

# Bib·li·o·Tēch

NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES

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MITLibraries

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Richard Howard



Much has been written and produced of late about the benefits of challenging the human brain throughout the course of a life. Brains, it appears, are far more elastic and resilient than once imagined, and exposing the adult brain to demanding and/or novel memory and cognitive tasks, especially when coupled with physical exercise, can demonstrably aid an individual's cognitive abilities when continued over time.

Watching the staff of the MIT Libraries work together and with others to develop the details of a new organizational structure for this resourceful enterprise has convinced me that it is surely just as important for organizations to challenge their familiar world views and take on new tasks, as it is for individuals to challenge and exercise their brains. If challenging the human brain can improve quality of attention and memory, and assist the maintenance of intelligence, judging from the work going on in the MIT Libraries the same must certainly be true for organizational intelligence.

For over a decade, the MIT Libraries have been focusing their efforts and prioritizing their investments with the aid of five-year strategic visioning processes and annual strategic planning exercises. The discipline of revisiting assumptions, combined with the exercise of re-forecasting the future, has been a fruitful and energizing activity. The process has enabled the Libraries to engage with faculty and administrators in periodic discussions about the changing nature of libraries and intellectual production. And it has likewise obliged the staff and leadership of the Libraries to challenge their assumptions about the mission, role, and work of MIT's libraries as they transition from the 20th to the 21st century.

This exercise of strategic review and direction setting, when coupled with the energetic and entrepreneurial staff of these libraries, has enabled the MIT Libraries to experiment, innovate, and modify the professional practice of librarianship at MIT at an admirable pace. It was thus all the more disconcerting for the leadership of the Libraries to realize, in June of 2008, that even this rapid and disciplined rate of incremental improvement would not provide the momentum and focus needed to position the MIT Libraries for the decades ahead.

Assisted by an outside consultant, and enriched by advice and feedback from the Faculty Committee on the Library System and other key groups inside and outside the Libraries, a "desired future state" <http://libstaff.mit.edu/futurestate/DesiredFutureState2.0.pdf> was drafted during the remainder of calendar year 2008. From that document, in turn, emerged a set of organizational issues which evolved over the summer and early fall of 2009 into a roadmap and action plan for a new, more flexible organizational structure for the MIT Libraries.

The structure that emerged would combine the strengths of the Libraries' discipline and service oriented culture with the technical capacity needed to operate a robust network-enabled online library. It recognized that the 21st century academic research library would operate on two equally-robust and important "platforms," one representing the rich physical collections and dedicated spaces essential to scholarship and learning at MIT, and the other representing the virtual library of networked information and services that allow MIT faculty and students to "be in the library" no matter where they may be physically.

The economic challenges now facing the MIT Libraries have artificially accelerated the pace of implementation of the new organizational structure. The task of aligning the services provided by the Libraries with the funds available to support those services is nontrivial, and great credit is due to the staff of the Libraries as they have pushed forward with the reorganization timeline despite the distractions of budget reductions. We are especially grateful for the support we have received from the Faculty Committee on the Library System. Their proactive engagement has played a key role in effectively coordinating the communication and reassurance that academic change of this nature requires.

The comedian George Burns is said to have remarked that he always looked to the future, because that was where he was going to spend the rest of his life. As the MIT Libraries look to the future, we would add to that sentiment that we expect the future to be interesting, intellectually challenging, and cognitively stimulating.

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# TECHNOLOGY AND ENLIGHTENMENT IN THE MAIHAUGEN GALLERY

A new exhibition in the Maihaugen Gallery showcases one of the treasures of the Libraries' Special Collections—a first folio edition of one of the most important and controversial books published in the eighteenth century, the *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*.

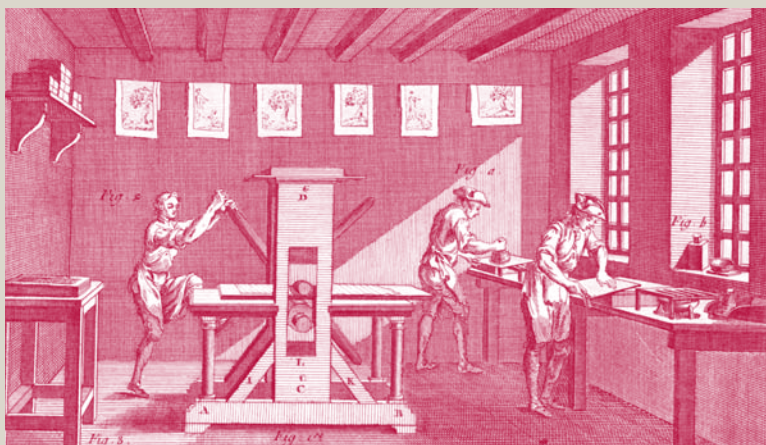
Edited by the French Enlightenment figures Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert, this massive work endeavored to gather all human knowledge in a single reference work. During its time, it became popular with Parisian elites and infamous as an enlightened attack on French and European religious dogmatism and monarchical inefficiency and injustice.

