MIT LIBRARIES’ NEWS

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Photograph by L. Barry Hetherington.

The MIT Libraries, through their Document Services Department, have released their first commercial electronic information product. The MIT Radiation Laboratory Series, a 28-volume set of classics in radar and microwave technology originally published in the late 1940’s, is now available on two fully-searchable CD-ROMs.

The project to produce this work took more than two years to complete, resulting from a collaboration among Document Services, EG&G Inc., and Artech House Publishers, a prominent publisher in the field of radar and microwave technology. It commenced in 1997 when EG&G asked Document Services to convert the set to CD, given the series’ continued popularity among its engineers and the desire to improve access and usability of the rather cumbersome shelf full of volumes.

Although the scale of such a scanning project was too large for Document Services to take on at the time, a satisfactory arrangement was made to share the conversion tasks between EG&G and Document Services, thereby accomplishing what neither could alone. All of the more than 16,000 page images have been converted to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), and are fully searchable on the two standard CD-ROMs.

An interesting history was discovered in the process of researching the copyright of the works in the MIT Archives. These volumes followed the unusual course of first being published commercially by McGraw-Hill, a step taken to speed their dissemination to the civilian research community in the post-World War II era. The usual government publications channels were considered too slow for this immensely important research. But the stipulation was added that McGraw-Hill place the works into the public domain within a short number of years in order to assure the typical open and free access to government-funded research. Letters
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From the Director

The MIT Libraries are proud to be participating in MIT's recently-announced Capital Campaign. Our $20M campaign goal includes three distinct but interrelated targets, all of which are focused on sustaining the MIT Libraries as a competitive distinction for the Institute. Underpinning both education and research at MIT, the MIT Libraries play an important role in the Institute's commitment to attracting the best and brightest students and faculty. The MIT Libraries' Capital Campaign goals point to the future of MIT's exceptional research libraries.

First, we seek to double the size of the MIT Libraries' endowment for information resources. Interdisciplinary research and new research directions place extraordinary demands on the Libraries' collections and information resources. While the Libraries' superb existing collections contribute daily to the productivity of MIT's current research and educational enterprises, new directions bring new demands which require new resources. We must sustain the Libraries' current excellence into the future.

Second, the MIT Libraries must adapt their aging spaces to accommodate today's higher education. We seek support to update facilities that were designed for a much different world than the MIT of today. Contemporary information comes in many formats, and contemporary students need study spaces that operate on the same 24-hour a day schedule as the Institute does. Libraries spaces must recognize new forms of teaching and learning as well as traditional ways of studying.

Third, we seek to innovate with technology. The MIT Libraries have as a goal the funding necessary to become a leader in applied information technology in academic libraries. The MIT community has responded with enthusiasm to each new digital innovation offered by the Libraries but there is much more to be done. If we are successful in achieving our Capital Campaign goals, much more will be done.

At the end of the day, MIT's students and faculty are the true beneficiaries of the MIT Libraries' campaign goals. In achieving our goal, we will continue to support MIT's extraordinary students and faculty. We will also be responding to a faculty mandate in the Task Force on Student Life and Learning to address "the need for students to acquire lifelong skills in locating, filtering, evaluating, and using effectively the wealth of information available to them."

What will the library of the future look like at MIT? Certainly, students will still work, and think, and write, and study in the MIT Libraries. The future will also depend on the availability of advanced technology, adequate endowments for information resources, and new and renovated spaces capable of supporting services that will change as possibilities and needs evolve.

The issue is not print versus electronic resources, but rather the shape of the new intellectual "package" that contains information in different formats, originating from different sources. By providing a gateway to this diverse world, and the skills to navigate it, the MIT Libraries share their information expertise, and integrate the research experience for students.

The Libraries must support new models of teaching and learning, helping MIT prepare students for the collaborative, team-based work approach that has become an expected standard. While there will always be a need for quiet places, conducive to writing, reading, and concentration, the MIT Libraries now also need more collaborative environments. Technology enhanced teamwork rooms, where students can work together in proximity to information resources, will introduce students to a more real-world working environment. The Libraries also need to provide amenities such as cafes that support informal learning and communication, and that better serve the "24 x 7" culture of MIT.

The MIT Libraries face an unprecedented challenge to sustain traditional standards of excellence while extending their role into cutting edge resources and enhanced services. We welcome the Capital Campaign as an important element in addressing this challenge.

