Guiding Principles for the MIT Libraries Spaces—Working DRAFT

Overview
The MIT Libraries’ mission is to create and sustain an evolving information environment that advances learning, research, and innovation at MIT. We are committed to excellence in services, strategies, and systems that promote discovery, preserve knowledge, and improve worldwide scholarly communication.

To fulfill this mission we must continually embrace changes in education and research, and challenge our assumptions to meet the evolving needs of a highly networked, collaborative, innovative and global community. Whether we are providing customized research assistance and online instruction tools for students, delivering in-class instruction through collaborations with instructors, or supporting faculty research and publishing by acquiring and managing extensive online and print resources across disciplines, library spaces should express the role of the MIT Libraries as a trusted partner in 21st century teaching, research, scholarship and innovation.

As one of the five Strategic Priorities identified for the MIT Libraries for 2014-2016, **Enhance the On-Campus Experience through Transformed Library Services and Spaces**, we are committed to developing MIT Libraries spaces to better support emerging teaching, scholarship, and research collaborations at MIT. The Phase Two project team will work with MIT, the MIT Community and library staff to design a phased series of improvements which will create a contemporary campus-based experience spanning library spaces in Hayden, Barker and Rotch Libraries which energizes digital learning, innovation and global engagement at MIT.

Programming for Phase Two will be informed by the Libraries’ Strategic Plan 2014-2016, MIT’s CRSP and Accelerated Capital Renewal processes, MIT’s 2030 campus planning effort, MIT’s upcoming Capital Campaign fundraising efforts, and MIT’s new Innovation and Future of Education initiatives. Feasibility and impact of early concepts ideas will be shared and tested through feedback from the MIT community and library staff.

The MIT Libraries are a connector, mixing together MIT’s rich collections of world-class information resources, staff expertise, and technologies for collaboration and digital learning for the MIT community. Allocations of space for user seating, collections, and staff spaces in each facility may shift in proportion over time. We will strive to find the best balance, taking a phased approach, recognizing that each space must serve a diverse set of community needs across disciplines.

The following **Guiding Principles** serve as the foundation for planning across all MIT Libraries spaces:

- Create a campus hub for serendipitous or informal interactions between faculty, students, and researchers
- Emphasize connections to the energy of MIT’s unique residential campus.
- Foster a sense of community through library venues for experiential learning, workshops, presentations, lectures, and events to share MIT’s research
- Leverage key adjacencies to the MIT’s Infinite Corridor, departments, labs and centers
- Make spaces flexible and modular
- Make staff expertise readily accessible and recognizable
- Promote knowledge creation and transmission, 24x7, through welcoming, respectful and safe spaces.
- Provide a variety of zones and choices that support the different phases of the learning and research process across MIT’s disciplines, from contemplative study to dynamic, experiential teamwork.
- Provide robust technology infrastructure and services for collaborative learning, experimentation, and innovation.
- Seek strategic partnerships to develop new services in library spaces that support academic success, research productivity, and interdisciplinary scholarship.
- Support the Institute’s aspirations for campus teaching and learning spaces