

# Bib·li·o·tech

NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES



FEATURED EXHIBIT

## The Great Stride

Marking the campus centennial with the  
Institute Archives and Special Collections  
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 From the Director


When MIT moved to Cambridge a century ago, our leaders envisioned a bold future. The new campus would not only provide more space, but also make a statement to the world about the kind of institution it would be, mixing people and ideas to create visionary solutions to society's challenges.

It's no wonder then that MIT has become known for game-changing discoveries like the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, which made news recently by detecting gravitational waves—ripples in the fabric of space-time first theorized by Einstein. It's the kind of knowledge that changes our very conception of the universe, and I am proud that the MIT Libraries could make it accessible to anyone, anywhere, who wanted to share in this big moment.

In that spirit of visionary ideas, we launched our ad hoc task force on the Future of Libraries, an effort to identify how we can lead—and not just react to—transformative changes in the information ecosystem. Over the last several months, task force members have talked with hundreds of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and others. The themes we are hearing are very “MIT”—the future of libraries should be open, innovative, and interdisciplinary. Libraries are valued as both physical spaces, providing access to people and collections, and as sources of digital content and tools that accelerate research and learning.

It is clear that the MIT community recognizes the many ways the Libraries facilitate and inspire work across the Institute. The recommendations the task force will deliver at the end of the academic year will surely reflect the boldness, the creativity, and the nuance of these rich discussions. Please follow our progress, and be part of the conversation at [future-of-libraries.mit.edu](http://future-of-libraries.mit.edu).

I hope you will join us as we both look back on a century in Cambridge and look forward to a bold future for the Libraries.

All the best,

**Chris Bourg, PhD**

DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARIES

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## BIBLIOTECH

News from the MIT Libraries, an official publication of the MIT Libraries, is published twice a year, in the fall and spring.

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## DESIGN

Moth Design

## DIRECTOR'S PHOTOS

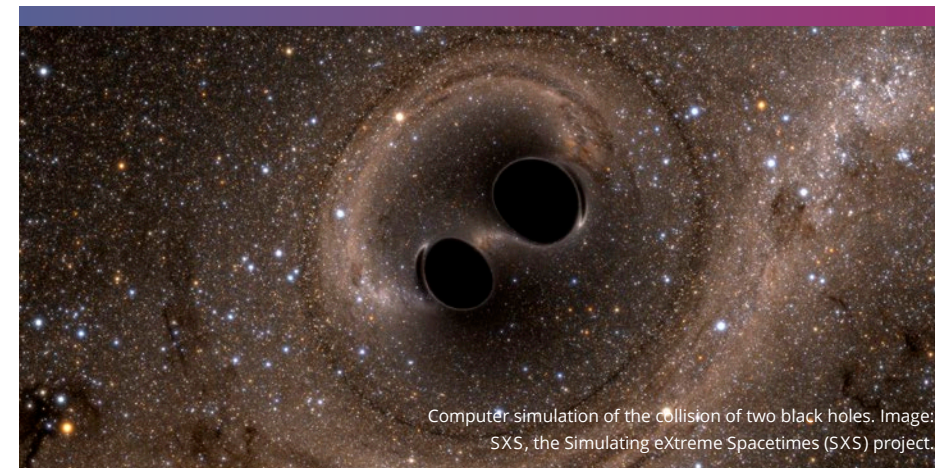
Wayne Vanderkull

## COVER

*Pantechicon*, 1916

# Ripple Effect

A groundbreaking discovery shows MIT's commitment to open access



Computer simulation of the collision of two black holes. Image: SXS, the Simulating eXtreme Spacetimes (SXS) project.

More than one billion years ago, two massive black holes collided and merged, releasing energy in the form of gravitational waves, or ripples in space-time. Last September, those waves were picked up by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO)—the first direct detection of gravitational waves since Albert Einstein theorized about them in 1916. The significance of the breakthrough is hard to overstate.

“They give us a new tool for astronomy,” said MIT Professor Scott Hughes, an expert in gravitational-wave physics. “They let us probe the dark and hidden universe.”

Gravitational-wave physics and the LIGO project, operated by MIT and CalTech, have been a focus of research at MIT for more than 40 years. With research, of course, there are publications. That's where the MIT Libraries come in.

Thanks to an agreement with the American Physical Society, the publisher of the discovery paper, the Libraries deposited the article in the Open Access Collection of the DSpace@MIT repository the day

of the announcement, February 11. LIGO researchers had also paid to release the article under a Creative Commons license, which allows anyone to download, share, or build on the work.

