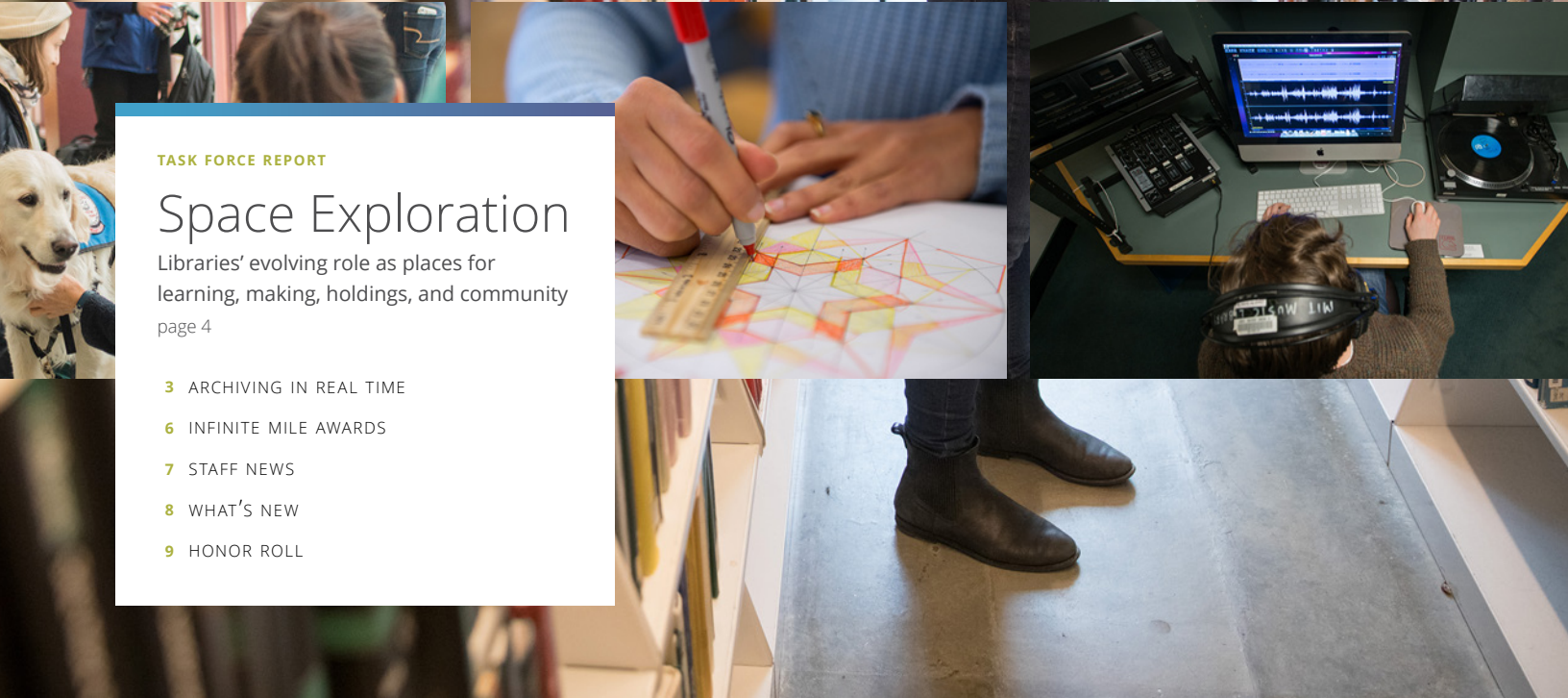


Bib·li·o·tech

NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES



MIT Libraries



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From the Director


I am excited to share with you the critical steps we have taken toward realizing the vision of the Future of Libraries report. It's fitting that we share this news at the same time that we recognize our generous donors of the past year. You truly are our partners in pursuing these ambitious plans.

This summer we launched the Ad Hoc Task Force on Open Access to MIT Research, one of the 10 recommendations of the report. Provost Martin Schmidt has charged this group with exploring ways that MIT's open access policies and practices might be updated or revised to further the Institute's mission to share the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible.

Within the Libraries, we are launching a strategic planning process that will give us a blueprint for achieving the goals of the Future of Libraries report. I'm thrilled to announce that Tracy Gabridge will be leading this effort as our newly appointed deputy director. As you'll read in this issue of *Bibliotech*, we're beginning to reimagine the Libraries' physical spaces. We have launched several experiments to see how we can expand our role as both a dynamic place for creating and community building and a comfortable space for reflection and recharging.

We're also getting down to the business of setting our research agenda. With the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the MIT Libraries will be hosting a summit on the Grand Challenges in Information Sciences and Scholarly Communication. With invited experts from across disciplines and sectors, we will identify critical problems that are solvable within 10 years and which have bold implications across the scholarly community. I hope you will stay tuned as we share more from this exciting initiative that will establish our leadership in this area of research and development.