Ann Wolpert, Director, MIT Libraries
(617) 253-5297, awolpert@mit.edu
"Fair Use" of E-journals and Databases? You Might Be Surprised

Which of the following determines how many copies of an electronic journal article you can make, and whether you can share a copy with a colleague?

a. US copyright laws fair use provisions
b. A license agreement on file in the Libraries
c. Database protection laws and the Uniform Commercial Code

If you answered only a or c, you may not be aware of the terms of use of the many digital products now available at your desktop as a result of library purchases. In fact, all three conditions affect your use of electronic information.

To provide access to almost any web-based resource, whether it is an American Chemical Society electronic journal or a database like Inspec, BIOSIS, or Lexis-Nexis, libraries must sign a license agreement. The license outlines how the product may be used and defines the kinds of users authorized to access the product. These license terms trump copyright.

The MIT Libraries negotiate every one of these licenses individually, and currently have over 60 separate contracts on file. We spend time negotiating a custom contract so that we can be sure that every member of the MIT community has legitimate access to the product and so that users of the product will be able to use the resource in ways that meet their needs. For example, we try to ensure that the terms of use mirror those familiar from the print world, where the Fair Use provision of the 1976 US Copyright Law determines acceptable use. Fair use defines the "right to use copyrighted materials in a reasonable manner without consent of the author," such as multiple copies for classroom use, single copies for teachers in preparing to teach a class, or use for purposes of criticism or news reporting.*

Since we attempt to negotiate licenses reflecting something akin to fair use, we have consistency in rules for use across most of our digital products. We post a digested version of these standard rules on library web pages that contain licensed resources. The wording we use is:

Use of many of these resources is governed by license agreements which restrict use to the MIT community and to individuals who use the MIT Libraries' facilities. It is the responsibility of each user to ensure that he or she uses these products only for individual, noncommercial use without systematically downloading, distributing, or retaining substantial portions of information.

The MIT Libraries have had significant success in negotiating licenses that meet MIT's needs and we are usually, but not always, successful in our efforts to revise use rules to allow for this kind of nonsystematic printing and downloading. In cases where we cannot achieve these terms of use, either because of the nature of the database (the provider may not have the rights to license to us) or for some other reason, we make the additional use restrictions known through our web pages. These restrictions are available by clicking on the red "L" button near a product's name. We use other icons, like this red "L," to indicate other aspects of our digital products that may be of interest to users. A blue question mark links to use guides. A green gift box indicates products which have been made available to the MIT community through the generosity of donors.

We welcome input regarding the array of products available or any other aspect of our digital resource collection, including questions regarding appropriate use. Please visit our list of databases and e-journals at: http://libraries.mit.edu/vera to see what resources are available.

Ellen Finnie Duranceau, Digital Resources Acquisitions Librarian (617) 253-7028, effinnie@mit.edu


Rad Lab CD (Cont.)

between MIT President Karl T. Compton and the McGraw-Hill Book Company reveal the high level of cooperation and agreement which brought about the unusual terms of publication. It is striking that this work continues to enjoy such widespread use more than fifty years later!

The CD can be ordered for $325 through the Artech House web site at: http://www.artechhouse.com Artech House reports that sales of the CD-ROM version have been brisk. The terms of the agreement between MIT and Artech House allow MIT unrestricted use of the product on campus, so it has already been installed in the Barker Engineering Library. We hope soon to have it available from the Libraries' web site.

Keith Glavash, Head, Document Services (617) 253-5667, kglavash@mit.edu
Submitting Materials to the Archives

What do the MIT Athletic Department, John Ripley Freeman, the MIT Office of Sponsored Programs, and the architectural firm of Howe, Manning and Almy have in common? All are represented in the over 1,000 collections documenting MIT history held by the Institute Archives and Special Collections.

As many readers of this newsletter know, the mission of the Institute Archives is both to support the administration, research, and teaching of the MIT community and to encourage the use of its collections by researchers outside the Institute. The Archives' staff engage actively in gathering, organizing, describing, and preserving the official records of the Institute, personal papers of members of the community, and selected "non-MIT" materials. From these rich and varied sources researchers and staff gain insight not only into past and current issues on campus but also the impact of the Institute on the larger world. Many faculty and staff are unfamiliar, however, with the procedures for donating or transferring records to the Archives and need a bit of guidance on how to proceed.

First, call the Institute Archives (617 253-5136) to speak with either the Head or the Associate Head to determine how the records at hand are characterized and how that characterization determines actions to follow. The Archives' collections fall into two basic categories: official Institute records and personal (private) papers. (MIT Records Policy, Policies and Procedures, 13.3) Also, if records are very recent and not to be maintained permanently, they may be candidates for the Archives' records management program. Through this evolving program the Archives' staff assist with the transfer of inactive records from prime storage space, coordinate the systematic destruction of noncurrent records, identify records of continuing value, and offer advice about efficient record-keeping practices.

