

Bib·li·o·Tēch

NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

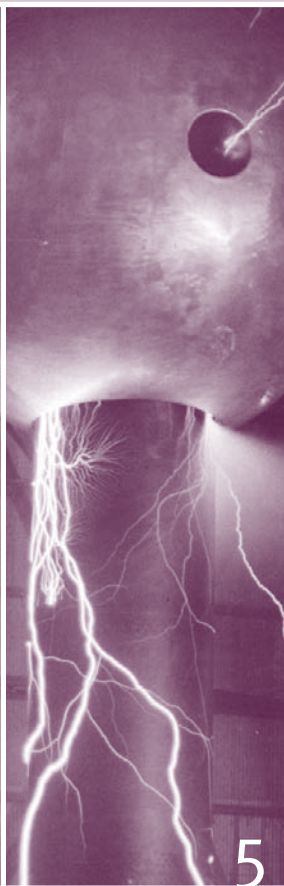
FALL 2009



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Richard Howard



To be a gardener in New England takes optimism and resilience. The rain comes too much or too little. The cold of spring retreats precipitously or not at all. If the raccoons don't eat your tomatoes, the late blight might. A commitment to variety, a willingness to experiment, good fences, and careful attention to current conditions are essential to success if one gardens at this latitude and longitude.

Equally critical to success in New England gardening is the ability to take the long view of victory. If the pumpkins languish in one year, we relocate them and try a new variety the next. If the zucchini produce a bumper crop, we make a lot of new friends. Getting good results under challenging circumstances is the standard to which master gardeners hold themselves, and the only reasonable way to judge successful gardening in a climate as volatile as New England's.

Growing and maintaining a successful research library at an institution like MIT is not unlike gardening in New England. In the successful research library—as in the successful garden—heirloom varieties thrive alongside new, productive hybrids. Stocks are relocated as needed to reflect changing conditions and designs. We rely on friends who share our commitment to the Libraries and the Institute for the seeds and supplies we need to achieve excellence. Grounded in science and informed by data and experience, the Libraries' best practices evolve over time as new technologies make possible long-desired improvements. The MIT Libraries may operate from year to year, but like the committed New England gardener they also take the long view in assessing success.

As with gardening, no two years are the same for the MIT Libraries. Some years we are fully staffed with an abundance of extraordinary talent. When the metaphorical sun shines we have the financial strength, robust technology, and research funding needed to propel us to the next level of support to faculty and students. In recent years we were pleased to be able to strengthen our availability and reach, achieve new levels of service innovation, add essential information resources, and improve our physical and virtual presence for the benefit of the MIT community.

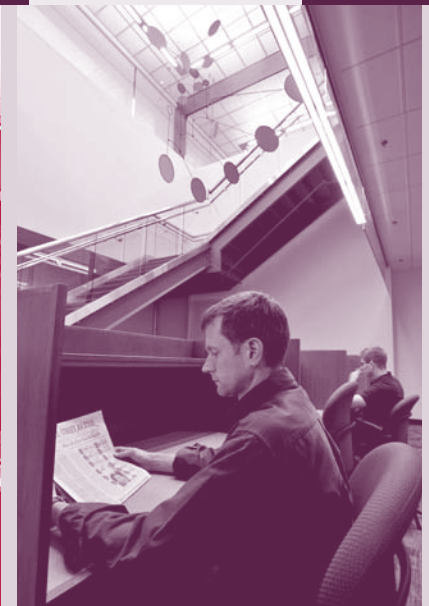
These days, as we all know, the climate is more challenging and conditions less than optimal. The Institute must reduce overall General Budget spending, and the Libraries will absorb their fair share of this reduction. We have closed two branch libraries and we have created teams to deliver service where we once had dedicated staff. We have reduced programs, trimmed hours, and reviewed our subscription lists for titles that might be cancelled without dire consequence. Like the resourceful New England gardener, we have drawn on our experience, resilience, and flexibility and kept on going—and for good reason.

The MIT Libraries cultivate the information resources needed to feed the insatiable intelligence of MIT students and faculty. Today's students and faculty benefit from more than a century of informed choices and systematic investment in the facilities, information resources, and services that sustain MIT's research and educational goals. The MIT Libraries are proud to have supported the intellectual life of MIT since its earliest days. Through good times and bad, like a hardy New England gardener, we are deeply committed to giving MIT the very best libraries that current conditions will allow.