Peter Fritschel, LIGO's chief detector scientist and co-chair of the team that coordinated work on the paper, explained the decision: “Why make it open access? For the most important publication in the life of the collaboration, the only reason not to is that it costs us something, but there was never any question that we would pay for it.”

That same week, the Libraries created a resource guide, with summaries of research and links to related DSpace papers, with help from Hughes and MIT LIGO scientists. Excitement about—and pride in—the discovery had spread throughout the MIT community. Now, with open access to the research and the decades of work that led to it, it can reach even farther.

“This is what we do here at MIT, and we want to share it,” said Director Chris Bourg.

9th ↓

MOST DOWNLOADS AMONG MORE THAN 19,000 ARTICLES IN THE OPEN ACCESS COLLECTION

129 ⓘ

OPEN ACCESS DSPACE PAPERS IN THE LIBRARIES' RESOURCE GUIDE

46 yrs ⓘ

OF DETECTION RESEARCH AND RELATED SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE IN DSPACE

“When I heard of the LIGO gravitational wave detection, all I could find were these general articles, but no real details of the detection. Only through the open access I got from MIT was I able to quickly get the article. Thank you for doing the right thing and making this very significant discovery a freely available article.”

—INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER

Explore the resource guide →

[libraries.mit.edu/gravitational-waves](http://libraries.mit.edu/gravitational-waves)



# Preserving Place

Documenting cultural heritage and loss in the Middle East



The Monumental Arch of the Great Colonnade, Palmyra, Syria, photo ca. 1980–1990.



Mashhad al-Imam Yahya ibn al-Qasim, Mosul, Iraq, photo ca. 1980.



**Sharon Smith, PhD**

PROGRAM HEAD,  
AGA KHAN DOCUMENTATION CENTER

Images of the destruction of cultural treasures in the Middle East have dominated the media: propaganda videos of extremists attacking artifacts, photos of ancient sites razed, stunning “before and after” shots of devastated cities. Sharon Smith, PhD, wants you to see the whole picture.

“There is a lot of emphasis on the current destruction, but we cannot lose sight of the importance of documenting culture and heritage on a larger scale,” says Smith, the program head for the Aga Khan Documentation Center (AKDC) at MIT.

Preserving the visual and material cultures of the Muslim world, placing them in context, and using them to facilitate teaching and research are all at the heart of the AKDC’s mission. The center, situated within the MIT Libraries, is part of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT and Harvard. Together with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture it co-directs Archnet, the premier open access, online library of the built environment with a focus on Muslim cultures.

**To learn more about the AKDC and Archnet, visit →**

[libguides.mit.edu/islam-arch](http://libguides.mit.edu/islam-arch)



Takiyya Selimiyye, Damascus, Syria, photo: 1990.

**“It’s driving us to build a more robust database. Just to keep pace with the rate at which things are being destroyed.”**

In 2012, the AKDC began to serve as a repository for archives from leading architects and scholars. Over the past four years, more and more institutions and individuals from the region have reached out to the AKDC to donate collections and archives threatened by destruction from civil war, looting and vandalism by militant groups, or damage simply due to lack of infrastructure.

“It’s driving us to build a more robust database,” says Smith. “Just to keep pace with the rate at which things are being destroyed.”

One of several prominent gifts the AKDC has received is from Yasser Tabbaa, a noted scholar in Islamic art and architecture, who donated his teaching collection of 35mm slides in 2015. Tabbaa’s collection documents many of the monuments damaged or destroyed in recent conflicts, including those in Iraq and Syria.

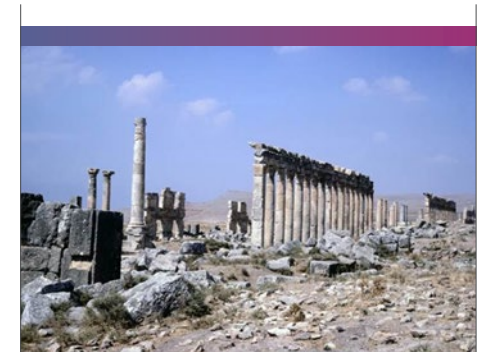
**“Everyone would prefer that these collections remain in their home countries, but they are in real danger of being destroyed. We have a responsibility to make them as openly accessible as possible.”**

His images and notes will be critical to the AKDC’s ongoing efforts to substantiate and record the loss of cultural heritage throughout the region.