For Institute records determined to have "permanent" value, Archives' staff will visit offices, advise on packing procedures, and set a schedule for transfer of material. The number of staff is small and the complexity of offices and records is ever growing, so holders of records should contact the Archives well in advance of needed services. (While the Archives' staff has not yet solved the issue of the retention of electronic records, we welcome discussions with departments on the many issues attendant to these records.)

Many of the "personal papers" collections are those of faculty who maintain vast files at home. The staff will always respond to emergencies when personal records need to be moved immediately.

However, it is always best to call us in advance, prior to retirement for example, to discuss many of the details of packing and moving and a myriad of legal issues.

Potential donors of materials to this great Institute resource are encouraged to visit the newly-updated Institute Archives' web site: http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/ to learn more details.

Megan G. Sniffin-Marinoff
Head, Institute Archives and Special Collections
(617) 253-5688 or (617) 253-5690, sniffin@mit.edu

Telegram about the proposed new "Tech" in Cambridge, from the John Ripley Freeman papers (MC 51), Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries.
New Web Interface for Databases & E-Journals: "Vera" http://libraries.mit.edu/vera

Users of the MIT Libraries now have much improved access to electronic resources, thanks to Vera, the new web interface to the Libraries' ever-growing collection of databases and e-journals.

The Libraries provide access to 200 databases and close to 1,200 e-journals. These include both licensed and free unlicensed resources available on the web, as well as CD-ROMs which are available on site in individual libraries. Vera, which stands for Virtual Electronic Resource Access, has been available to the MIT community since January, 2000. It provides a highly functional and easy-to-use front-end entry point to these valuable resources. Vera is the result of a recognized need for the Libraries' staff to create a database for, and redesign of, the old interface to these resources. Vera not only makes access easy, it also adds more features.

Some of the main features include:

- e-journals and databases arranged by title and by broad subjects;
- dates of coverage for both e-journals and databases;
- searchable not only by title and subject, but also by provider (the company or organization which publishes or provides access to the e-resource);
- an icon indicating if a resource is temporarily unavailable;
- an icon linking to information about classes which the Libraries offer on using the resource;
- an up-to-date count of the total number of databases and e-journals to which the Libraries provide access;
- a link showing the latest resources which have been added in the past two weeks.

In Vera: just click the first letter of the resource, and you'll be taken directly to a list which includes the resource you're looking for. Or if you don't know the exact title, you can search Vera by one of 65 broad subjects. The entry for each resource resulting from your search provides the following information:

- title of the resource and the name of the provider;
- years of coverage to which the Libraries have access;
- the format in which the resource is available (i.e., web or CD-ROM), and the type of access (e.g., "licensed for MIT" or "free, unlicensed access");
- other information such as whether the resource is available for access off campus, and a link to online help with searching the resource.

Locate the resource you're looking for, click, and Vera takes you right to it. Vera is a web site backed by a FileMaker Pro database. It is the first step and a core element in the upcoming redesign of the entire MIT Libraries web site, which should be up and running in Fall 2000. To access Vera, go to http://libraries.mit.edu/vera. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about Vera, please contact Nicole Hennig.

Nicole Hennig, Web Manager
(617) 253-9367, hennig@mit.edu

Wayne Jones, Associate Head for Serials Cataloging
(617) 253-4637, waynej@mit.edu
MIT Students (from left to right) Naomi Eckmann, Dipangkar Dutta and Raudel Rodriguez compare their contact sheets taken during the IAP course "Light in the Shadows" with the MIT Libraries' holding of Henri Cartier-Bresson's monumental work "The Decisive Moment" (TR675.C351). Daniel Eppelsheimer of the Dewey Library instructed the participants to see photography as an art form. Photograph by Daniel Eppelsheimer.

"Those who went before us at the Institute insured the availability of the unique and wonderful library resources we take for granted today. Our task, in turn, is to guide MIT into the future of digital, print, and multimedia information. The students, researchers, and faculty of today and tomorrow must be equally well supported."

The Libraries' fundraising efforts are divided into three significant areas of need, as follows:

- Physical improvements $10 million
- Library materials endowment $8 million
- Educational/Information technology $2 million

Support for the MIT Libraries' campaign can range from gifts starting at $500, to significant gifts such as named endowments ($10,000 or more) and significant library renovation projects ($2.5 million or more). The projects being considered include a wide variety of exceptional naming opportunities.