Even as we decide how best to achieve success with reduced general Institute funding, we celebrate the talent in our midst and the recent improvements to our virtual and physical services. Although we may have had to prune some branch libraries, the newly renovated Dewey Library is a triumph, and the transformed reading room in the Barker Engineering Library is a hit with students. Even as we look for economies of scale in operations, the Maihaugen Gallery exhibit team is busy preparing for the opening of a new exhibition on energy, and—thanks to the generosity of an MIT alumnus—staff in Special Collections are launching a splendid project to catalog the Vail Collection.

An old Czech proverb advises: "Do not protect yourself by a fence, but rather by your friends." In this issue of *BiblioTech* we recognize and thank the many friends of the MIT Libraries whose support and generosity make it possible for these Libraries to keep moving forward even when funding is tight. We couldn't do it without them.

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Photos of Barker & Dewey Libraries

LIBRARIES UPGRADE: NEW SPACES & TECHNOLOGIES

IMPROVED STUDY SPACES IN DEWEY & BARKER

The renovation of Dewey Library (E53-100) is now complete. The new, improved Dewey offers a secure 24-7 study space, an area designated for quiet study, and numerous power-enabled study carrels. There are 12 brand-new group study rooms, each with LCD screens and white boards, which can be reserved online. The brighter, more open space also features many eco-friendly touches, such as cork floor tiles and energy-efficient lighting.

Dewey's new spaces are already under constant use, and students are enthusiastic about the changes. "It's a really nice renovation. The layout is excellent. Movable bookcases maximize the space. Study rooms are very useful for group discussion," said MIT Sloan student, Andy Sun. Other comments include, "I think it looks wonderful. I felt inspired to officially start and complete my thesis here! It lifted my spirits and motivated me to do my work."

Barker Library's Reading Room also received a face lift this summer. The old "journal racks" were removed to open up the space and give way to a more flexible design. New area rugs, fresh paint, refinished furniture and improved lighting make the iconic space more inviting for quiet study. Barker Library also offers video conferencing capabilities in their Media Room.

MIT TECHTV JOINS THE LIBRARIES

MIT TechTV

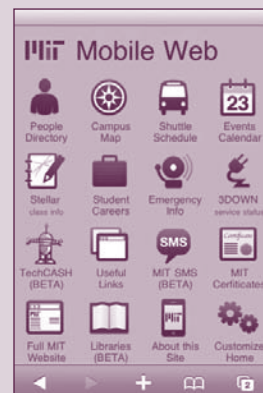
MIT TechTV was launched three years ago as a free resource for the MIT community for video publishing, hosting and sharing. Since its inception,

there have been over 2,800 videos uploaded, well over 7 million video views and 1,100-plus accounts created. In July 2009 MIT TechTV officially became a part of the MIT Libraries. MIT TechTV continues to grow and to develop user and viewer enhancements. The latest release includes new features such as sub-collections, video re-ordering, enhanced embedding, video thumbnail customization, the ability to attach additional formats including non-video files, and other performance enhancements. Classes, lectures and other educational videos are uploaded everyday.

To view videos and get more information, go to: techtv.mit.edu.

NEW HOMEPAGE AND MOBILE FEATURE

The Libraries worked extensively over the summer to redesign its top-level page libraries.mit.edu. Responding to user's requests, the search function was made clearer and easier to use. A prominent search box at the top of the page is the entry point to the Barton Catalog, MIT's Worldcat, Vera, Course Reserves and DSpace@MIT. There are also quick links at the top to access Your Account, find a list of libraries, and provide feedback or ask a question. News and events are updated frequently with photos and links, and a new Ask the Expert feature introduces a Libraries' staff member and their area of expertise.



Now many of the services featured on the MIT Libraries' web site are available from a mobile phone through MIT's Mobile Web. To get to the Libraries' mobile site, visit m.mit.edu from your mobile device's web browser, and click on the Libraries' icon. From the Libraries' mobile site, you can: view hours for each library, ask questions, read news from the MIT Libraries, and access the entire MIT Libraries' web site.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

MOVING THE (DIGITAL) PAST INTO THE (DIGITAL) FUTURE

L. Barry Hetherington



Archival material

The Institute Archives consists of over 20,000 boxes of archival material, totaling 20,000,000 pages of documents. For nearly 50 years, following well-established professional practices and procedures, MIT's archivists have managed to collect, preserve, and make this paper-based material accessible to researchers. Paper, even poor quality paper, can last hundreds of years if stored in the proper environment. Gather the boxes, create a description and place them in a stable environment (with a good HVAC system and security), and we are fairly confident that the materials will be around for decades if not centuries. Permitting the materials to be used only in a supervised area, handled gently, and not circulated outside the doors of the archives, adds to the protection of the materials, most of which are originals without copies, and ensures that the documents are not tampered with and remain authentic.

