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On Wednesday, October 2, 2013 the MIT Libraries lost a great leader, mentor and friend. Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries, passed away after a brief illness, at age 70. Those who knew Ann, and who read her columns in this space, benefited from her thoughtful wisdom, engaging wit, and sharp intellect.

Ann’s first “From the Director” column appeared in the Spring 1996 issue of what was then MIT Libraries’ News. In it she announced that, “MIT and its Libraries were in for an exciting time…The potential of the Internet and World Wide Web to enhance traditional teaching has energized faculty and students—as well as librarians.” It was with that energy and enthusiasm that Ann led the MIT Libraries into the digital future—she faced it head-on, and embraced it.

In the spring of 2000, as MIT began a capital campaign, Ann advocated for the expanded technology needs of MIT’s students and libraries. “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,” she wrote.

During her tenure Ann was steadfast in advancing the needs of MIT’s students and faculty—the Libraries became more wired (and now wireless) than ever, and the number of electronic resources grew by leaps and bounds. Library spaces evolved too. Renovation projects were completed in the Lewis Music, Dewey, and Barker libraries; 24/7 study spaces opened in Hayden, Dewey, and Barker; and the Digital Instruction Resource Center (DIRC), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab, Wunch Preservation Lab, and Maihaugen Gallery were envisioned and created.

“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,” she would say.

Often it seemed that Ann moved at a 24/7 pace herself, along with the Institute. With this momentum she led the Libraries into new and exciting collaborations with potential for long-lasting impact. In her Spring 2001 column she announced, “In typical MIT fashion, the MIT Libraries have chosen to tackle important but difficult research problems, and to work with industry on real problems whenever possible.”

She went on to outline a partnership with Hewlett Packard that would lead to the development of DSpace, an open-source digital repository to preserve faculty research. Ultimately the DSpace platform would become one of the most successful programs of its kind, adopted by more than 1,000 institutions worldwide.

Ann was equally engaged in efforts to change the traditional model of scholarly publishing. In a climate of escalating journal prices that challenged all academic libraries, she advocated, along with MIT faculty, for alternatives that would allow greater access for everyone.

In 2009 the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy was enacted, and in her column she wrote, “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…The MIT Libraries are honored to host these articles in our online repository DSpace@MIT.”

Ann would be the first to point out that many of the successes during her tenure were accomplished with the help of library friends and supporters. As she remarked in her Fall 2000 column, “Friends, it is said, are like porch pillars. Sometimes you need them to lean on. Sometimes it’s enough to just know they are standing by.” During this time of transition, we give deep thanks to you, our friends and supporters, for your kind words and condolences. We are very grateful to have you standing by.
Ann Wolpert, MIT's director of libraries since 1996, has died after a brief illness. She was 70 years old. Wolpert was a pioneer in digital stewardship, bringing to the MIT community a deep understanding of scholarship, of research, and of the library’s broader mission to preserve and disseminate knowledge. Under her leadership, the MIT Libraries developed DSpace, a milestone in digital libraries that catalyzed the institutional repository movement.

Wolpert began work at MIT just as the Internet was emerging, and her tenure was marked by her passionate response to the opportunity and upheaval that resulted for research libraries. In scientific, research, and university communities around the world, a debate, still unresolved, came to the fore: how the decades-old system of peer-reviewed scholarly journals ought to operate in the digital world.

Wolpert became a leading voice in that discussion; she argued for unrestricted online access to journal articles. In a February 2013 essay in the New England Journal of Medicine, she not only made the case for such access: She also called it an inevitability. “There is no doubt,” she wrote, “that the public interests vested in funding agencies, universities, libraries, and authors, together with the power and reach of the Internet, have created a compelling and necessary momentum for open access. It won’t be easy, and it won’t be inexpensive, but it is only a matter of time.”

Though Wolpert made her case forcefully, she was not dismissive of concerns about how open access might work in practice, and she upheld the value of peer review. “The fact,” she wrote, “that faculty members and researchers donate to publishers the ownership of their research articles—as well as their time and effort as reviewers—does not mean that there are no expenses associated with the production of high-quality publications. For all its known flaws, no one wants to destroy peer-reviewed publication.”

Hal Abelson, the Class of 1922 Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at MIT and founding director of both Creative Commons and the Free Software Foundation, remembers Wolpert as “one of the great intellectual leaders at MIT.” She fused, he says, a mix of business experience from her earlier career with serious academic curiosity and integrity. “Ann was funny, warm, caring, and remarkably fair,” Abelson says.

