

Bib·li·o·Tēch

NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES

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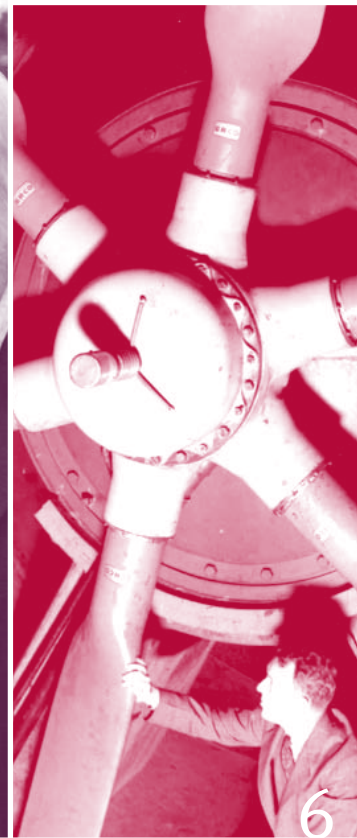
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Richard Howard



Once upon a time, the value proposition behind research libraries was simple. Institutions build the best physical library collections they could afford, because the benefits of proximity to research materials were tangible and measurable—faculty spent less time trying to locate and use the material they needed, graduate students earned their degrees faster and produced better research, and undergraduate students learned more deeply when they were surrounded by large collections of relevant resources.

The cost of building and maintaining excellent research collections was always a challenge, despite the compelling advantages. And in truth, even large, well-endowed research libraries have never been able to collect all that was published in an area or discipline. Add to that the fact that intellectual interests of faculty and graduate students evolve over time, and no matter how large or comprehensive its collections might be, no research library could expect to satisfy all the interests of its resident scholars.

Today, lending and borrowing of circulating materials is a standard service of every research library. A 2001 bibliometric analysis of the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) database revealed that research libraries have 63.5% of total OCLC records as unique records—illuminating the individuality of these collections. It's not surprising, then, that in 2009 members of the Association of Research Libraries collectively borrowed 3,660,400 items from other libraries to meet the research requirements of their communities. During the past decade many research libraries began to digitize and make freely available their public domain and out-of-copyright books.

With the Google Books Library Project came the hope that this digitizing process might be accelerated, making millions of out-of-print and out-of-copyright books readily searchable and accessible. While the final outcome of the Google project is yet to be determined, an organization called HathiTrust has independently begun to build a long-term archive of digitized books from a variety of sources including Google partner libraries, the Internet Archive, the Library of Congress, and many others. HathiTrust currently hosts nearly 8 million volumes from some 50 contributors; about 25% of which are openly available for use.

In such an environment, what defines a world-class library collection? What actions should the MIT Libraries take to ensure a collection of exceptional information assets, tailored to the priorities of the Institute and needs of MIT faculty and students? We have a few ideas:

Expand the scale of access to quality information resources

The MIT Libraries participates in World Cat Local and Borrow Direct partnerships. Both enable (or soon will) unmediated requests from the MIT community for book loans from partner libraries. The Boston Library Consortium provides our community with remote and in-person borrowing privileges at 16 university, college, and state libraries in New England. Borrow Direct makes available the circulating collections of eight Ivy Plus libraries—comprising nearly 50 million items.

Collaborate with others on 21st century library solutions

The MIT Libraries and Harvard University Library have recently entered into a formal collaboration focused on sharing print collections, advancing digital preservation, managing historical collections and archives, and developing solutions to 21st century library challenges.

Contribute collections to the Cloud

The MIT Libraries have joined the HathiTrust partnership with the eventual goal of contributing our digital and digitized public domain research material to this promising non-profit digital library endeavor. Much of what we manage in digital form is also made available in DSpace@MIT and/or via the Internet Archive.

