When the MIT faculty voted to adopt a policy of open access for their peer reviewed research articles, they did so out of a conviction that knowledge is advanced and learning is encouraged when there is timely, barrier-free access to new and accumulated knowledge. In the words of the 2009 MIT Faculty Open Access Policy itself:

“The Faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible . . . Each Faculty member grants to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology nonexclusive permission to make available his or her scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles for the purpose of open dissemination.”

The MIT Libraries are honored to host these articles in our online repository DSpace@MIT.

The vote to make their articles openly available reflects a philosophy about sharing knowledge that has been expressed by MIT faculty on many dimensions over many years. Within the past decade alone, MIT faculty have supported the open availability of course content through MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW)—a web-based publication of virtually all MIT course content—and more recently, by engaging the concept of MITx—an approach to learning designed specifically for interactive study via the web. The MIT Faculty Open Access Policy, OCW, and MITx, all reflect the generous commitment of MIT faculty to disseminating knowledge for the benefit of all.

The impact of this generosity is clear. We know that OCW is improving education and bringing new opportunities to people everywhere. And MITx seeks to transform the quality, efficiency, and scale of education technology and research. These efforts benefit MIT’s campus-based students as well as the global community of online learners—for whom an actual MIT course experience is now possible.

We likewise know that the steadily-growing Faculty Open Access Articles Collection in DSpace@MIT sees downloads at a rate of 37,000 times per month. Since its inception, over 521,000 articles have been downloaded. Ranked among the top ten institutions in the Ranking Web of Repositories, DSpace@MIT experiences download requests for faculty articles from nearly every country in the world. The testimony of visitors regarding the generosity of MIT faculty sharing their teaching and research is inspiring.

Generosity is contagious. Research shows that contributions to the public good not only persist over time, they persist through three degrees of separation.

Since the MIT faculty voted to adopt their open access article policy, other institutions have followed suit. There are now 292 institutional and multi-institutional open access repositories, and 53 funder open access mandates.

The generosity of donors to the MIT Libraries has also been contagious. Gifts from alumni and friends of the MIT Libraries have made possible such wonderful initiatives as two MIT Libraries fellowships (one in digital preservation and one in open access implementation); restoration work in the Barker Library Reading Room; classification and digitization of the Vail collection; technology enabled group-study rooms; and yes, comfortable seating and lighting for MIT students. We were proud to be singled out by The Tech as having some of the most popular study spaces on campus.

It has been said that if you see a turtle on the top of a fence post, you can be pretty sure someone put it there. With this issue of Bibliotech, we thank all the friends of the MIT Libraries whose gifts have enabled the Libraries to reach heights that we could not achieve without them. Your generosity is contagious and you make a very real difference in the resources and services we provide to MIT students and faculty. Thank you, one and all, for your support!

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DEVELOPING FUTURE LIBRARY LEADERS
MIT LIBRARIES’ FELLOWS PROGRAM

What will the future of academic librarianship look like? The MIT Libraries have a few ideas. With the launch of a new fellows program, the Libraries are taking an active role in shaping the future of the profession. The MIT Libraries’ Fellows Program was created to provide exceptional, early-career library professionals with the opportunity to contribute to program areas of distinction and strategic priority in a dynamic academic research library. Out of a pool of over 175 accomplished applicants, two fellows were chosen for two-year fellowship positions. Helen Bailey was appointed to the position of Library Fellow for Digital Curation and Preservation, and Mark Clemente was appointed to the position of Library Fellow for Scholarly Publishing and Licensing.

“The fellows will work with and learn from their MIT Libraries’ colleagues who are recognized leaders in these fields,” said Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries. “Developing programs which contribute to the wider academic and research library community, as well as the real-world opportunities here at MIT, will position these highly talented fellows to advance in both the profession and their careers.”

Helen Bailey, the digital curation and preservation fellow, will report to Nancy McGovern, Head of Curation and Preservation Services, a highly respected leader in the field of digital curation and preservation with a well-established national and international reputation. Under McGovern’s direction, Bailey will work on a range of activities related to the long-term management of digital content, including participating in the Libraries digital content management initiative, contributing to an ongoing scan of community standards and practice for digital curation and preservation, the development of outreach materials to raise awareness about good practice, and conducting an experiment to recommend a solution for a specific curation or preservation need.

Mark Clemente, the scholarly publishing and licensing fellow, will report to Ellen Duranceau, Program Manager in the Office of Scholarly Publishing and Licensing (OSPL). Duranceau has led the Libraries efforts in support of the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy and provides copyright and scholarly publishing assistance to the MIT community. She also consults broadly with universities and faculty on scholarly publishing and rights policy and practice. Working with Duranceau, and other staff in the Libraries and MIT community, Clemente will contribute to the work of the OSPL in the areas of copyright advocacy, intellectual property, open access, and rights retention. Clemente will participate in enhancing and expanding a repository collection of open access papers under the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy and will develop and carry out projects to advance the implementation of the Policy.