For access, creating a guide to the materials allows researchers to know where to look to potentially find the documents they seek and the information they need. Review of the materials by staff can ensure that restricted materials are set aside and not accessed. And copyrights can be administered through documented legal permissions.

However, in the digital world of today, and the recent past (at least the past decade), things have changed. The Institute's administrative records now exist as websites or active databases. Publications exist on or as websites themselves. Faculty who used to hand over a few disks or CDs with their boxes of paper records, now wish to preserve hard drives with gigabytes of information documenting their research and teaching careers.

Digital archives are not just for providing digital access to materials, but digital preservation of materials. Preservation today entails preserving bits and bytes. Access involves searching for metadata, that may or may not exist, and displaying information online. For authentication the checksum now replaces the original signature. For restricted access a file sits in a password restricted folder on a server, instead of physically segregated in a vault.

While the types of activities (collecting, preserving, making accessible) remain the same for managing this new archival material, the actual procedures and practices are much more challenging. The Institute Archives has entered a new age, and is realigning resources to meet the challenge. The Archives has implemented a new content management system (the Archivists' Toolkit), and begun capturing born-digital content. This fall, starting with the Annual Reports to the President, permanent records will be going into the Libraries' digital repository. The future of archives is here.

Tom Rosko

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GALILEO BOOK TRAVELS TO SPACE AND BACK



When the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* returned to Earth in May of this year, it brought with it a volume owned by the MIT Libraries – the Libraries' first book to orbit the Earth.

Astronaut and alumnus Mike Massimino (M.S. 1988, Mechanical Engineer 1990, Ph.D. 1992), through contact with MIT Professor Dava J. Newman, offered to "fly" a book from the Libraries' collection. Because this NASA mission to repair the Hubble was scheduled to

coincide with the 400th anniversary of the invention of the telescope, the Libraries sent a numbered, limited-edition facsimile of Galileo's landmark 1610 publication *Siderius Nuncius* (*The Starry Messenger*) into space.

The Libraries will co-host a reception welcoming Dr. Massimino and *Siderius Nuncius* back to campus this fall.

TOMES AND DOMES:

ROTCH EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE COLLECTIONS

October 15 through November 25, the Rotch Library of Architecture and Planning will feature an exhibit highlighting items from its extensive collection of materials related to architecture and planning in the Islamic world. The exhibit funded in part by the Council for the Arts at MIT, and the Office of the MIT Chaplain, will showcase items used in The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA). It will include photographs taken by MIT students supported by the AKPIA Travel Grant.



Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Complex, Istanbul

lifer Onbay

“Rotch’s collection of Islamic materials is very unique and we’re excited to show off selections from it. The photos in the exhibit reflect some of the sites being taught in AKPIA courses this fall and give a taste of the great depth as well as the beauty of the collection.”

Andrea Schuler - Library Liaison for the Aga Khan Visual Archive

The Aga Khan collection started in 1979 has grown to include over 10,000 volumes of rare books, dissertations, periodicals, photographs, films, CDs, DVDs, and other library materials. The Aga Khan Visual Archive (AKVA) is a broad collection of the images that document the architecture, urbanism, and cultural heritage of the Islamic world from Malaysia and India in the East to Morocco and Spain in the West. Many of the images pertain to places that have been destroyed or are currently inaccessible. The AKVA currently has over 100,000 images, of which a selection is accessible through the MIT Libraries’ digital image repository dome.mit.edu.

The exhibit, located in Rotch Library (7-238), is open to the public during library hours, see info-libraries.mit.edu/rotch for more information.

POWER SUPPLY: AN EXHIBIT ON ENERGY RESOURCES IN THE MIT LIBRARIES

In March 2009, MIT President Susan Hockfield joined President Barack Obama at the White House, where she urged Congress to provide increased levels of funding for clean energy research. President Hockfield, calling for an “energy technology revolution,” spoke of exciting MIT innovations in solar cell, battery, nuclear, biological, and other energy technologies.

MIT’s longtime interest in energy is the focus of an exhibition in the Libraries’ Maihaugen Gallery. The exhibit showcases “energy resources” in the MIT Libraries that have supported and resulted from research and education throughout the Institute’s history.

The exhibit reveals that MIT’s roots in energy can be traced all the way back to William Barton Rogers. When the visionary educator and geologist founded MIT in 1861, “King Coal” ruled the energy landscape. The steam engine, and the coal that fueled it, had revolutionized transportation and industry. The demand for coal increased, and the search for additional energy sources intensified.