Advocate for public policies that support the needs of higher education

Current copyright law starkly limits the ability of research libraries to digitize works that may be protected by copyright law, even when those works are out-of-print. Reconsideration of copyright law will be necessary if research libraries are to leverage their historical collections in the digital age and preserve today's knowledge into the future.

In the 21st century, collaboration with other outstanding research libraries will create the scale of resources necessary to support the cutting edge research and education that is MIT's hallmark.

At a time when “content spam” clogs the Internet, the MIT Libraries understand that easy access to high-quality information assets will continue to be, as it has in the past, a distinct advantage for MIT faculty and students.

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STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

HARVARD AND MIT LIBRARIES EXPLORE FAR-REACHING ALLIANCE

New agreement reflects physical proximity, cross-registration, joint programs, and research affinities

In February, the MIT Libraries and Harvard University Libraries made a joint announcement recognizing a charge from their respective provosts to explore expanded collaborations for sharing library materials, advancing digital preservation and collections, and developing future off-site storage facilities.

Collaborative efforts will build on the success of previous partnerships including reciprocal borrowing programs, and shared use of the Harvard Depository. While traditional library materials were the focus of prior agreements, digital materials are at the forefront of the new alliance.

“The increasing primacy of digital materials brings its own urgency to our collaboration,” observed MIT Provost L. Rafael Reif. “As new models of online information delivery emerge, Harvard and MIT can support joint programs for open access as well as joint acquisition and licensing approaches that are appropriate for education and academic research.”

Each library system will remain guided by the respective missions and priorities of each university as they develop a four-tiered collaborative action plan by the end of 2011. The four tiers are:



Widener Library, Harvard University

Reciprocal access to circulating collections

By developing linked access between Harvard and MIT library catalogs and implementing reciprocal privileges that extend to Harvard's graduate and professional school libraries, library patrons can anticipate full access to 20 million volumes that users will experience as a single collection.

Enhancing digital preservation and collection practices

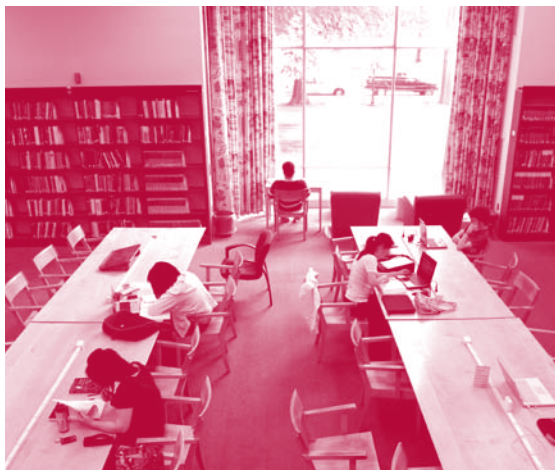
MIT and Harvard have earned leadership roles through their open access programs and repositories and through their respective approaches to digital preservation. Digital archives of faculty papers and web-based publications are high priority areas for collaborative growth.

Developing wider access to electronic information

Questions of electronic serials pricing, and the costs of building digital information management and delivery systems, point to opportunities for Harvard and MIT to investigate new models for licensing agreements, as well as alternative, open access forms of publication that reflect each institution's commitment to the dissemination of new knowledge.

Envisioning joint off-site storage facilities for the future

Harvard and MIT have shared the Harvard Depository for high-density, non-browsable, off-site storage since 1985. Together, the two universities can effectively anticipate both a new service model and an additional facility for off-site storage.



Hayden Library, MIT



MIT JOINS BORROW DIRECT LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

New agreement provides access to nearly 50 million items from participating Ivy League libraries

In January, the MIT Libraries joined the libraries of Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Penn, Princeton, Yale and Harvard in the Borrow Direct Library Partnership.

Borrow Direct, an expedited delivery system for sharing books between participating libraries, allows faculty, students and staff of member institutions to request circulating materials directly from the library where they are held. Requested materials are delivered to the borrowing patron's library usually within days. Approximately 1 million items have been shared across the partnership since it was initiated in 1999. MIT and Harvard were the latest members to join Borrow Direct and will begin participating in the service later this year.