For Smith, as important as ensuring open access to these collections in peril is providing “an academic voice” around them—presenting them with historic, cultural, and geographic specificity. Archnet, which originally launched in 2002, was reimagined in 2014 to bring together archives, images, drawings, publications, seminar proceedings, articles, serials, project documentation, and even music. New features of Archnet Version 2.0, including a timeline, mapping tool, and teaching aids such as prepared lectures, have helped create a richer experience for students and scholars.

The work of preserving place shows no signs of slowing down. The AKDC continues to partner with NGOs, as well as cultural and academic institutions worldwide. In 2015 alone, Archnet published more than 4,200 new records, and it is developing more tools to advance new research. The AKDC has become the authority on using metadata in documenting architecture, urbanism, and related issues in the Middle East.

“Everyone would prefer that these collections remain in their home countries, but they are in real danger of being destroyed. We have a responsibility to make them as openly accessible as possible,” says Smith. “Equally vital is making sure they continue to inspire teaching and scholarship of the highest quality.”



Top: Partial view of the colonnade, Apamea, Syria, photo: 1979.

Bottom: Elahbel Tower Tomb, Palmyra, Syria, photo ca. 1980–1990.

All images courtesy of the Yasser Tabbaa Archive, AKDC@MIT.



From the Archives

# Investigating MIT History

Students uncover the Institute's past in the Archives



“Looking at artifacts allows you to imagine their place in history. I feel like an investigator trying to put together the pieces of a puzzle.”

—BRANDON MCKENZIE, STUDENT

For Deborah Douglas' History of MIT class, in which students examine the Institute's past, the Institute Archives and Special Collections serves as a vital resource for their explorations. Douglas, the director of collections at the MIT Museum (where students also study key artifacts), recently shared why working in the Archives opens up new modes of learning for her students.

#### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS?

A: Original materials are thrilling to work with! In every history class I have taught, I get students using primary sources. At the Archives, my students got to see William Barton Rogers' 1846 letter to his brother, Henry. This is very important, as it is the first expression of a vision for a new kind of educational institution, and every one of them got to touch it and attempt to read it. They learned that Rogers had terrible penmanship. I guarantee that they will remember this forever (but wouldn't have if I had just stated that as an aside in lecture).

#### WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE WAY THEY INTERACT WITH THE DOCUMENTS?

A: My wonderful students bring all sorts of sensibilities to the documents. Initially, everything surprises them: “They seem to be required to take the same courses as our GIRs,” “Hey, they are complaining about not getting enough sleep,” “I didn't know that [fill in the blank] existed back then,” and so on. Then they get curious and discover they can look things up. Finally, they realize that they can learn much more than what the words on the page say. It takes time for that process to unfold, but it's magical to see.

#### WHAT SKILLS DO YOU WANT STUDENTS TO TAKE AWAY FROM WORKING WITH THE ARCHIVES?

A: In terms of skills, I want students to:

- learn what an archive is
- learn how to access one and how they work
- learn how to find materials
- most importantly, learn how to investigate and answer questions that matter deeply to them.

In terms of document analysis, I want them to learn that good history entails the systematic and careful analysis of evidence.

#### MANY PEOPLE THINK OF MIT AS BEING FORWARD-LOOKING. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE?

A: For me, the course is about discovery, exploration, adventure, learning, creative thinking, and the synthesis of big ideas. It is about the importance of the research university: what it has been in the past and what it will be in the future. And, it is about identity—institutional and individual—which is an intriguing way to teach history. Practically speaking, I hope students improve at synthesizing information from diverse sources about science, technology, and culture. When you care passionately about a subject—the way they care about MIT—those lessons are more deeply held and meaningful.

Featured Exhibit

# The Great Stride: MIT Moves to Cambridge

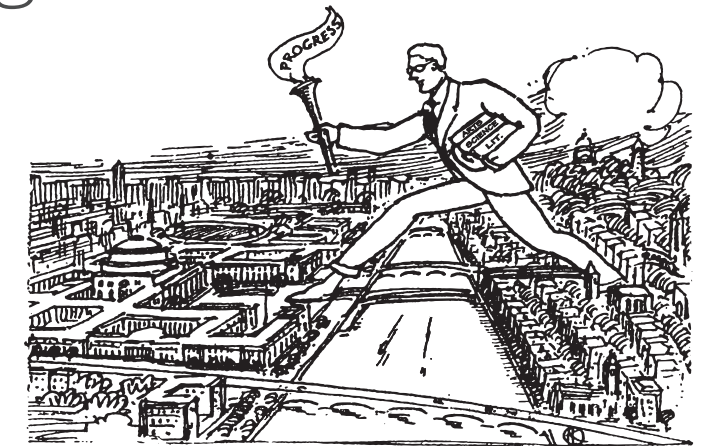
Marking the campus centennial with the Institute Archives and Special Collections

MIT was one of the initial occupants of Boston's Back Bay in the 1860s, but within 40 years there was little vacant acreage for the maturing Institute to acquire in the rapidly developing neighborhood. By the early 20th century, MIT began to explore in earnest for a new site.