Through their research, faculty and students at MIT improved processes for discovery and extraction of fuels, maximized the energy that could be derived from various fuel sources, and increased the efficiency of engines and machines. During the 20th century, MIT made crucial contributions to research on petroleum and the internal combustion engine, solar, wind, and water power, nuclear energy, and numerous other energy sources and technologies.

MIT High-Voltage Generator, 1933

In addition to purely scientific matters, the exhibit also touches on some of the social and moral aspects of energy as it’s harvested, as it’s used, and after it’s spent. Included are paradigm-changing books and articles from historical collections, examples of rich working collections, theses by MIT students exemplifying the combination of theory and practice, and video highlighting MIT’s current efforts in energy research. The exhibit will run through mid-January. See libraries.mit.edu/maihaugen for hours and information.



Institute Archives and Special Collections



L. Barry, Hetherington



Left: A selection of early Vail titles on electricity. Each volume carries the distinctive "Vail Library" crest, and an outdated shelf number stamped in gold. Right: Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. '57 with Director of Libraries, Ann Wolpert at a Maihaugen Gallery reception

SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES: A HIDDEN COLLECTION REVEALED THROUGH A GENEROUS GIFT

Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. '57, a longtime supporter of the MIT Libraries, has made a \$1 million gift to the Libraries for the purpose of cataloging one of its most distinctive, yet hidden collections—the Vail Collection.

The Vail Collection constitutes one of the world's most expansive collections on electricity, electrical engineering, magnetism, lighter-than-air travel, and animal magnetism. Originally assembled by George Dering, the collection was purchased by Theodore N. Vail, who donated it to MIT in 1912 in the name of AT&T.

This extraordinary collection has long been a hidden gem. Since the 1960s the collection has gone almost entirely uncataloged—its original call numbers lost in the transition from one cataloging system to another. As MIT's collections were migrated over to the Library of Congress system, priority was given to cataloging MIT's working collections. Because rare materials needed special attention, they were cataloged as time and resources permitted. Until now, resources had not been available to fully catalog a rare collection the size and scope of the Vail.

Peterson's gift will make it possible for the Libraries to catalog the Vail Collection, in its entirety, over the next three years. The gift will also provide the funding necessary to assess the condition of the collection and perform essential conservation work.

"Tom has made a gift not only to the MIT Libraries, but to the world of scholarship and the history of science," said Stephen Skuce, MIT Libraries' Rare Books Program Coordinator.

According to Skuce, cataloging these rare and unique monographs, serials, and pamphlets will provide intellectual access to these materials and allow them to be integrated into teaching and research at the Institute. There are strong subject links between the Vail Collection and the Libraries' general collections in electricity and related subjects.

Peterson, himself a noted book collector, recognizes the importance of the stewardship of special collections. A few years ago he endowed the first named position in the history of the MIT Libraries: the Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. (1957) Conservator position. He then generously supported the Vail Balloon Digitization Project, making it possible for the Libraries to conserve and digitize a unique set of images to share with the world. Peterson has also generously supported cancer research, nanotechnology, and the brain sciences at MIT. He serves on the McGovern Leadership Board, the Koch Institute Leadership Council and has recently been appointed to the Libraries' Visiting Committee.

"Without Tom's generosity and foresight, this project could never be accomplished in such a comprehensive and timely manner. Tom's deep commitment to enabling the responsible stewardship of the MIT Libraries' rare and unusual collections is an inspiration to us all," said Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries.

Cataloging and conservation staff will begin work soon, with the goal of completing the project by 2012—appropriately the 100th anniversary of the gift of the Vail Collection to MIT.

ARCHIVING AND SHARING DIGITAL ARCHITECTURAL IMAGES

Librarians from MIT's Rotch Library have been contributing to the SAHARA (Society of Architectural Historians Architecture Resources Archive) project, a grant-funded project that began in 2008 as a collaborative effort to archive and share digital architectural images. Working with the SAH (Society of Architectural Historians), ARTstor, and other academic institutions, MIT has contributed nearly 5,000 faculty images to the archive thus far.

SAHARA allows SAH members either to upload their own digital photographs and QTVR (Quick Time Virtual Reality) panoramas to the shared online archive, or to download images from the archive for teaching and research. The SAHARA collection is being built for all those who study, interpret, photograph, design and preserve the built environment worldwide.

MIT scholars who have contributed images include the Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning Adele Santos, Associate Dean and Professor Mark Jarzombek, Associate Professor David Friedman, and Professor Emeritus Tunney Lee. MIT also shared images from the Kidder Smith Collection of American Architecture.