“She believed in open access, but it went deeper than that,” he adds. “Her central insight was that in the age of the Internet, a great research library could serve not only as a window into scholarly output for given members of university and research communities, but also as a window for the world at large into the scholarly enterprise. That was a great and thrilling idea, and she pursued it deftly and with great respect for the full spectrum of faculty views.”

“I knew her to be very dedicated to MIT, and she thought carefully about how our library system could best serve the Institute and beyond. She was an excellent steward of our scholarship—and a very dear colleague. I will miss her very much.”

– L. Rafael Reif, MIT President
MIT President L. Rafael Reif, in his previous role as provost, worked closely with Wolpert. “I knew her to be very dedicated to MIT, and she thought carefully about how our library system could best serve the Institute and beyond,” he says. “She was an excellent steward of our scholarship—and a very dear colleague. I will miss her very much.”

As Director of Libraries, Wolpert managed the MIT Libraries and the MIT Press. The MIT Libraries—with five major subject collections, the Institute Archives and Special Collections, and a staff of 170—support the research and teaching needs of the Institute community. The MIT Press publishes around 30 journals and 220 books each year in a wide range of subjects.

Wolpert also served on MIT’s Committee on Intellectual Property, the Council on Educational Technology, the OpenCourseWare Faculty Advisory Committee, the Deans’ Group, and Academic Council. She also served as chair of the board of directors of MIT Technology Review. In 2000, Wolpert helped lead the MIT Libraries’ collaboration with Hewlett-Packard to build DSpace, an open-source digital archive for faculty output that has been adopted by more than 1,000 institutions worldwide. In 2009, Wolpert was instrumental in the conception and passage of the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy, whereby faculty authors give MIT nonexclusive permission to disseminate their journal articles for open access through DSpace@MIT. It was the first institution-wide policy of its kind in the United States. Open sharing of MIT scholarship has given readers around the world access to the results of MIT’s research.

Wolpert continued to be a player in other “startups” that have the potential to transform the way research institutions and their libraries collaborate to solve problems big enough to call for a collective response. She referred to these as “solutions at scale.” Among them is the Digital Preservation Network (DPN), to whose inaugural board she was recently appointed. DPN was created to ensure that the scholarly record is preserved for future generations by using a shared, national preservation ecosystem composed of several federated, replicating nodes containing redundant copies of all deposits to protect against catastrophic loss.

Wolpert was a leader in her field. “Ann has been a trailblazer in defining the new roles of libraries in an era of data-intensive scholarship,” says Cliff Lynch, executive director of the Coalition for Networked Information. “Her work in the development of institutional repositories as a means of curating and making public the research contributions of universities has fundamentally reshaped strategies for managing scholarship at a national and international level. She will be greatly missed.”

Prior to joining MIT, Wolpert was executive director of library and information services at the Harvard Business School. Her experience previous to Harvard included management of the information center of Arthur D. Little, Inc., an international management and consulting firm, where she also worked on various consulting assignments. More recent consulting assignments took her to the University of New Mexico, Cornell University and Adelphi University in New York, the campuses of INCAE in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, MASDAR in Abu Dhabi, the League of European Research Libraries in Amsterdam, the National Library of China, and the Malaysia University of Science and Technology.

In 2005 Wolpert served as president of the Association of Research Libraries and was most recently a member of its Influencing Public Policies Steering Committee. She served on the boards of directors of the Boston Library Consortium, the National Academies’ Board of Research Data and Information (BRDI), DuraSpace, and DPN, and on the steering committee of the Coalition for Networked Information. She also served as a publications advisor to the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Wolpert received a BA from Boston University and an MLS from Simmons College, where she was an honorary trustee and a member of the board of advisors of the PhD Program in Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Wolpert is survived by her husband, Samuel A. Otis Jr., and a large extended family.

Gifts in memory of Ann Wolpert may be made to MIT for the Ann J. Wolpert Strategic Initiatives Fund (3933810) to support the MIT Libraries. Contact Bonny Kellermann ’72, Director of Memorial Gifts, at bonnyk@mit.edu, for details.