The exhibit titled *Technology and Enlightenment: The Mechanical Arts in Diderot's Encyclopédie* focuses on the portrayal of the mechanical arts (or trades) in the *Encyclopédie* and explores how the book's editors placed the “trades,” or “industry,” on the same philosophical footing as the “sciences” and the “arts,” the noblest areas of human intellectual activity. The valorization of manual labor and the mechanical arts in the western intellectual tradition, reflected an early formulation of the credo *mens et manus*, mind and hand, which a century later would characterize the scholarly enterprise at MIT.

Exhibit curators Jeffrey S. Ravel, MIT Associate Professor of History, and Kristel Smentek, MIT Assistant Professor of Art History, use the *Encyclopédie* in their teaching.

“One of the greatest challenges in using this work to bring this period alive for the students, is to help the students understand the importance of this book to the Enlightenment,” Ravel said.

Professor Ravel devotes several sessions of his class *The Age of Reason* (21H.433) to exploring the *Encyclopédie*. He expects the exhibit will help illustrate the significance of producing such a massive work in the 18th century, including the process of bookmaking, printing and typesetting.



A plate from the *Encyclopédie*



L. Barry Hetherington

Exterior of the gallery

The exhibit features images selected from over 2,500 elaborately engraved plates in the 32 original folio volumes owned by the MIT Libraries, along with video interviews with Ravel and Smentek.

The Libraries will host a series of public events related to the exhibit:

#### *Paper and Bookbinding:*

#### *The Making of Diderot's Encyclopédie*

**Friday, March 19, 1-2pm**

Institute Archives Reading Room

Nancy Schrock, Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. Conservator, discusses Diderot's *Encyclopédie* as an example of 18th century French papermaking and bookbinding.

(After March 19, a video of this talk can be viewed at [libraries.mit.edu/events-videos](http://libraries.mit.edu/events-videos))

#### *Music in the Enlightenment*

**Wednesday, April 14, 2-3pm**

Lewis Music Library

Teresa Neff, Jean Rife, and others will discuss and perform music related to the exhibition.

#### *Gallery Talk: Picturing Work in Diderot's Encyclopédie*

**Wednesday, May 12, Noon-1pm**

Maihaugen Gallery

Co-curator Kristel Smentek, MIT Assistant Professor of Art History, leads a tour and discussion of the exhibition.

See [libraries.mit.edu/maihaugen](http://libraries.mit.edu/maihaugen) for more information.

## ROTC LIBRARY RECEIVES ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTION DOCUMENTING STATE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE PROJECTS

Rotch Library recently received the collection of Jonathan S. Lane AIA AICP (BArch '65) an architect, urban designer, and planner known for his pioneering work on U.S. National Heritage Areas. Lane's personal library donated to MIT includes a cross-section of his experience with a focus on heritage projects and resources.

In the late 1970s, Lane led a team that developed the seminal Lowell National Historical Park plan, setting a model for partnership National Parks in urban areas. This work led to the direction of over a dozen plans for State and National Heritage Areas across the U.S. including projects ranging from the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Massachusetts, to the Ohio and Erie Canal, and Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

"Jon's collection encompasses the birth and evolution of the Heritage Area movement in the United States. It shows how the movement shifted from preserving individual buildings to the conservation of entire cities and regions, mobilizing cultural heritage as an environmental and economic asset," explained Dennis Frenchman, MIT's Leventhal Professor of Urban Design and Planning.

Frenchman worked with Lane as co-founder and partner in Lane, Frenchman and Associates, and was involved in the Lowell project and others. Their work in Lowell became the centerpiece of a pioneering urban regeneration strategy that has been replicated internationally and received numerous awards from the American Institute of Architects, American Planning Association, Progressive Architecture, and civic groups.

Lane's distinguished career includes an early stint as a Peace Corps Volunteer architect in Tunisia. After founding Lane, Frenchman and Associates, Lane and Frenchman eventually merged the firm to create ICON architecture, inc. with Lane serving as its president for over ten years.