Thank you again for your support during this transformative time for the Libraries. I look forward to sharing more of our progress with you.

All the best,

Chris Bourg, PhD

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

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BIBLIOTECH

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Archiving in Real Time

Capturing historical moments in context

By Hannah Piecuch

"It's only recently that we're able to quickly document something, get more information about it, and then turn around and share it."

—TOM ROSKO



Photo: Justin Knight

Last November, the morning after the presidential election, MIT students wrapped blank posters around the pillars in Lobby 7 to give their classmates a space to write their hopes and fears in a place that was both public and safe.

The posters asked open-ended questions: **What do you want to know? Share your hopes. Share your fears. What should we do next?** Hundreds of people stopped to write. Within a matter of days, the MIT Libraries' Institute Archives and Special Collections (IASC) decided to preserve and digitize the posters as part of the memory of MIT, rallying resources throughout the Libraries to help.

This was an act that Tom Rosko, the head of IASC, calls "archiving in real time." Preserving an object immediately after it is created is a departure from the traditional archival practice of letting some time pass before deciding what has historical value. But it made sense in this situation, Rosko says, because the election was a historic moment and the national reaction so divided.

"The record of history is generally kept and presented by the people in power," Rosko says. "And those who are marginalized or those who are transient—like students—don't get to tell their perspectives."

Recent advances in technology, from social media to better scanning capabilities, have helped create historical records and make them accessible faster than ever. With the flood of information, IASC has started to shift its processes to be able to do this kind of work better, Rosko says: "It's only recently that we're able to quickly document something, get more information about it, and then turn around and share it."

Archiving in real time has its complications—archivists are often emotionally close to the subject—but one of the biggest advantages is that the creators of records are present and able to contextualize their work. It also supports one of the particular interests of the IASC and the Libraries: Getting all sides of a story that is unfolding right now.

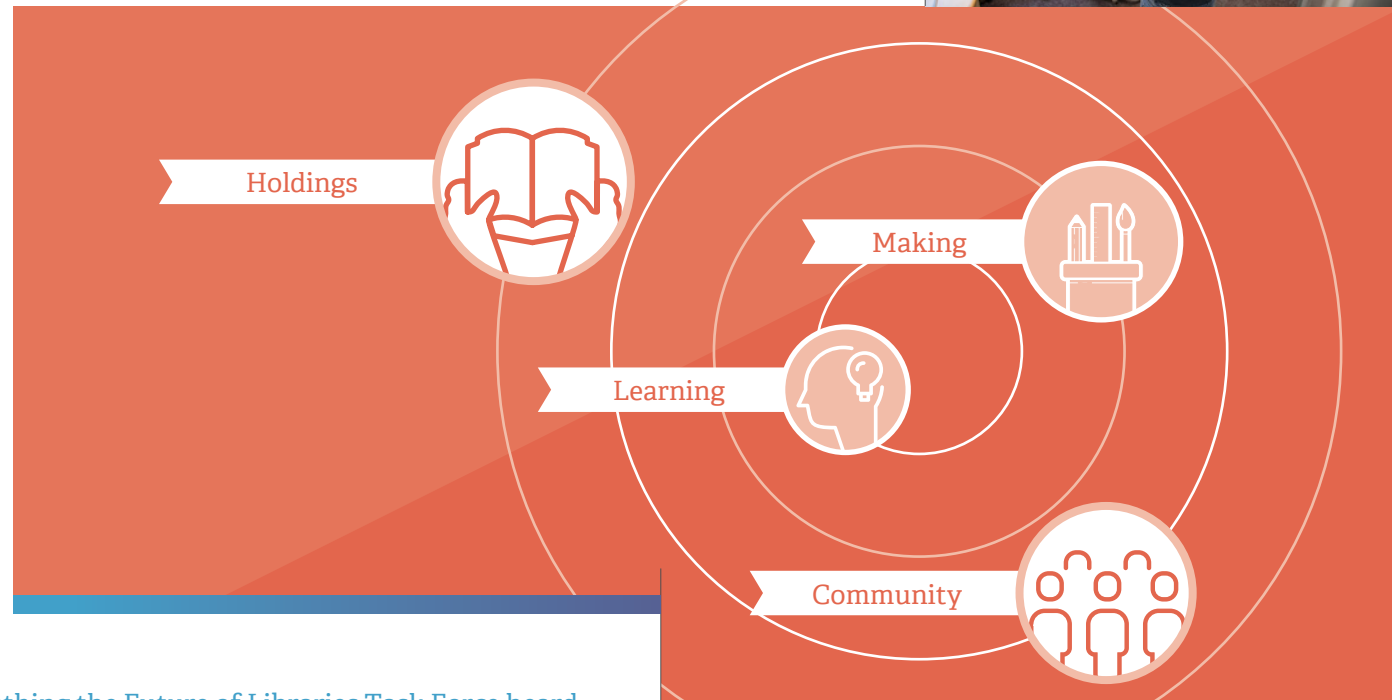
View the posters online at →
libraries.mit.edu/2016-election-posters/