An MIT memorial service is planned for January 31, 2014 at 3:00 p.m; in Building 10-250. The service will be open to the academic and professional community both locally and nationally.
The Aga Khan Documentation Center at the MIT Libraries (AKDC@MIT) has become a repository for select personal archives of architects working in the Middle East. The first architect archive acquired by the AKDC@MIT arrived in the summer of 2012 as a gift from the distinguished Iraqi architect and urban planner, Mohamed Saleh Makiya. Makiya's generous gift to the AKDC@MIT documents his prodigious career, spanning five decades and work in over one dozen countries. The vast archive contains materials ranging from personal correspondence, project notes, and hand drawn design sketches, to formal proposals, final drawings, and photographs for projects built and unbuilt.

Mohamed Makiya (1914 – ) was born in Baghdad and educated in England, receiving his Bachelor of Architecture at Liverpool School of Architecture and a diploma in civic planning from Liverpool University in 1941 and 1942, respectively. He completed his PhD in 1946 at Kings College, Cambridge, and returned to Baghdad that same year to establish Makiya Associates, an architectural and planning consultancy practice.

During the 1950s he designed houses and commercial buildings and became increasingly aware of the heritage of Iraqi architecture. Makiya was one of the original founders of the Department of Architecture at the College of Engineering, Baghdad University, in 1959, and served as its head until 1968. During subsequent years, Makiya Associates offices were established in Bahrain, Oman, London, Kuwait, Doha, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai.

The work and ideas of Mohamed Makiya and his firm have been investigated in numerous books and articles, and examined and explored in conferences and exhibitions, including an international conference on Baghdad architectural heritage held earlier this year at the University of Baghdad. The conference was part of the events of “Baghdad, Arab Capital of Culture for the Year 2013,” sponsored through a partnership between the University of Baghdad, Ifpo (the French Institute of the Near East), and the UNESCO Office for Iraq. Makiya's contributions to the fields of architecture and urbanism and, in particular, his sophisticated incorporation of traditional forms into modern architecture, cannot be overstated.

The Mohamed Makiya Archive was highlighted at the MIT Libraries this past summer when the first important commission of Makiya's career, the Khulafa Mosque (1960–1963; proposed extension, 1980), was presented as part of the larger Rotch Library exhibition, Learning with Visual Architecture Collections: Highlights from Rotch Digital Collections. “Mohamed Makiya and the Khulafa Mosque Project(s)” included 25 images of sketches, design notes, plans, and photographs reproduced from originals held in the archive. The images told the story of this monumental project that developed around the only remaining artifact of the ninth-century Abbasid mosque once occupying the space: the dilapidated minaret of al-Ghazl. Makiya's innovative design for the mosque, located in the Sababigh al-Aal neighborhood of Old Baghdad, embodied ideas of urban conservation, regionalism in form, and continuity of architectural heritage; ideas which informed his work henceforth as well as that of younger generations of architects.

Select projects from the Mohamed Makiya Archive will be available as a digital collection at archnet.org, an international online community for architects, planners, urban designers, landscape architects, conservationists, students, and scholars, with a focus on Muslim cultures and civilizations, co-managed by AKDC@MIT and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Geneva, Switzerland. The physical archive is available to students, faculty, researchers, and scholars in the Center by appointment. See libguides.mit.edu/islam-arch for more information.

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In recent years, the generous support of donors has helped us increase the visibility of the MIT Libraries’ special collections, making the past come alive.

The Maihaugen Gallery, funded by an anonymous donor and the family of Gary Gregory (Class of 1973), has allowed us to showcase our treasures through numerous exhibitions. Since it first opened in 2008, over 10,000 guests have toured the exhibits. The creation of the gallery literally opened a window into our archives and special collections.

A gift from Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. (Class of 1957) enabled us to conserve and catalog the Vail Rare Book collection. The collection of over 15,000 items is now fully searchable online though the Barton catalog. The project uncovered many historical gems, and allowed us to more easily discover and share these amazing materials in the classroom, where they give students a unique hands-on educational experience, and bring a sense of wonderment.

Generous donations from Lionel Kinney (Class of 1953) supported the Music@MIT Oral History Project, resulting in a wonderful collection of oral histories, which were recently made available on the Libraries’ website (read more about the project on page 7). Additional funding from the Kinney gift is being used for a Music@MIT Digital Audio Initiative, providing for the digital reformatting of decaying analog materials, enabling proper preservation, and better access.