Lane was also at the forefront of several other major movements in the profession. In Boston he led the urban design group of the Boston Transportation Planning Review, which resulted in the conversion of nearly \$1 billion in highway funds to public transportation projects in the region.

**"Jon's collection encompasses the birth and evolution of the Heritage Area movement in the United States. It shows how the movement shifted from preserving individual buildings to the conservation of entire cities and regions, mobilizing cultural heritage as an environmental and economic asset"**

Dennis Frenchman - Leventhal Professor of Urban Design and Planning

And in the 1980s, Lane directed the comprehensive renewal of major public housing projects including West Broadway in South Boston, a pioneering effort that received wide acclaim. His research and consultation on national public housing needs contributed to the creation of the Hope VI program and the design by ICON of over 12,000 mixed-income multi-family housing units of all types and sizes.

His most recent focus has been on large urban design projects in Jordan and Morocco, where he continues to work on plans for redevelopment of the port of Aqaba and preservation and development of areas surrounding the east shore of the Dead Sea.

According to Lane, there were several reasons he decided to give his collection to MIT. "The strength of MIT's planning and design programs mean that the collection might be particularly useful to future researchers and scholars," he said. He also cited his professional connection to Dennis Frenchman and their shared interest in heritage projects as a deciding factor.

Rotch Library is currently cataloging the Jonathan S. Lane Collection and expects to have it accessible to the public by the end of 2010.



Gettysburg National Military Park



Rosalind Williams speaking at a reception for *Power Supply: Energy Resources in the MIT Libraries* in October 2009; Gary and Andrea Gregory talk with Kristel Smentek, co-curator of *Technology & Enlightenment*

## SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES: LIBRARIES LAUNCH EVENT SERIES FOR DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE DONORS

In October 2009 and February 2010, the MIT Libraries sponsored celebrations at the Maihaugen Gallery for members of the Director's Circle, donors who support the Libraries with gifts of \$1,000 or more per year.

Hosted by Ann Wolpert, who opened each evening with a heartfelt thanks to the Libraries' supporters, the gatherings included scholarly talks and festive receptions with the curators. In October, Rosalind Williams, Bern Dibner Professor of the History of Science and Technology, shared her reflections on *Power Supply*, an exhibition exploring the history of energy research at MIT. She recalled doing research on energy sustainability with her grandfather, the legendary MIT professor Warren K. "Doc" Lewis, as a college student in the 1960s. During her talk, she enthusiastically shared that the resulting paper, presented by her grandfather at an Alumni colloquium, is in the collection of the Institute Archives, where her talk was taking place.

The current Maihaugen exhibition, *Technology and Enlightenment*, was introduced with a lecture by Jeffrey Ravel, MIT Associate Professor of History who co-curated the exhibition with Kristel Smentek, MIT Assistant Professor of Art History. Ravel's talk explored the history of Diderot and d'Alembert's *Encyclopédie* and the social, political, religious and economic climate that influenced its publication. Ravel also discussed how he integrates the *Encyclopédie* and other objects from the Libraries' Special Collections into his teaching.

Videos of both lectures, along with a special performance by the MIT Chorallaries a cappella group, can be seen at [libraries.mit.edu/events-videos](http://libraries.mit.edu/events-videos). The next Director's Circle event at the Maihaugen Gallery will be in the fall to coincide with the opening of an exhibit on the history of women at MIT.

To make a gift to the Libraries today, please use the enclosed reply envelope or visit [libraries.mit.edu/giving/contact/give.html](http://libraries.mit.edu/giving/contact/give.html). For more information on making a gift to the MIT Libraries, please contact:

Steven D. Horsch  
Head of Donor Relations and Stewardship  
617 452 2123  
[horsch@mit.edu](mailto:horsch@mit.edu)

### FUND FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

For years, the MIT Libraries have played a leading role in the development of technologies to manage, access and preserve information, resulting in products such as DSpace that are used at MIT and around the world. At the beginning of this academic year, the MIT Libraries launched a new fund as part of our annual appeal program, complementing the *Director's Fund for Library Excellence*. The *MIT Libraries Technology Innovation Fund* (2742963) will be used to support technology research projects and, critically, to support the transfer of the resulting technologies into active use at MIT to serve students, faculty and researchers.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### CAMPUS COLLABORATIONS

The Institute Archives & Special Collections is fortunate to work with many departments across the Institute on a wide range of interesting projects. Some of the most recent partnerships have produced exciting results.