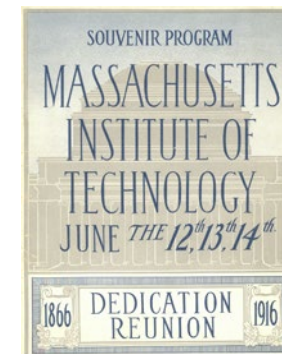
*The Great Stride: MIT Moves to Cambridge* celebrates the Institute's move in 1916 across the Charles River to its current location. It illuminates the people who envisioned, built, and funded the “New Technology”—from visionary MIT President Richard Cockburn Maclaurin to architect W. Welles Bosworth, 1889, who designed the buildings at the heart of the campus.

Relive the festivities of June of 1916, from a Venetian-style river crossing, to a massive performance featuring 2,000 students and volunteers, to a Telephone Banquet connecting alumni across the country. Discover the carloads of stone, bags of cement, and tons of reinforcing steel it took to build the iconic campus, and reflect alongside the “Sixteeners” who witnessed the transformative move.

*The Great Stride*, on view through November 30, is part of MIT 2016, a campus-wide celebration commemorating a century at the Institute's “new” campus. For more information, visit [mit2016.mit.edu](http://mit2016.mit.edu).



## THE GREAT STRIDE.

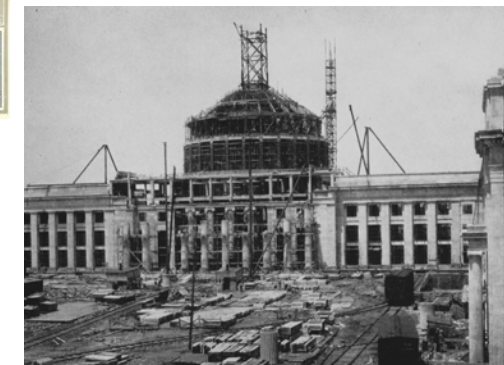


Top: *Pantehnicon*, 1916

Above: Telephone Banquet, 1916

Left: Souvenir Program Massachusetts Institute of Technology, June the 12th, 13th, 14th, Dedication Reunion, 1866-1916

Bottom: Construction of the MIT dome, 1916. Courtesy of the MIT Museum



Visit the Maihaugen Gallery →

Monday–Friday, 10 am–4 pm  
[libraries.mit.edu/maihaugen](http://libraries.mit.edu/maihaugen)



# Finding Balance, Promoting Respect

Libraries help foster a healthy and inclusive campus environment



**Nina Davis-Millis**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

“At the Libraries we work hard to ensure that our resources and services respond to the community’s needs and reflect its diversity.”

The MIT Libraries have long been a highly utilized and trusted source of support for the Institute community, but you may be surprised to learn the many ways the Libraries have been playing a more active role in creating a more respectful, caring, and healthy campus.

Here are just a few of the Libraries’ recent community-focused initiatives:

- Bookmobiles celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month brought curated collections of books, audio books, and DVDs by, for, and about these communities to busy locations on campus.
- Funding from MIT’s MindHandHeart Initiative will jumpstart a health and wellness collection, adding resources in key areas such as mental health, substance abuse, academic performance, and life skills and promoting them with health and wellness-themed bookmobiles.
- Acknowledging that writing can be a solitary pursuit, Write Together, co-hosted with the Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication program, invites students to work on assignments or personal projects in the company of others.



- Two recent Wikipedia edit-a-thons enlisted the MIT community to help bring more diverse perspectives to the most accessed reference work in the world. Volunteer editors created and improved Wikipedia articles about African Americans in STEM and women in the arts.
- Every Monday at noon in the Barker Reading Room, Om Under the Dome helps community members stay grounded with 30-minute silent meditations.
- Building on the success of past therapy dog visits, Furry First Fridays is a monthly study break where students can de-stress with four-legged friends from Dog BONES: Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts.