SAHARA officially launched on April 1, 2009 with 10,000 images that were contributed by scholars at MIT, Brown, University of Virginia, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and by independent photographers and historians.



Left: Tomb of Muhammad Quli Khan, Delhi, India Right: Khue Van Cac Pavilion, Van Mieu (Temple of Literature), Ha Noi, Vietnam



Taj Mahal, Agra, India

Next steps in the project include building peer review editing tools within the ARTstor environment that will enable scholar editors to review images submitted by individual scholars to the SAHARA Members' Collection. Images that go through the peer review process and meet the editorial criteria will then move to the SAHARA Editor's Choice Collection. The latter will be available both through the SAHARA website www.saharaonline.org and through ARTstor libraries.mit.edu/get/artstor.

Rotch Library staff who are involved in SAHARA include Ann Whiteside who is the SAHARA project director; Jolene de Verges, Images Librarian, who has been actively involved in working with MIT faculty contributors; and Allison Benedetti, Project Librarian, SAHARA Project and Rotch Library.

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MIT FACULTY VOTE FOR OPEN ACCESS

In March 2009 MIT faculty voted to make their scholarly articles openly available on the web. This was the first university-wide, faculty-driven initiative of its kind in the United States. The unanimous vote to create the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy came after a faculty committee, led by Professor Hal Abelson and Director of Libraries Ann Wolpert, held broad discussions among faculty about how their scholarship should be disseminated in the digital age. Faculty discussions reflected a widespread commitment to make research as openly available as possible, and a desire to improve the current publishing system, which is built on highly restrictive contracts between individual authors and publishers. The new faculty policy provides a mechanism for faculty to speak with one voice and establishes open availability as the new default for MIT research.

The Faculty Committee on the Library System is overseeing implementation of the policy and working closely with Libraries staff to develop a system for gathering and making articles available through DSpace@MIT.

For more information on the policy, see libraries.mit.edu/oapolicy

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Scholarly Publishing and Licensing Consultant
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Steven Horsch and Toni Green

NEW FACES AT THE MIT LIBRARIES

Steven Horsch and Toni Green have both recently joined MIT, where they will collaborate to steward Libraries' supporters and to raise funds in support of the Libraries' collections, outreach and programs.

Horsch, is Head of Donor Relations and Stewardship and part of the Director's Office staff at the Libraries. He came from the Harvard (University) Art Museum where he was director of membership and annual giving. Horsch is returning to MIT, having worked with the MIT Libraries earlier in his career.

"I have always been impressed by the unwavering dedication of the Libraries' staff to support the students and faculty of MIT, as well as their leadership within the library field in developing new technologies and strategies for information management. I am delighted to be a part of this team and to have the opportunity to help to make their work possible," Horsch said.

Toni Green will serve as a Leadership Giving Officer in MIT's Office of Resource Development, where raising funds for the Libraries will be one of her primary responsibilities. She was most recently Chief Diversity Officer at Johnson & Wales University. In addition to working closely with Libraries donors, as a member of the Office of Resource Development, she will have the opportunity to share information with her colleagues about the unique and vital resources and services offered to the MIT community by the Libraries.

Please feel free to contact Steven Horsch to learn more about supporting the MIT Libraries.

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WITH APPRECIATION: DONORS TO THE MIT LIBRARIES JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009

I am delighted to thank all of our donors on behalf of the Libraries' staff and, especially, the faculty and the students for whom the Libraries are an invaluable aspect of their lives at MIT. We could not sustain the quality and diversity of collections and services deserved by the MIT community without the generous and continuing support of all of our donors. We are deeply grateful!

Ann J. Wolpert
Director, MIT Libraries



Maihaugen Gallery entrance

Photos in this section are from the opening of the *Fascination of Flight* exhibit in the Maihaugen Gallery in April 2009.

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GREENER MEETINGS WITH VIDEO CONFERENCING & WEBCASTING

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MUSIC STUDY TABLES AND SOFTWARE

This summer several listening carrels on the mezzanine level of the Lewis Music Library (14E-109) were removed to make room for four large study tables. This was made possible by gifts from members of the Class of 1982.

Two iMac computers are available with Finale notation software, and more music software will follow. There are also computers with Peak LE6 audio software on the mezzanine and Sibelius music software on the main floor. Use is for the MIT community only; show your ID at the service desk to get the password.



THIS IMAGE IS VERY LOW RES

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15th-November 25th
Tomes & Domes: Islamic Architecture Collections at Rotch Library
Rotch Library of Architecture and Planning (7-238)



October—mid-January
Power Supply: Energy Resources in the MIT Libraries
MIT Libraries' Maihaugen Gallery (14N-130)