New donor funding is also helping with the processing of two recently acquired archival collections, the Herb Pomeroy Jazz Collection and the Jordan Baruch Papers. Pomeroy was a noted jazz trumpeter and former leader of the MIT Jazz Ensemble. Baruch was an acoustical engineer who worked at Bolt, Beranek and Newman (BBN), taught at MIT, and was U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce during the Carter administration.

Organizing and describing archival materials (or “processing” materials) is a labor-intensive activity, but a necessary one—without this step archival collections are extremely difficult to navigate and mine. Once processed, these collections are more useful and effective for scholarly research.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, the special collections mentioned above are now accessible well beyond the Libraries’ walls. But with over 20,000,000 items in the Institute Archives and Special Collections, there are still only a fraction of our collections that are appropriately accessible, and many remain “hidden.” Gifts to the Institute Archives and Special Collections Fund (Archives Collection Fund 2780500) will help us continue to bring these valuable collections to light.

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GOLD SOUNDS
MIT’S MUSIC TALENTS CONTRIBUTE TO A NEW ORAL HISTORY

From the MIT Alumni Association’s Slice of MIT

“I never have said this to the students, and you may want to edit this out,” John Corley said in a 1999 interview with the Lewis Music Library’s Forrest Larson, “but I’ll characterize MIT and music: there’s no substitute for brains, you know. We’re able to do things at MIT that I couldn’t do at a conservatory.”

Such notes of wisdom emerge when one enters the new virtual space, libraries.mit.edu/music-oral-history, of the MIT Music Oral History Project. Cataloging over a decade of interviews, this audio and video archive of nearly 50 notable interviews has been made available to the public for the first time.

Corley, who founded the MIT Concert Band in 1949, chats for nearly six hours on tape with Larson, relating colorful tales of students, field trips, concerts, and fans in the half-century of his tenure. But Corley’s interview is only one such gem in the collection, an effort made possible by a gift from Lionel ’53 and Vilma Kinney which is housed in MIT’s Lewis Music Library.

The archive includes interviews with professors, visiting artists, department heads, conductors, and Techtonians—students who played all manner of instruments, from violin to trumpet to electronica.

Larson, who is the circulation and reserves associate at Lewis, discovered that his interview subjects were not just telling the story of music at MIT, but the history of music in the world. In frank and lengthy conversations with his subjects, Larson was pleased to hear his subjects cover “more than just their love of music. What it shows you is the culture of MIT and the students who come out of that…the fact that they’re often not one-track minded people, but have a broad interest in things.”

Each interviewee is as intriguing as the next. Herb Pomeroy, the first director of MIT Jazz Bands and founder of the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, recalls his recruitment to the Institute in a candid moment.

“So the phone rang…I answered it. He said, ‘I’m Klaus Liepmann, Director of Music at MIT. We have a band here at MIT that is so bad,’ he said, ‘that I’ve told them to disband. Or if they—if they want to continue, do not use the name MIT to be associated with.’”

Thankfully, they did not disband. Pomeroy, then a Berklee professor, took up the cause, and brought great distinction to the jazz scene on the north side of the Charles.

Scholars have already used the project as a starting or continuing point for other kinds of research, most frequently about the collection’s influential figures. But Larson says he looks forward to helping others discover uses for it in the years to come.

Joe McGonegal
Communications Specialist, MIT Alumni Association
jmcc@mit.edu

Music has been an important part of MIT since its creation,” says Peter Munstedt, Lewis Music Librarian. “Going back to the 19th century, it’s always been an integral part of life here.”
SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES

DAMBROGIO NAMED AS LIBRARIES’ THOMAS F. PETERSON (1957) CONSERVATOR

Jana Dambrogio has joined the MIT Libraries as the new Thomas F. Peterson (1957) Conservator. In this role she manages MIT’s special collections conservation program—planning and executing conservation treatments for the physical maintenance of rare books, archives, and manuscripts. She also contributes to the Libraries’ overall preservation strategy.

Dambrogio comes from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) where she was a senior conservator since 2004. In addition to her work at NARA, she brings an impressive array of experience from consultancies, fellowships, and internships at other well-known national and international institutions such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, the Vatican Secret Archives, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the Houghton Library at Harvard University.

“Jana is an experienced and innovative conservator who brings a high level of commitment, notable ability, and passion for conservation that we have been fortunate to have in this position,” said Nancy McGovern, head of curation and preservation services.