EXHIBITION OFFERS A UNIQUE LOOK AT 150 YEARS OF MIT HISTORY

Technology Through Time: 150 Years of MIT History opened in February in the Maihaugen Gallery. The multimedia exhibition showcases the broad and varied history of MIT, exploring themes such as MIT's founding, community and culture, diversity, academics and research, and its presidents.

On display are original documents and historically significant materials that played a role in making MIT the unique place it is today. Some of the many notable items include William Barton Roger's letter to his brother Henry Rogers—considered to be the original plan for MIT, an MIT entrance exam from 1876, and the original ribbon samples chosen for MIT's official colors—cardinal red and silver gray.

View an online slide show of the exhibit at: libraries.mit.edu/maihaugen

L. Barry Hehrington



Maihaugen Gallery

In cooperation with the MIT Museum, the exhibit also features objects shared with the Museum's 150 Exhibition. The gallery's video display offers the opportunity to view several videos documenting important historical moments and stories of those who have shaped – and been shaped by – MIT. The exhibit runs throughout the sesquicentennial year.



ROTC LIBRARY FEATURES PAINTINGS BY ARCHITECT, HARRY ELLENZWEIG

In March MIT's David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research opened its doors. During the same month, Rotch Library featured an exhibition of paintings and sketches by its architect Harry Ellenzweig. Ellenzweig, an accomplished architect known for his work for major academic institutions and a wide range of public projects, has designed several MIT buildings including the Tang Center, the Cogeneration Facility and others on campus.

Melody Craven



Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research

He has described his graphic works as reflecting “a vision informed by the architect's eye, a passion for forms found in nature and images of cities – the shared heritage merging with an imagined and abstracted urban landscape.”

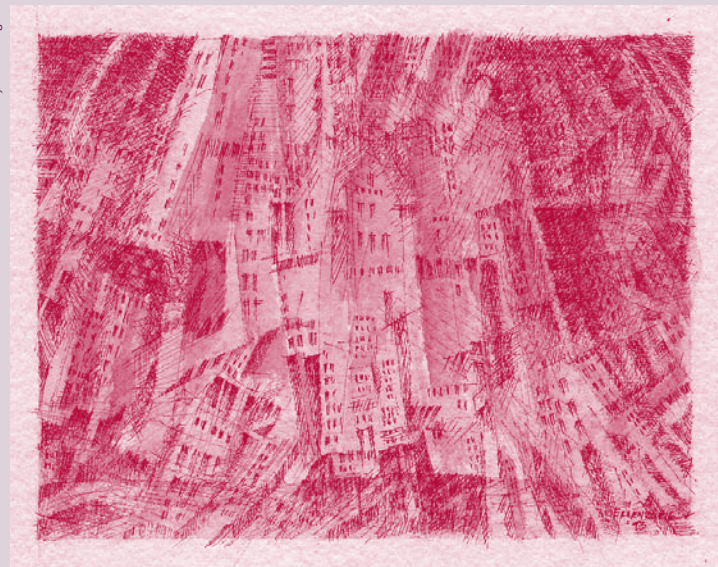
Over 30 original paintings were on display through April 1. See: libraries.mit.edu/rotch for an online slide show of the exhibit.

“I've been doing work at MIT since the early '60s. For all these many years it has been immensely rewarding to participate in extending and enhancing this very particular urban campus, where a long tradition has so successfully met the future,” Ellenzweig said.

The exhibition offered a rare glimpse at the artist behind the architect.

“Architecture, for me, is an art as compelling as drawing or painting. It's also my profession, my identity, the lens through which I see the world. I don't think of painting as “the road not taken”, but I would say that I have very much enjoyed the balance of the private world of the studio with the public face of architecture,” Ellenzweig said.