Space Exploration

Libraries' evolving role as places for learning, making, holdings, and community



Photos: Bryce Vickmark



It's something the Future of Libraries Task Force heard time and again, from faculty and staff, students and alumni: the critical importance of the library as a physical space. A library is a place where communities can gather, to interact with one another and with scholarly objects and tools or to retreat and think deeply. Here are some of the ways our library spaces are evolving—and may be reimagined in the future—to achieve the ambitious vision set out by the task force.



Building a vision

In December 2016, Director Chris Bourg convened a Libraries Space Planning Group. Chaired by Bourg and J. Meejin Yoon, professor and head of the Department of Architecture, the group determined that library spaces can and should be redesigned and reconfigured to suit the future needs of the campus. They put forth four essential functions that library spaces serve: holdings, learning, community, and creating.

In March the group laid out a space renovation and reprogramming path for Building 14 to begin achieving the task force's recommendations. It embraces a shift from libraries being primarily a container for knowledge used for information consumption toward being spaces that also support the creation of knowledge and community.

"The Libraries are well known as spaces for collections and where studying happens, but I think MIT is increasingly recognizing the role that libraries play in teaching and fostering scholarly community."

Says Tracy Gabridge, the Libraries' deputy director: "The MIT community recognizes the expertise of library staff to support creating and disseminating new digital information objects, such as audio, layers of geographic data, research data sets, and more."

The group discussed, for example, how Hayden Library could be used more effectively as a place for formal and informal events that bring people together across departments and schools. The Lewis Music Library, already an essential gathering place for the MIT music community, could increase its focus on creating, particularly related to audio/visual production. A rich array of services—in GIS, open access and copyright support, research data management, digital sustainability, and research in information science—should all be made more visible to users.

"As libraries, we provide a foundation upon which the MIT community can create and flourish," says Gabridge. "We could be using our spaces better to showcase how we inspire and facilitate work."

Study space experiments

When the Libraries rearranged Hayden Library's collections in January, it offered an opportunity to experiment with portions of the reading rooms. Stacks were removed from the two mezzanine levels, which will be transformed into areas for reflective and collaborative work and learning. During the fall semester, the center mezzanines will be upgraded with power outlets and task lighting, soundscaping, and new furniture—suggestions gathered by sifting through past survey data and feedback gathered by the Future of Libraries Task Force.

Following the experiment, Libraries staff will gather feedback from the community about how to equip the remaining mezzanines, information that will ultimately guide renovations to Hayden and other study spaces.

Additional space projects

Also underway are plans for an active learning classroom in Barker Library, a dedicated event area with flexible furniture in Hayden Library, and expanding the GIS Lab along with providing space for research data management staff in Rotch Library.

Lewis Music Library Audio Lab

Classes at MIT increasingly require students to create audio components as part of their assignments. As usual, the Lewis Music Library is adapting to meet these evolving needs.

"There has been a need on campus for an audio lab where students can compose, edit, and mix music," says Peter Munstedt, music librarian.

Working together with faculty, the library created a prototype for such a lab: a room housing two workstations with computers and audio equipment, outfitted with acoustical panels and new lighting. The library's new audio lab will help determine faculty and student interest and plan for additional facility needs moving forward.

"The audio lab is open to the whole MIT community," says Munstedt. "There's really no other space like it on campus."



Photo: Christopher Harting

Infinite Mile Awards

Annual celebration of excellence honors employees' exceptional contributions



**Innovation,
Creativity &
Problem Solving**

Matt Bernhardt, Web Developer

**Community
Building**

Julia Lanigan, Collections and Administrative Assistant

Crossing the Charles competition captains: Katharine Dunn and Mikki Macdonald

**Results, Outcome &
Productivity**

Mary Jeanne Yuen, Metadata Production Associate

**Communication &
Collaboration**

Lobby 7 post-2016 election poster team: Liz Andrews, Matt Bernhardt, Frances Botsford, Emily Crawford, Katherine Crowe, Myles Crowley, Darcy Duke, Nora Murphy, Kari Smith, and Chris Tanguay

**Unsung Hero/
Heroine**

Judith Gallagher, Financial and Payroll Associate

Tim Rix, Systems Administrator

Customer Service

Library Storage Annex scanning team: Howard Martin and Allegra Zoller



Q&A with Amy Nurnberger

Meet the Program Head for Data Management Services

Q: How would you describe your role?