Dambrogio fills the role left open after Nancy Schrock retired in February 2013. The conservator position is endowed by generous long-time MIT Libraries’ supporter Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. (Class of 1957).

MIT AND HARVARD LIBRARIES AWARDED GRANT TO FOSTER CAREERS IN DIGITAL STEWARDSHIP

MIT and Harvard libraries will play a role in ensuring a new generation of library school graduates will be prepared for jobs in digital stewardship. The universities were jointly awarded a 2013 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant for nearly $500,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that will fund a pilot program to help recent graduates gain the skills, experience, and network needed to begin successful careers.

“The real gap between students graduating and the skills they need for available jobs. The program aims to bridge that gap,” said Nancy McGovern, head of curation and preservation services for MIT Libraries, and a co-author of the grant proposal.

The program will mirror a national digital curation residency program developed by the Library of Congress, but it will be the first of its kind in the Boston-area. Over the course of two years a total of ten residents will get hands-on experience in projects that involve digital library collections, long-term preservation, and accessibility of digital assets. Recent library school graduates will have a chance to apply for the program that will give them the opportunity to work with a host institution in the Boston-area, and network with other area institutions, industry leaders, and peers.

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“It’s an exciting opportunity for the MIT Libraries to participate in raising awareness, and building community and competencies in this field,” said McGovern.

McGovern will coordinate the development of the program’s curriculum, in collaboration with Andrea Goethals, manager of digital preservation and repository services for Harvard Library, and lead author of the grant proposal. The first year of the grant will cover planning and preparation. The program will welcome the first cohort of residents in fall 2014.
We are delighted and grateful to acknowledge the generosity of the following supporters of our programs and collections. As donors, you make it possible for the MIT Libraries and its staff to provide the critical information resources and services that are required to support the MIT academic community.

We remain committed to serving the needs of our great students and faculty, and we are all deeply and sincerely grateful for your enthusiasm and support!

Co-Interim Directors

Steve Gass
Diane Geraci

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IMPROVED LIBRARY SEARCH TOOL

BartonPlus, a new search tool that brings together many library collections in one search interface—it searches the MIT Libraries’ classic Barton Catalog, as well as most MIT-licensed e-resources like e-books and full-text articles. On the homepage libraries.mit.edu, you’ll find BartonPlus in the “Start your search” box. Features include:

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• Expanded article searching, with results from many more databases than our previous article finder, Vera Multi-Search.
• An updated user interface with book cover images, multiple options for limiting search results, relevancy ranking, “did you mean” suggestions for misspelled search terms, and more.

OPEN ACCESS MILESTONES

In October the Libraries celebrated International Open Access Week and the fourth anniversary of the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy. It was also in October that the 10,000th paper was added to the Open Access Articles Collection, which houses papers collected under the Policy. In four years, downloads of papers have grown past the 1.3 million mark, and have been documented from every corner of the globe.

Positive comments have poured in from all types of readers, many of whom previously felt excluded from scholarly research because of article costs. One thank-you note echoes the sentiments of several readers: “I thought I would show my appreciation for the open access that MIT affords. Many projects and papers require access to cutting-edge studies and articles. Many of these are unfortunately stuck behind pay-walls. Having access to these types of information has helped me succeed.”

SPECIAL COLLECTION ITEMS ON LOAN

Several pieces from the Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation Collection are on loan to Historic Newton for the exhibit “Charles J. Connick: Adventurer in Light and Color.” The exhibit at the Jackson Homestead and Museum in Newton, Massachusetts, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of Connick’s studio and explores the prominent stained glass artist’s life and work. It will be on view until July 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12–17
Finals Week Study Breaks
in Hayden (Dec. 12 at 2pm), Dewey (Dec. 13 at 2pm), Rotch (Dec. 13 at 2pm) and Barker (Dec. 17 at 2pm)

December 31
“Noteworthy Connections: Music in the MIT Libraries” exhibit closes
Mahaugeen Gallery (14N-130)

January 6
Independent Activities Period (IAP) begins
For a list of MIT Libraries classes see: libraries.mit.edu/classes

January 31, 3pm
MIT Memorial Service for Ann Wolpert, Building 10-250

Coming Soon
Opening in February in the Maihaugen Gallery: “Project Computing”, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Project MAC, the exhibit highlights MIT’s computer research.

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