
I. Introduction

The MIT Libraries are central to the successful achievement of MIT’s mission “...to advance knowledge and educate students ... [its commitment] to generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge, and to working with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges.” The Libraries contribute by creating services and delivering resources fundamental to the Institute’s pursuit of excellence in learning, teaching, and research.

Under the leadership of its President, L. Rafael Reif, MIT has embarked on an ambitious agenda to create the future of higher education, to contribute substantially to solving humanity’s great challenges, to invent technologies and create companies that make the world a better place, to extend MIT’s reach and impact around the globe, and to foster a more diverse and inclusive MIT. To advance this agenda during a time of remarkable technological, pedagogical, and economic change, the Libraries have leveraged an increasingly networked and collaborative landscape to improve the productivity of the MIT community. This has been accomplished by embracing these changes, and continually seeking opportunities to innovate and improve service.

Ongoing success requires agile planning and wise investment. The Libraries have spent the past year developing a new template for action. This strategic plan outlines the Libraries’ role, aspirations, principles, and areas for strategic investment over the next three years. Through conversations with faculty, students, researchers, and staff, five priority areas have emerged. Concentrating efforts on these areas, the Libraries will further advance MIT’s agenda.

The MIT Libraries remain focused on core academic support of the MIT community. This includes easy access to millions of scholarly resources, expertise in finding and using these resources, quality spaces for individual and group study and work, and the expertise to preserve and make available the knowledge that MIT generates. The strategic priorities in this Plan are vital to leading and inventing the next phase of library services in response to new demands. The challenge is to balance our time and energy appropriately over the full spectrum of library services that provide value to the community.

II. Mission

The mission of the MIT Libraries is to create and sustain an evolving information environment that advances learning, research, and innovation at MIT. We are committed to excellence in

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1 http://web.mit.edu/facts/mission.html
2 http://president.mit.edu/speeches-writing/inaugural-address
services, strategies, and systems that promote discovery, preserve knowledge, and improve worldwide scholarly communication.

III. Vision

Guided by a user-centered approach that values diversity and inclusion the Libraries:

- Enable seamless discovery and access to scholarly information sources.
- Provide the MIT community with expert support and training to find, evaluate, manage, and use information resources.
- Create high-quality spaces for both reflective and collaborative work and study.
- Manage and preserve knowledge, with an emphasis on MIT-created content.
- Lead initiatives to inform and shape the future of libraries and scholarly research.

IV. Guiding Principles

The Libraries are guided by an essential set of principles for achieving its mission and vision. They serve as the foundation for planning and action across the Libraries:

- Partner with faculty to advance the Libraries’ mission.
- Collaborate across MIT and beyond to evolve services and collections.
- Use data-driven assessment to inform decision-making.
- Develop and maintain a diverse, skilled, and engaged workforce dedicated to an inclusive MIT community.
- Foster a spirit of innovation.
- Advocate for sound information policy.
- Leverage fundraising to strengthen library programs.

V. Strategic Priorities

Advance Digital Scholarship and Research
The Libraries will continue active participation, leadership, and research in local, national, and global efforts that shape the future of scholarly communication. Among the areas of engagement are open access, copyright policy, digital preservation, and research data management.

Expand Investments in Digital Content Management Infrastructure and Services
The Libraries will improve its ability to acquire, manage, and deliver digitized and born digital archives and collections to the MIT community, and beyond as appropriate. The Libraries will collaborate with partners and service providers to enhance long-term preservation and access to MIT scholarship, research outputs, and other scholarly information essential to MIT’s research and teaching.
Participate Actively in Digital Learning at MIT
The Libraries will work with the Office of Digital Learning, including MITx, and other partners to support MIT’s development and experimentation in digital learning. This will include providing appropriate instruction in partnership with faculty and other teaching staff to benefit student learning outcomes as well as expertise and training in content, copyright, and licensing issues.

Enhance the On-Campus Experience through Transformed Library Services and Spaces
The Libraries will partner with key library constituencies, e.g., faculty, students, postdocs, research staff, to identify opportunities to improve the residential experience. Collaborating with other service providers when appropriate, the Libraries will develop easier access to world-class collections, spaces, and services.

Strengthen Support for MIT’s Global Engagement
The Libraries will strengthen its understanding of the diverse research and teaching needs of MIT’s global initiatives and programs. This will create the opportunity to improve library services in support of MIT’s global engagement.