Bailey and Clemente both bring strong skills and backgrounds in library science to their new roles. Bailey has a B.S. from Florida State University, an M.S. in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Library and Archives Conservation. Since 2010 she has been a preservation specialist with the Dartmouth College Library. Clemente has a B.A. from American University and a M.S. in Library Information Science from Simmons College. He most recently served as a digital collections assistant at Boston College’s O’Neill and Burns Libraries.

Both fellows will have the opportunity to expand their skills and experience in ways that position them to excel and lead in the research library profession. The Fellows Program was made possible with support from The Director’s Fund for Library Excellence.
“Digital MIT,” the Institute-wide shift toward more digital/online services and processes, is changing the way the Institute Archives and Special Collections does business: the business of capturing, preserving, and delivering the past. This work coincides with initiatives within the MIT Libraries, aimed at improving our digital library infrastructure.

Less than a year ago, the Archives hired a Digital Archivist, Kari Smith, and in a short time we’ve made significant progress establishing a digital archives program. Already almost 100,000 files, nearly a terabyte of data, have been safely stored.

“Our first priority was to establish a secure server space where we can work with the digital files during our processing, and for staging the accessioned files prior to their long-term preservation,” Smith said. “Having this space enabled us to move digital files from over forty collections—from CDs, DVDs, diskettes, and other storage media—onto the safe and reliable server space. We have also implemented new policy statements that govern digital files and collections in order to align with our existing collection policies and the MIT Archives’ mandate. These two fundamental activities—having the secure space to keep digital material, and policy statements to guide our practice—provided the timely platform for the accession of our first born-digital collection of FY2013, the Office of the President Records of Susan Hockfield,” she said.

“One of the challenges with digital files is that we need to know so much more about them in order to assure their authenticity and access over time. Information like what software program created the file, how large is the file size, when was it last modified, what is its digital fingerprint, and who was the author, is vital information required to use the file in the future.”

“Figuring out answers to these and other questions and then implementing solutions keeps this work fun and interesting,” Smith added.

An important part of the work has been sharing knowledge and information with colleagues in the MIT community and beyond so that they can better understand the challenges the Archives faces and how to manage their own records and personal archives. Other universities and cultural heritage institutions are grappling with the same challenges. The MIT Archives has been working with our colleagues at the Harvard University Archives to address the particular challenges of digital faculty archives and the changing nature of our business.

Tom Rosko
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MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections
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In addition to archiving the records of MIT’s past presidents, the Libraries also had an active role in the inauguration of MIT’s 17th president L. Rafael Reif. The Libraries’ Academic Media Production Services team provided full video coverage of the symposia leading up to the inauguration as well as the ceremony itself.

On September 21, 2012 the ceremony and inaugural address were broadcast live worldwide via webcast. Institute Archivist, Tom Rosko was co-commentator for the webcast along with Debbie Douglas from the MIT Museum. The duo provided historical background and commentary during the procession. View the video of President Reif’s inaugural address at: techtv.mit.edu/videos/20926
Researchers in MIT’s Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) are using the MIT Libraries’ Geographic Information Systems (GIS) resources to help determine how pricing is affected by new roads in the developing African nations of Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Kenya.

Professor Tavneet Suri and her research assistants use GPS to obtain digital spatial data from remote areas of Africa, where there is often none that exists. They affix cameras to the roofs of vehicles and map roads that have not been documented for many years. They match the resulting maps to survey data and layer it in GIS.

“Being able to overlay survey data with GIS files is really useful,” Suri says.

Suri, a development economist whose research centers on a variety of applied economics issues in sub-Saharan Africa, enlisted the help of the Libraries’ GIS staff in training her research assistants. She said her assistants needed to know a number of GIS tools that would have taken them months of training elsewhere, but the GIS staff “crafted a course around just the things we needed.”

This is one of many ways the Libraries’ GIS Lab is involved in teaching and research at the Institute. The Lab supports all areas of MIT, with heaviest use from the departments of Urban Studies and Planning; Architecture; Economics; Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences; and Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The GIS Lab offers access to spatial data, both through the current tool, Geoweb (web.mit.edu/geoweb), and a desktop ArcGIS search tool that brings data directly to the user’s map. Any MIT user with certificates can view and download the licensed data from Geoweb.