L. Barry Hetherington

Harold "Doc" Edgerton's notebooks

### THE EDGERTON DIGITAL COLLECTIONS PROJECT

In collaboration with the Edgerton Center, the MIT Museum, and the Office of Educational Information Technology, staff from the Libraries and Institute Archives & Special Collections recently helped produce an extensive online resource documenting of the life and work of MIT's visionary engineer Harold "Doc" Edgerton.

The Edgerton Digital Collections Project is now available at [edgerton-digital-collections.org](http://edgerton-digital-collections.org). The site features the ability to view and browse over 22,000 still images, hundreds of high-speed photographic images of Edgerton materials, and 150 films and videos that have been restored and digitized. A cornerstone of the project involved digitizing Doc Edgerton's hand-written laboratory notebooks from the Archives collection. Now approximately 8,000 pages of these notebooks are accessible through the site. This wonderful resource was made possible with funding from the Edgerton Family Trust, and close cooperation between departments.

### MIT150

As MIT's sesquicentennial approaches, staff from the Archives and Libraries have been involved with several projects to celebrate and commemorate the occasion. MIT150 Archivist Silvia Mejia has been working with the MIT150 staff in the Office of the President to create a multimedia timeline of MIT's history. Work is also underway with the MIT Museum to coordinate exhibits for the 150th that will

include important historical materials on display in the Libraries' Maihaugen Gallery next year. In addition staff of the Archives have been assisting departments across campus as they create their own special celebratory projects.

### INTO SPACE AND BEYOND

While many Archives' collaborations happen here on campus, their impact reaches far beyond. As was the case with an event co-sponsored with MIT's Technology and Policy Program, and the AeroAstro Department. Working with Professor Dava Newman, the Archives sent a limited edition facsimile of Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius* (*Starry Messenger*), into space with MIT alumnus Astronaut Mike Massimino. In the fall Massimino returned to campus to talk about his mission to the Hubble Space Telescope and to present the loaned book back to the Libraries. Video from the standing-room-only event can be viewed online at [mitworld.mit.edu/video/722](http://mitworld.mit.edu/video/722). The event already has been watched over 19,000 times in cyberspace.

Outside of MIT, the Institute Archives and Special Collections also works with colleagues at other institutions. A recent collaboration with the Harvard University Archives allowed staff to analyze the

open-source collection management system, the Archivists' Toolkit, and examine potential development areas together. Other areas of common interest include addressing the management and preservation of digital materials.

As the MIT Libraries move forward, the Archives will continue to build on recent collaborative activities, and explore new opportunities for



Photo courtesy of NASA

Astronaut Mike Massimino

partnerships that bring enhancements to our own processes and allow us to more widely share MIT's special collections and archival materials with the MIT community and beyond.

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## OVER 19,000 ELECTRONIC BOOKS ADDED TO COLLECTIONS

The MIT Libraries have purchased over 19,000 Springer eBooks published from 2005 through 2010 with coverage of every scientific discipline and many social sciences. Several heavily-used book series and reference works are included; among them are: *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, *Lecture Notes in Mathematics*, *Lecture Notes in Physics*, *NATO Science for Peace and Security*, *Studies in Computational Intelligence*, *Topics of Current Chemistry*, *Springer Handbook of Robotics*, *Handbook of Materials Modeling*, and *Springer Handbook of Nanotechnology*.

The Libraries selected Springer eBooks for its first major system-wide electronic book service because of Springer's favorable licensing and business terms that will directly benefit MIT users, including broad academic use rights, perpetual ownership, unlimited concurrent users, and participation in Portico, a third party archive. In addition, each book chapter is available as a PDF file without digital rights management (DRM). This means they can be downloaded, printed, and transferred to a PDA or Kindle.

This purchase was made possible in part by the James B. (1970) and Marianne H. Rothnie Endowed Library Fund and Joseph R. (1924) and Jan William (1960) Mares Fund.

MIT users may choose to order their own personal copy of many of these books by using the print-on-demand option called "MyCopy" at a significantly discounted price of \$24.95 for books up to 800 pages. Links to electronic books can be found in the Libraries online catalog, Barton, or browsed directly at [libraries.mit.edu/get/springer-ebooks](http://libraries.mit.edu/get/springer-ebooks).



## PUBLISHERS SUPPORTING MIT'S OPEN ACCESS POLICY



A year after MIT faculty adopted a Policy to open access to their scholarly articles, many publishers of scholarly journals have confirmed support of their efforts, and over 900 articles have been added to the

MIT Open Access Articles collection in the Libraries' digital repository, DSpace@MIT ([dspace.mit.edu](http://dspace.mit.edu)), where they are freely available on the Web.