Harry Ellenzweig



“The Center Cannot Hold”, 1993

SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES

DATA VISUALIZATION TOOL DEVELOPED AT MIT GETS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUPPORT

MIT Libraries receive grant for work on "Exhibit 3.0" software

A \$600,000 grant from the United States Library of Congress will fund work on a new version of Exhibit, the popular open source software tool developed at MIT that helps with searching, browsing and visualizing data on the Web. The MIT Libraries, in collaboration with the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL) and Zepheira, LLC will redesign and expand upon features of the tool to create "Exhibit 3.0". The goal is to provide an enhanced tool that is scalable and more useful for data management, Web display and navigation, particularly for libraries, cultural institutions and other organizations grappling with large amounts of digital content.

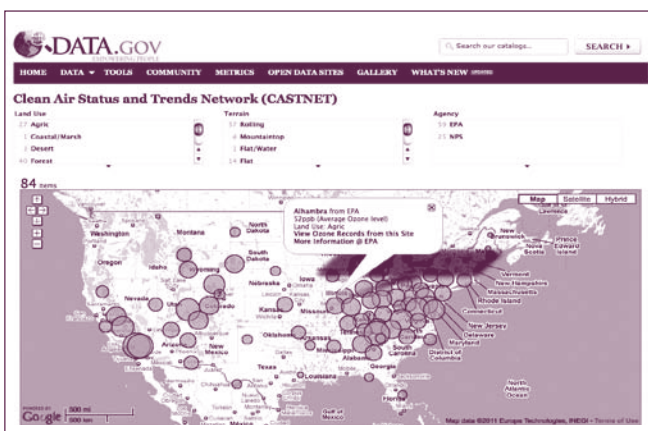
"This innovative work has already made a considerable impact on digital content communities whose data is diverse and complex. The visualizations bring new understanding to users and curators alike," said Martha Anderson, Director of Program Management at the Library of Congress.

Exhibit was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and developed as part of the MIT Simile Project, a collaboration of the MIT Libraries, the MIT CSAIL, and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to explore applications of the Semantic Web to problems of information management across both large-scale digital libraries and small-scale personal collections.

Since its release, Exhibit has been used by thousands of websites worldwide across a range of diverse industries and institutions. Recently it was used by Data.gov, an initiative to increase public access to high value data generated by the executive branch of the federal government.

The Exhibit 3.0 project will redesign and re-implement Exhibit to scale from small collections to very large data collections of the magnitude created by the Library of Congress and its National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP).

The project began in January for a period of one year. For more information see: simile-widgets.org/exhibit3



Data.gov uses Exhibit to help demonstrate new ways of visualizing government data

L. Barry Hetherington



Neil and Jane Pappalardo

GENEROUS GIFT SUPPORTS VIDEO WORK SHOWCASING TEACHING EXCELLENCE AT MIT

A. Neil Pappalardo '64 has presented the MIT Libraries and AMPS (Academic Media Production Services) with a generous multi-year gift with the purpose of highlighting extraordinary teaching at MIT.

"There have been over the years a number of professors whose reputation for teaching was such that just to capture that on video—so that all future generations would be able to see and hear and experience that—to me is fundamentally important," Pappalardo said in an interview videotaped for MIT150.

AMPS' Video Production group will leverage both its existing archive of video and ongoing collaborations with OpenCourseWare (OCW) and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education to create a video portal to course lectures, special lectures and symposia, and student experiences. A "Teaching Excellence at MIT" website is currently in development with an anticipated launch this spring.

In addition, Pappalardo's gift has supported ongoing development of the "From the Vault" collection, currently featured on the MIT150 website. This collection contains MIT events captured over the past 30 years including special lectures delivered by former and current teaching giants such as Harold "Doc" Edgerton, Amar Bose, Victor Weisskopf, Mildred Dresselhaus, and Philip Morrison.

"There are many events that happen at MIT that should be recorded for posterity," Pappalardo said. "And these will ultimately become the history of MIT. I can't imagine a better way of capturing these so that they're permanent, than doing it with video."