“At the Libraries we work hard to ensure that our resources and services respond to the community’s needs and reflect its diversity. But it’s not always easy for students to seek them out,” says Nina Davis-Millis, who was appointed to the newly created position of director of Community Support and Staff Development last year. “By piloting some of these new programs, the Libraries are making our support more visible as well as bringing it to where the students are.”

## What’s New?



### Libraries to host postdoctoral fellow in software curation

Software plays a dynamic and growing role in scholarship—it is both a research method and a research outcome. This presents academic libraries with a challenge, as well as an opportunity, as we contemplate practices and possibilities for acquiring, appraising, describing, documenting, preserving, and disseminating software.

In January, the Libraries announced it will host a Software Curation Postdoctoral Fellow as part of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. CLIR Fellows work on projects that forge and strengthen connections among library collections, educational technologies, and current research.

The Software Curation Fellow at MIT will lead an investigation to inform the Libraries about immediate and long-term implications of collecting and curating software and of providing software curation services to our community.



### Libraries support Open Library of Humanities

The Libraries have joined the Open Library of Humanities (OLH), an academic-led, all open access publisher of humanities journals. The platform, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, hosts peer-reviewed open access journals in the humanities, as well as OLH’s own multidisciplinary open access journal.

MIT Professor of Linguistics Kai von Fintel praised the Libraries’ decision to join OLH, in part because of its support for a new open access linguistics journal, *Glossa*. It was created when the editorial team of the Elsevier journal *Lingua* resigned and launched a new journal with the same focus and scope. The editorial board had proposed to make *Lingua* free to readers and authors, but Elsevier did not agree.

“We firmly expect that *Glossa* will inherit and exceed the quality and reputation of the earlier journal,” said von Fintel in a statement co-signed by fellow Linguistics faculty.

“We applaud MIT’s support for OLH, the organization that, together with the Linguistics in OpenAccess initiative, is underwriting *Glossa*. We pledge to further the aims of open access in our actions as editors, reviewers, and authors.”

### News from the MIT Press Increasing workforce diversity in academic publishing

A grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will help four university presses, including MIT Press, and the Association of American University Presses create a pipeline program to diversify academic publishing by offering apprenticeships in book acquisitions departments. This is the first cross-press initiative of its kind in the United States to address the lack of diversity in the publishing industry. The first cohort of fellows will start their apprenticeships in June.

### MIT Media Lab and MIT Press launch new journal

The *Journal of Design and Science* (JoDS), an online, open access journal, provides a new model for academic publishing by encouraging broad-ranging discourse that challenges traditional academic silos and publishing practices. Curated by a team led by MIT Media Lab Director Joi Ito, JoDS invites lively discussion across all fields of design and science and widespread participation. This format is made possible by the new PubPub publishing platform, created by researchers Travis Rich and Thariq Shihpar working in the Media Lab’s Viral Communications group.

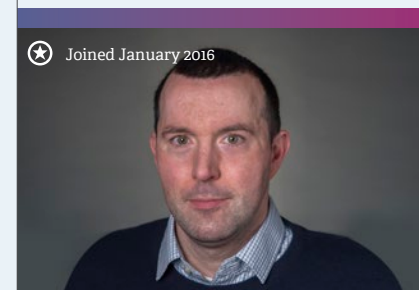
### Special offer to Bibliotech readers →

Visit [mitpress.mit.edu](http://mitpress.mit.edu) and use code BIBLIO40 at checkout for a 40% discount off orders of any MIT Press books now through June 30, 2016.

Staff Profiles

# New Faces in the Libraries

Get to know our newest colleagues



★ Joined January 2016

**NICHOLAS ALBAUGH**  
MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
LIBRARIAN FOR INNOVATION  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**WHAT DO YOU DO?**

I am the MIT Libraries point person when it comes to innovation and entrepreneurship activities on campus, supporting all those engaged in these activities, either in the classroom or outside of it, by way of outreach, collections, instruction, and research support. I am also the liaison to the Economics Department.

**WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE SOMEONE TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?**

I received my MBA from Bentley University in December of 2015.

**COMPLETE THIS THOUGHT: "THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES..."**

will be one of innovative outreach and interaction with diverse communities and stakeholders, increasingly mediated by digital technologies and virtual spaces and services. Librarians will also play a greater and greater role in the curation and maintenance of open access scholarship.