A Libraries' Campaign Steering Committee has been established to ensure the success of the current fundraising effort, as well as the future of the MIT Libraries. If you would like further information about fundraising activities for the Libraries, please feel free to contact Steven Schaefer.

Steven M. Schaefer, Associate Director of Foundation Relations & School Development Services (617) 253-6162, schaefer@mit.edu

Libraries Seek $20 Million as Part of Capital Campaign

The public launch in November of the Institute's $1.5 billion capital campaign, Calculated Risks, Creative Revolutions: The Campaign for MIT, attracted national news media coverage and created a buzz throughout the academic community. Now it is time to turn that excitement into action, including a plan for the MIT Libraries.

As part of the campaign, the objective for the MIT Libraries is to raise a total of $20 million over the next five years. It is a stretch goal, but one that we are confident can be met through the hard work of staff and volunteers, and the continued and growing support of our many friends.

The Libraries remain a highly visible resource to the entire community. They are a vital part of teaching and learning at MIT, just as they are an integral part of the capital campaign. As such, a gift to the Libraries benefits the entire Institute. The Libraries, which continue to capitalize on MIT's unique strengths, contribute to the quality of life for students, faculty, staff and alumni.

"For 130 years, MIT has maintained a staunch commitment to providing students and faculty with the information resources and tools so necessary to the work of the Institute. If research and learning resources were to become unaffordable, or inadequate, the risk to the Institute's fundamental excellence is significant," Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries, has said.
New Librarian Staff

J. Darcy Duke (left) and Patricia Flanagan (right). Not pictured, Georgiana McReynolds. Photograph by Morgan J. Segal.

Ms. Duke holds a B.S. in Architecture from MIT and an M.S. in Library & Information Science from Simmons College.

Carol Zoppel, Editor

Third Barton Project: Plans for Updated Library Management System

The MIT Libraries are planning a major update for the library management system which includes the catalog. The change is scheduled to take place in the year 2001. The updated system will take advantage of the new features available today in the online information world, such as web and windows technology.

The new system is termed "Third Barton". Barton is the Library Management System, named for MIT's founder and first president, William Barton Rogers. "First Barton" was introduced in 1986, a library system from the Geac Corporation that automated library circulation, cataloging and some acquisitions functions, giving library patrons online access to the "card" catalog for the first time. In 1995, the system was replaced by "Second Barton" -- Geac Advance; at that time, acquisitions and serial record handling became fully automated. "Third Barton", currently scheduled to become operational in the spring of 2001, will move into a client-server model with an integrated library management system.

The Project Management Team consists of Project Manager Carl Jones, Nina Davis-Millis, and Joan Kolas. Many other staff members are working on sub-groups as the project moves forward. These groups first met to identify functional requirements and then to conduct a market survey. Five vendors who met the preliminary requirements were identified and brought to campus for one-day demonstrations. All library staff as well as members of Information Systems and MIT Auditing were invited to the demonstrations.

Carl Jones reports that staff came away from the demonstrations of the first-round candidate systems with great enthusiasm. "We were impressed by the enhanced functionality and ease-of-use being offered..."
Third Barton Project (Cont.)

through the graphical user interface. Whatever system we eventually decide upon will almost certainly offer us the possibility of approaching many of our tasks and procedures in new, creative, and more efficient ways.” Jones believes that another exciting aspect is the potential for placing more control of the system into staff and patron hands.

The next step has been to review the vendor offerings in light of MIT’s requirements, and to pay site visits to locations with these systems installed. From the group of five vendors, two or three will be selected. These finalists will return to the campus for lengthier, hands-on demonstrations. Faculty and students will have an opportunity to participate in this stage of the review.

The Libraries are looking for a vendor who will work collaboratively in developing a system tailored to the needs of the MIT community. However, it is anticipated that the new system will provide functionality that is available today in other academic research libraries.

The Project Management Team expects that the new system will bring greater data integration and faster transaction times. Beyond this, and the ability to utilize web and windows technology more fully, what are some special new features that might be available in Third Barton?

- the ability to download citations in ProCite or EndNote format;
- the ability to accommodate live links from other databases that will indicate MIT Library holdings;
- patron access to one’s own library circulation records to determine what books one has on loan, if any fines are outstanding, and so forth;
- patron opportunity to enter interlibrary borrowing requests online.

Progress in moving toward the new system will be publicized over the next two years, as will opportunities for input from the MIT community.

Ruth K. Seidman
MIT Libraries’ Communications Coordinator
(617) 253-5686, rks@mit.edu

MIT Libraries
Office of the Director
Room 14S-216
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307