The MIT Libraries is grateful for the many opportunities provided by Neil Pappalardo's generosity and vision regarding this work and its potential.

Larry Gallagher
 Director, MIT Video Productions
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

MIT
+150
INVENTIONAL
WISDOM

MIT150 MULTIMEDIA

Video and new media have played an important role in documenting and showcasing the history of MIT throughout the MIT150 celebration.

The **Infinite History** project team, in partnership with the AMPS-MIT Video Productions team, collected first-person recollections of more than one hundred people associated with MIT. These videos showcase individuals who made extraordinary contributions to their fields, and to MIT, and include Institute leadership, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends.

Using emerging technology developed by MIT alumni at 3Play Media, visitors to the **Infinite History** pages are able to watch the interview videos and search the accompanying electronic captioning by keyword. Interview subjects can be searched by category and by topic of interest. Visit: mit150.mit.edu/infinite-history

Elemental MIT and MIT150 documentary series This collection of videos, presented during the MIT150 celebration, illustrate the richness of the MIT experience through glimpses at our not too distant past, and feature a sampling of the remarkable events and people that have made, and continue to make, MIT an extraordinary place. Five in-depth documentary shorts explore various aspects of MIT's history and culture. See: mit150.mit.edu/multimedia

DIGITALMIT

As the world becomes increasingly digital, the shift from paper-based to digital practices becomes more necessary. "DigitalMIT" encompasses efforts across campus to conceive of new ways to operate and advance MIT's mission.

An Institute-wide task force on printing and digital archiving has been looking at ways to decrease paper-based and increase digital administrative processes and improve efficiencies. It focuses on issues related to information management, which will impact the Libraries and Archives. Offices and departments have begun digitizing older files and implementing a variety of content management systems to manage their current information. Much of the data needs to be coordinated among systems Institute-wide.

More and more, offices, departments, research groups, student organizations and individual faculty are asking for our help in managing their digital information. They turn to staff in the Libraries and Archives for advice on what to do with their files, what is worth digitizing, where and how they should manage and store their files,



Elemental MIT video: MIT's Wright Brother's Wind Tunnel

From the Vault These videos and films selected from various MIT archives celebrate decades of visual documentation of life, work and play at the Institute. This growing collection includes a number of vintage films dating back to the 1920s, in addition to more recent video recordings of lectures, symposia and special events that span the sciences, technology and the humanities. See: techtv.mit.edu/collections/fromthevault

MIT150 Timeline This interactive timeline with images, sound, video, and details from the MIT Archives, allows users to delve into MIT's rich academic, social, and cultural history. See: mit150.mit.edu/timeline

150 Years in the Stacks This daily blog represents a chronological journey through MIT's extensive (and unusual) library collections. Every day for 150 days, see a different publication, one from each year of MIT's existence: libraries.mit.edu/150books

how long they should keep files, and what should be kept permanently and transferred to the Archives.

From an archival standpoint, we are concerned with the security of, current and future access to, and long-term preservation of the permanent historically valuable information. At the moment the Institute lacks a central trusted digital repository for its permanent historical record: one that has the necessary systems, policies, and procedures in place to meet professional archival standards. However, we are turning our efforts toward meeting these challenges and beginning to put the appropriate pieces in place. With the Institute as a whole focusing its attention on conceiving of new ways to operate, we expect the Libraries and Archives to be a Digital MIT leader.