The Libraries’ GIS staff is available to help with research questions. “We treat every inquiry as a reference interview, trying to assess the full problem that the user is working on,” Daniel Sheehan, Senior GIS Specialist says. He adds that the staff gets questions from all areas of study, and can offer guidance in how to tackle tough research problems involving GIS.

Users can stop by the GIS Lab in Rotch Library, open Monday through Friday afternoons and by appointment during the academic year. The staff also offers GIS workshops to the MIT community during IAP, and works with individual classes on request—lecturing and developing GIS based lab exercises.

GIS Lab in Rotch Library

Maps from Professor Suri’s research in Africa

GIS FACTS

In the last 12 months, the Libraries’ GIS Lab documented:

• 1,972 unique logins to Geoweb and 1,222 layers downloaded from Geoweb
• 1,159 unique logins to the MIT Geodata Repository through the desktop tool and 3,781 layers downloaded
• 241 unique patrons in the GIS Lab and a total of 840 reference visits or email exchanges
• 424 of the Geoweb and Arcmap users used GIS resources remotely, without contacting the GIS team

OPENGEOPORTAL TECHNOLOGY

The GIS Lab will launch a new version of Geoweb, powered by OpenGeoPortal this fall. OpenGeoPortal technology will offer users the ability to search and download data from other institutions, including Harvard University, Tufts University, the University of California at Berkeley, and others in the near future. This open source interface opens up new possibilities for research and brings in a wealth of data from geographically diverse schools. OpenGeoPortal was originally developed by Tufts University and is jointly maintained by Tufts University, Harvard University, and MIT.
Since the spring 2012 announcement that the MIT Libraries were chosen to be the stewards of the personal archives of noted linguist, political activist, and Institute Professor emeritus Noam Chomsky, there has been great interest in supporting the project that will enable broad access to the collection.

The Noam Chomsky Collection will include Professor Chomsky’s personal archives, including material related to his academic work as the “Father of Modern Linguistics” and material related to his political activism and outspoken support for freedom of speech and social justice. The collection additionally includes a large portion of his personal library.

Over the coming years, the Institute Archives and Special Collections will transfer this material—paper and digital—to the Archives where it will be organized, preserved and cataloged—using leading archival standards. A portion of the collection will be digitized and made available online. This processing is critical to ensure that Noam Chomsky’s legacy and the impact of his life’s work are properly documented and that long-term access is available to researchers worldwide.

Processing an archival collection of this magnitude requires a great deal of time and resources. Without significant investment, materials in the collection will remain inaccessible to all but the most intrepid researchers. To learn more about the project and ways to contribute to the goal of making the Chomsky Collection available in the broadest and most valuable ways, please contact:

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Institute Archivist and Head,
MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections
617 253 5688
rosko@mit.edu

The MIT Libraries recently received a generous gift of Herb Pomeroy’s personal collection of recordings, scores and parts, photographs, correspondence and teaching notes from his widow, Dodie, and his children. This collection—including thousands of objects—documents the life in music of this legendary trumpeter, big band and small group leader, recording artist, arranger and inspirational teacher. The collection also documents important aspects of jazz performance history at MIT, from 1963 when Herb created and led what became the Festival Jazz Ensemble until his 1985 retirement from leading the band.

Collections such as this one, while immensely valuable to scholars and music lovers, are expensive and challenging to manage and preserve. To ensure long-term preservation and access, funding is needed to develop a comprehensive management program for the Pomeroy Collection. This will include conservation (as needed), re-housing items in proper enclosures, cataloging and inventorying material in the collection, reformattting most recordings to ensure their long-term preservation and accessibility, and addressing legal issues related to copyright of the recordings, scores and parts to determine their availability for use.

Gifts to the Pomeroy Collection Processing Fund (3895710) will provide much needed seed money to allow the Libraries to develop a comprehensive plan for this project and to begin a multi-year effort to make the Libraries’ Pomeroy Collection accessible to current and future generations of students, faculty and musicians.

For more information on the Pomeroy Collection project, please contact:

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Fall Exhibitions

IN THE MAIHAUGEN GALLERY: CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VAIL COLLECTION

The fall exhibit in the Maihaugen Gallery showcases a unique collection on view to the public for the very first time. Magnetic Resonance: Four Centuries of Science from the Vail Collection offers a look inside MIT’s Vail Collection—one of the world’s most important collections of books on magnetism, electricity, animal magnetism, and lighter-than-air travel.

The collection includes foundational texts in the history of science and technology, rare titles from the late 15th-19th centuries, works of popular science, and thousands of rare pamphlets and articles. It came to MIT in 1912, when Theodore N. Vail, president of AT&T and a member of the MIT Corporation, purchased the massive scientific library of George Edward Dering, a reclusive British inventor who had died the year before. Vail presented the collection to MIT on behalf of AT&T, and MIT named the collection in Vail’s honor.