Publishers who are fully supporting the MIT Policy include: the American Economic Association, American Institute of Physics, American Mathematical Society, American Meteorological Society, American Physical Society, American Vacuum Society, Beilstein-Institut, BioMed Central, Hindawi Publishing, The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), The Optical Society of America (OSA), Public Library of Science (PLoS), Rockefeller University Press, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), SPIE, and the University of California Press.

Many of these publishers allow the MIT Libraries to capture copies of the final published PDF for deposit in the MIT Open Access Articles collection. Posting the final PDF provides advantages to publishers and authors alike. Using PDFs lowers the implementation work load

for faculty authors, eliminates concerns regarding the potential availability of multiple versions of an article, and assures publishers of a link to the publisher's website.

"We are learning that many other publishers are also friendly to the policy as we continue our conversations, and we expect this list to grow over time," said Ellen Duranceau, MIT Libraries' Program Manager for Scholarly Publishing and Licensing. "We want to thank all of the publishers who have cooperated with us thus far, and we look forward to collaborating with others as we move forward."

The MIT Libraries, with the guidance of the Faculty Committee on the Library System, continue to work with MIT Faculty to help further the Policy's goal of broadening access to MIT's research and scholarship.

The Libraries welcome additional submissions from faculty sent to [oa@mit.edu](mailto:oa@mit.edu), or uploaded through the web form at [dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/49432](http://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/49432).

For more information contact:

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617 253 8483

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### EXPANDED GIS RESOURCES

MIT Geoweb ([web.mit.edu/geoweb](http://web.mit.edu/geoweb)), which helps users to find and access Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, has expanded to offer additional resources. In addition to searching the MIT Geodata Repository, MIT Geoweb can also search for data held by MassGIS, and the Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL).

The MIT Geodata Repository is an international collection of GIS data maintained by MIT GIS Services. MassGIS is a Massachusetts state agency hosting a variety of GIS data related to the state of Massachusetts. And the Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL) is an international collection of GIS data maintained by Harvard. Now search for thousands of GIS data records with one simple interface!

### HARVARD BORROWING PRIVILEGES FOR MIT UNDERGRADUATES

Building on an existing collaboration between the MIT Libraries and Harvard College Library (HCL), undergraduate students at Harvard and MIT may participate in a pilot program which, for the first time, enables reciprocal borrowing privileges for undergraduates at the two institutions.

As of April 5, 2010 Harvard undergraduates will have borrowing privileges at MIT Libraries and MIT students will enjoy similar privileges at participating Harvard libraries. The program, which will be evaluated after 14 months, offers undergraduates from both institutions access to the complementary circulating collections of each institution's libraries.

MIT undergraduate students may apply online for an HCL Special Borrower card. Participating HCL libraries include Cabot, Fine Arts, Harvard-Yenching, Loeb Music, Tozzer and Widener.

For additional information about Harvard borrowing privileges visit the MIT Libraries website, [libraries.mit.edu](http://libraries.mit.edu).

### COLLABORATION WITH SCIENCE COMMONS

The MIT Libraries are pleased to be collaborating with Science Commons, a branch of the non-profit Creative Commons. Science Commons, headquartered on the west coast, was launched in 2005 and was an early and energetic advocate for faculty research authors as they sought to retain essential use rights in their articles and other research results. Science Commons continues to focus on strategies and tools for faster, more efficient web-enabled scientific research. The development of DSpace@MIT: Open Access Articles has benefited considerably from Science Commons' efforts.

Providing collaboration space for Science Commons researchers within the Libraries R&D group provides an opportunity for productive interaction on mutually shared priorities. Current initiatives are focused on data policies and technical issues integral to sharing data over the web.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Music in the Enlightenment*  
**Wednesday, April 14, 2-3pm**  
Lewis Music Library

Teresa Neff, Jean Rife, and others will discuss and perform music related to the MIT Libraries' latest exhibition.

*Eighth Annual Prokopoff*  
*Violin Concert*

**Friday, April 23, Noon-1pm**  
Lewis Music Library

Students will perform music from the Prokopoff collection of over 2,000 violin scores.

*Gallery Talk: Picturing Work in*  
*Diderot's Encyclopédie*

**Wednesday, May 12, Noon-1pm**  
Maihaugen Gallery

Co-curator Kristel Smentek, MIT Assistant Professor of Art History, leads a tour and discussion of the exhibition.