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Head, MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections
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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

A LOOK AT HOW RARE MATERIALS AND CONSERVATION AUGMENT TEACHING AND RESEARCH

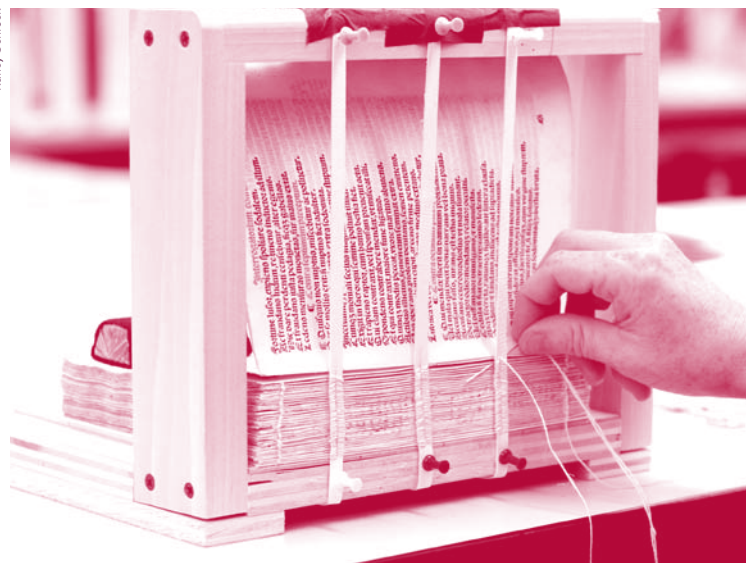
CONSERVING THE 1523 LIBER SACERDOTALIS

The Lewis Music Library recently acquired a 1523 edition of the *Liber Sacerdotalis* for use in Michael Cuthbert's Early Music class. The early volume, containing prayers, blessings, chants and instructions used by priests to administer sacraments, blessings, and processions, was purchased with funding from Richard Breed '73. It originally arrived at MIT without a binding, torn, dirty, and with insect damage. MIT Libraries' conservator Nancy Schrock and conservation intern, Marie Oedel treated the volume.

Its treatment was complex and included detailed documentation, disbinding, and cleaning. A new covering was chosen based on the limp vellum covering of a later 1573 edition of the *Liber Sacerdotalis*. Such a binding provides maximum flexibility for ease of use. Now that the paper is flexible and the pages sewn together into a binding, students and researchers can readily use the volume and it will be preserved for future use.

"The first Sacerdotale that the music library obtained has already formed the basis for two top-notch scholarly papers by our students," Michael Cuthbert said. "The recent acquisitions of early printed books of music from the 16th century are changing the way students study music history and grapple with the ambiguities of the sources."

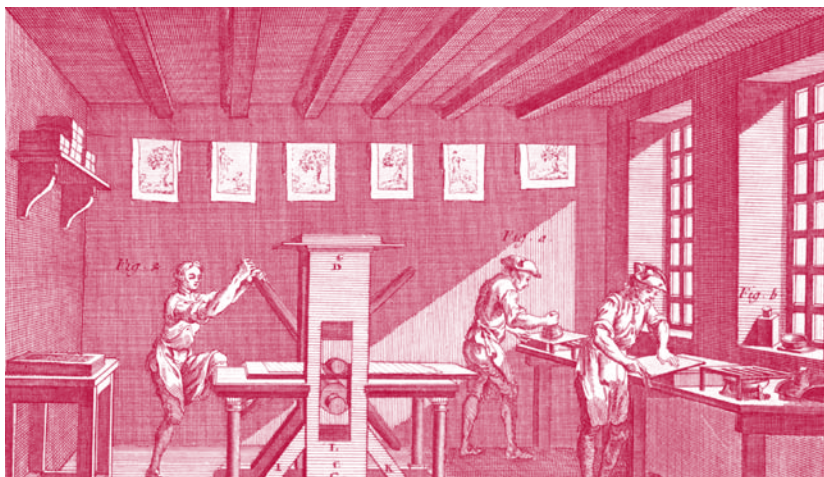
Nancy Schrock
Thomas F. Peterson (1957) Conservator
617 452 4064
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Folios from the *Liber Sacerdotalis* sewn onto strips of tawed leather

"The careful restoration of the 1523 *Liber Sacerdotalis* will enable its use as an introduction to scholarship with primary sources for decades of students to come."