The exhibit marks the 100th anniversary of the Vail Collection’s arrival at the Institute and celebrates the generosity of Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. (MIT 1957), who supported a three-year project to unlock the potential of this stunning collection. Every title has been fully cataloged, essential conservation work has been performed, and the Vail Collection can now be shared with the world. Visit the gallery, attend an event, or explore the collection online at libraries.mit.edu/vail

IN ROTCH LIBRARY: SYNERGY: AN EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNICATING SCIENCE THROUGH ART

Eight Boston and Cape Cod professional artists have been paired with MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution scientists to render complex scientific concepts accessible to the viewer. Both artists and scientists must dynamically translate across disciplines, yielding a heightened clarity for the broader impact of scientific research. The outcome of these collaborations will be an exhibition at the Museum of Science, Boston in 2013 that invites the general public to explore oceanography through compelling art. In anticipation of this show, preliminary works by the artists and original artwork by the scientists are on display at the Rotch Gallery. Visit Rotch to get a sneak peak into the work coming from Synergy. The exhibit is sponsored by the Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT), and Graduate Student Life Grants (GSLG). To learn more, see: www WHOI edu / website / synergy / about - synergy

See a list of exhibit events on page 12, or visit libraries.mit.edu/maihaugen
On behalf of MIT’s faculty and students, and the staff of the MIT Libraries, I am delighted to acknowledge the generosity of the following supporters of our programs and collections. Your gifts play a critical role in our efforts to support the MIT academic community with the information and services they need to do their work. You, our donors, are partners in this endeavor and we are all deeply grateful.

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Director of Libraries

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D=Deceased
Jay K. Lucker, former director of the MIT Libraries, and nationally known library building and planning consultant, passed away on September 2. He was 82.

Lucker was a native of New York City who started his library career at the New York Public Library. He came to the MIT Libraries in 1975 from Princeton University, where he was associate university librarian. During his 20-year career at MIT, he guided the Libraries through the beginning of the transition to many digital library resources and services.

A memorial service will be held for Lucker on Friday, November 9, 2012 at 2 p.m., in Killian Hall, Hayden Library (Bldg 14).
$100–$249

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MIT LIBRARIES JOINS NDSA

In August 2012, MIT Libraries became a member of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) of the Library of Congress. The NDSA continues the groundbreaking work begun by the Library of Congress in 2000 to build a network of organizations to preserve a distributed national digital collection that documents America’s rich heritage. Libraries, archives, and museums; research organizations; nonprofit groups; commercial entities; and the media, e.g., WGBH and the Academy of Motion Pictures, are included in NDSA’s membership, as well as professional associations and government agencies at the federal, state and local levels.

For more than a decade, MIT Libraries has been contributing to the development and leadership of the digital curation and preservation community at the local, national, and international levels and looks forward to continuing our contributions as a member of NDSA.

CBS NEWS FILMS ELIOT BIBLE

A CBS News crew came to the MIT Libraries to film the Eliot Bible and interview Rare Books Manager, Stephen Skuce. MIT owns a copy of the 1685 edition of the Bible, which is a translation of the King James Bible in the Native American language of Wampanoag. The Eliot Bible has been used as a tool to translate the nearly extinct language. The footage will be part of an upcoming piece on the CBS Evening News about the Wampanoag language, and efforts to revive it.

BARKER READING ROOM—24/7 ACCESS COMING SOON

The Barker Reading Room has been closed temporarily during the fall term for construction. Among the renovations, a new entrance will be added to the Reading Room to make it accessible as a 24-hour study space. An around-the-clock Reading Room under the iconic Dome will significantly expand students’ options for late night study on campus. Currently the Libraries offer secure 24/7 study areas in both Hayden and Dewey libraries: the addition of the Barker Reading Room will more than triple the amount of space currently available for 24/7 study. The Libraries expect to inaugurate 24-hour service in Barker beginning in early 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 1, 5:00pm
Digitizing the Culture of Print: The Digital Public Library of America and other Urgent Projects
MIT Communications Forum moderated by Ann Wolpert
Media Lab (E14-633)

Thursday, November 8, 11:00am
The Scientific Conversation and the Vail Collection: Gallery Talk & Tour
Maihaugen Gallery (14N-130)

Thursday, November 15, 5:00pm
Composer Forum lecture with Philippe Leroux
Lewis Music Library (14E-109)

Friday, November 16, 10:30am
MIT’s Vail Collection: From the Lodestone to the X-Ray
Institute Archives (14N-118)

Wednesday, November 28, 3:00pm
The Scientific Conversation and the Vail Collection: Gallery Talk & Tour
Maihaugen Gallery (14N-130)