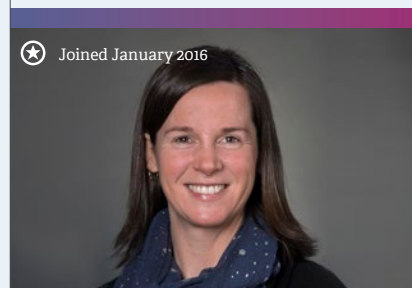
**"The future of libraries is as a central, collaborative, and grounding space for the community; a source of reputable, non-commercial information; and a place for exchanging scholarship and nurturing critical thinking."**

**WHAT DO YOU DO?**

I strive to use design, usability best practices, and research to make the Libraries experience great for our users, primarily through the Libraries website, but also by coordinating and collaborating with the Libraries staff and wider MIT community.

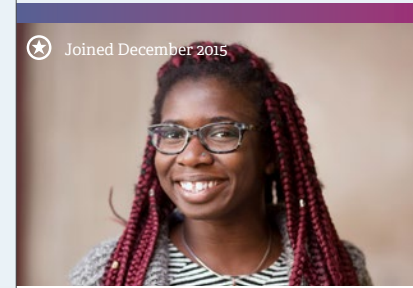
**WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE SOMEONE TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?**

I was a Riot Grrrl and part of Positive Force DC in the 1990s.



★ Joined January 2016

**FRANCES BOTSFORD**  
WEB PRODUCT MANAGER AND  
USER EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST



★ Joined December 2015

**KASEKE GRACE KINDEKE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

**WHAT DO YOU DO?**

I lend administrative support to Greg Eow, associate director for Collections, and to Tracy Gabridge, associate director for Academic and Community Engagement.

**WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE SOMEONE TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?**

I am an aspiring professional dancer.

**"The future of libraries is in the hands of those who believe that knowledge should be preserved for and accessible to all who seek it."**

**WHAT DO YOU DO?**

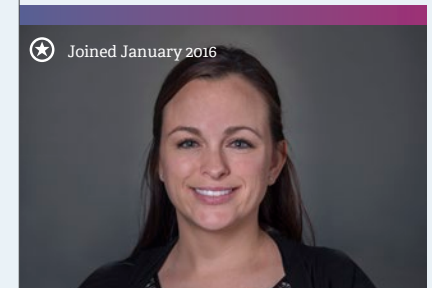
Working with project teams, identify project requirements and then manage the projects to ensure they complete on time and meet the intended goals and objectives.

**WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE SOMEONE TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?**

I've lived in four different states, moved eight different times, and visited almost every state.

**COMPLETE THIS THOUGHT: "THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES..."**

is exciting; with all of the initiatives and goals for the upcoming years, there will be many challenging and fun projects to work on. It is a great time to join the Libraries and directly contribute to the future of the Libraries.



★ Joined January 2016

**CAITLIN ROBLES**  
PROJECT MANAGER/BUSINESS ANALYST

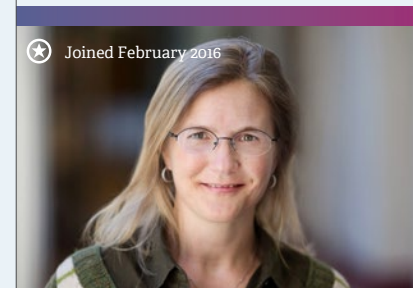
**WHAT DO YOU DO?**

I oversee various library operations that provide all types of patrons access to our facilities and our collections.

**WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE SOMEONE TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?**

I love to bake, especially snickerdoodles.

**"The future of libraries is evolving rapidly."**



★ Joined February 2016

**FELICITY WALSH**  
HEAD, INFORMATION DELIVERY  
AND LIBRARY ACCESS

Office of the Director  
Building 145-216  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

# Community Event: Moving Day at MIT

Saturday, May 7 | The Institute commemorates its move across the Charles River with an afternoon and evening of celebratory events.

**For more information** →

visit [mit2016.mit.edu/movingday](http://mit2016.mit.edu/movingday) and join the conversation with hashtag #MIT02139

## PROCESSION & COMPETITION

1-3:30 pm

Crossing the Charles with MIT family and friends

Join the procession over the bridge and cheer on the competitors.

## MULTIMEDIA EVENT

8-9:30 pm

Mind and Hand: A Pageant!

Come to Killian Court to celebrate MIT's history and look to the future.

## DANCE PARTIES

9:30 pm-midnight

Let's Dance

Attend community dance parties across campus.



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[facebook.com/mitlib](https://www.facebook.com/mitlib)



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