—Michael Cuthbert, MIT Assistant Professor of Music



A plate from the *Encyclopédie* illustrating the printing process.

EXHIBIT BECOMES ONLINE RESOURCE FOR TEACHING

Technology and Enlightenment: The Mechanical Arts in Diderot's Encyclopédie, an exhibition in the Maihaugen Gallery last year, has taken on new life as a online resource for MIT students and scholars.

The original exhibit, curated by Jeffrey Ravel, MIT Professor of History, and Kristel Smentek, MIT Assistant Professor, History, Theory and Criticism, explored one of the most important and controversial publications of the eighteenth century, the *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*. The exhibit featured fascinating images chosen from the 33 original folio volumes owned by the MIT Libraries, as well as multimedia components illustrating the *Encyclopédie's* significance. Now all the volumes, captions and video from the exhibition can be explored virtually through a new website: libraries.mit.edu/diderot. Professor Ravel plans to use the website extensively in his "The Age of Reason" class.

"I'll be asking the students to browse through the entire website prior to our class visit to Archives and Special Collections to see the books. I want them to have a sense of the importance of the mechanical arts in the entire enterprise of the *Encyclopédie* before we look at the volumes," Ravel said.



A GIFT THAT SUPPORTS STUDENTS AND LIBRARIES

Honor a recent graduate, favorite faculty member, or parent with a gift that makes an impact for MIT students.

Through the Libraries' *Take a Seat* program, a \$1,000 gift allows the Libraries to buy a new, high quality chair for a library reading room. In recognition, a brass plaque, acknowledging the person or event that is being honored, is permanently affixed to the chair. The donor, or honoree, will also receive a handsomely framed duplicate of the plaque as a lasting memento.

For more information about *Take a Seat*, visit libraries.mit.edu/giving/opportunities/seat.html or contact Steven Horsch at 617-452-2123 or horsch@mit.edu.

FLAMETHROWERS FOR SNOW REMOVAL?

Boston had near-record snowfall this winter, so when an MIT student found a historic letter online from former Boston mayor James Curley to former MIT President Karl Compton suggesting flamethrowers for snow removal, it spread like wildfire on Twitter and blogs around Boston.

During the winter of 1948 Curley implored MIT President Compton to "...have a group of engineers make an immediate study as to ways and means of removing the huge accumulation...". Compton replied with several options. He discounted the use of flamethrowers, suggested by Curley, as "neither practicable or efficient," and offered other suggestions such as calcium chloride.

See the original correspondence on the Institute Archives website: libraries.mit.edu/archives/exhibits/curley/index1.html

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT E-READING?

With the recent explosion of e-readers and apps, the world of e-reading can be incredibly difficult to navigate. The Libraries often gets questions from the MIT community about our services for owners of e-reading devices, like Kindles, Nooks, and iPads. Find answers to many questions in our FAQ guide at: libguides.mit.edu/ereadingfaq Some of the questions we answer include:

- What library books are available to download onto my e-reading device?
- How do you transfer a PDF file from a computer to an e-reading device?
- What apps are the best for reading PDFs on my iPhone/iPad/Touch?



UPCOMING EVENTS

MIT150 EVENTS

For a full listing of MIT150 events, see: mit150.mit.edu/events

April 10
The Next Century Convocation

April 11-12
MIT150 Symposium: Computation and the Transformation of Practically Everything

April 26-27
MIT150 Symposium: Earth, Air, Ocean and Space: The Future of Exploration

April 30
Community Open House—Visit the Libraries! The Maihaugen Gallery and Wunsch Conservation Laboratory will be open and the Libraries will offer workshops on mobile apps and GIS technologies.

June 3
Commencement

MIT LIBRARIES EVENT
9th Annual Prokopoff Concert
Friday, April 8, 1-2pm
Lewis Music Library



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Follow us Twitter [@mitlibraries](https://twitter.com/mitlibraries)