with MIT professor of physics Dr. Alan Guth, author of the book *The Inflationary Universe: The Quest for a New Theory of Cosmic Origins*. Guth was interviewed in the reading room under the Great Dome by series creator, Robert Lawrence Kuhn. To learn more and find out when the program is broadcast, go to: pbs.org/closetotruth.

DEWEY LIBRARY GETS A "SPACE-LIFT"

Dewey Library for Management and Social Sciences has a new look. From a renovated entrance and service desk to new furniture and computer work stations, the updated space includes:

- A comfortable, well-lit journal display lounge for browsing through titles from the *American Economic Review* to *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Newly-refinished cherry carrels and tables.
- A new PC cluster with access to dozens of databases.
- A newly-expanded Impulse Borrowing Display, full of the latest titles selected by Dewey librarians.
- New original artwork.

See Dewey's new home page at: libraries.mit.edu/dewey.



HARVARD-MIT DATA CENTER LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE



The Harvard-MIT Data Center (HMDC) repository has a new web site. Now it provides an MIT portal to the repository (MIT Dataverse), highlighting data sets available to, and produced by, the MIT community. Other new features include an increased number of search fields.

See: libraries.mit.edu/get/hmdc. Feedback on the new system is welcome; please send comments to Katherine McNeill-Harman, Data Services and Economics Librarian, mcneillh@mit.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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