A: In data management we partner with researchers across the research life cycle to increase the impact of that research through appropriate data management practices. My role is to coordinate and communicate this work and think about where it is going next. With ever expanding technological changes, it's always a new frontier. What are our responsibilities, what are the responsibilities of researchers, and what resources are available to best partner to achieve the Institute's goals?

Q: What's the biggest challenge you face in data management?

A: It's such a large area of endeavor; there is so much data being produced in the pursuit of human knowledge and accomplishment, and some part of it has to be maintained. Plus, research itself is always changing. There are always new tools and methods, but some of the basic needs remain constant—the challenge is how we address everything. We need to think about what we ultimately want to accomplish and how we serve the goals of the Institute, and to work backwards.

Q: What are some of the other issues you think about as the leader of this program?

A: Technology and our understanding of scholarly communications are constantly evolving. There used to be this idea of the researcher as a solitary hero. How do we combine that with the collaboration, inclusiveness, interdisciplinarity, and interconnectedness that research now requires? Data needs to be collected, documented, described, and made accessible in ways that extend its use beyond the original research focus, so it can be employed in ways even the researcher didn't envision.

I also think about the voices in research that haven't been heard because of issues of equity. We need to make data accessible in ways that expand global research participation: who can use it, what can it be used for, and how global contributors are being recognized.

Libraries welcome new colleagues and salute decades of service

New Appointments

MARTINA ANDERSON //
E-Resources Associate

EMILY CRAWFORD //
Digital Collections Associate

RENÉE HELLENBRECHT //
Administrative Assistant

HYO LEE //
Metadata Quality Assurance Associate

AMY NURNBERGER //
Program Head for Data Management Services

SAM SPENCER //
Administrative Assistant/Access Services Associate

Retirements

CHARLENE FOLLETT //
Tangible Formats Acquisitions Librarian

JOE HANKINS //
Access Services Associate



MIT Press' Kelly McDougall and Amy Brand

New from the MIT Press
Digitization project provides access to hundreds of backlist titles

The MIT Press and the Internet Archive are partnering, with support from Arcadia, to scan, preserve, and enable libraries to lend hundreds of MIT Press books that are currently not available digitally. This partnership represents an important advance in bringing acclaimed titles across the MIT Press' publications in science, technology, art, and architecture to a global online audience.

The joint initiative is a crucial early step in Internet Archive's ambitious plans to digitize and provide public access to four million books, by partnering widely with university presses and other publishers to source print works, and enable readers to borrow the digital versions from any library that owns the physical book, as well as from archive.org

An initial group of 1,500 MIT Press titles will be scanned at Internet Archive's Boston Public Library facility, including Cyril Stanley Smith's 1980 book, *From Art to Science: Seventy-Two Objects Illustrating the Nature of Discovery*, and Frederick Law Olmsted and Theodora Kimball's *Forty Years of Landscape Architecture: Central Park*, which was published in 1973. The group's oldest title is Arthur C. Hardy's 1936 *Handbook of Colorimetry*. The full set of 1,500 deep backlist works should be available by the end of 2017.

What's New?

MIT Libraries Partner with History Faculty on Slavery Project and Class

The Institute Archives and Special Collections is partnering with Craig Wilder, Barton L. Weller Professor of History, on a new fall undergraduate course and Institute project on MIT and Slavery. Students will study the history of MIT and those who supported its founding and explore the role that the slave trade and human slavery played in the development of MIT in light of 19th-century scientific and engineering needs. The Libraries' User Experience and Web Services team will help create a website for the larger project where faculty research and student projects will inform an evolving history of MIT and slavery.

Art and Science Meet in Three-dimensional Display



This fall Hayden Library is hosting "EarthArt," an exhibit allowing library users to create and show expressive work on the iGlobe, a large, spherical display used for presenting images, movies, and real-time data. Glenn Flierl, professor of oceanography, is organizing the exhibit, which is supported by a grant from the Council for the Arts at MIT.

"We hope to engage a broad spectrum of students, researchers, staff, and faculty who would like to express their knowledge about and concern for the Earth and our environment," says Flierl. Although the emphasis is on work related to climate and environmental concerns, students are welcome to create any type of art on the iGlobe.

MIT Reads Builds Momentum

By the numbers, the first year of the Libraries' community-wide reading program was a great success. Three selections—*Redefining Realness* by Janet Mock, *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly, and *The Paper Menagerie* by Ken Liu—explored different dimensions of diversity and inclusion. The Libraries provided more than 200 free books to students, and library copies circulated 152 times. Discussion sessions drew 138 people, and nearly 600 attended author events. Even better, MIT Reads achieved its goal of fostering understanding across the Institute. "It really did make me feel more connected to the MIT community, even while I was far away doing dissertation research," said one participant. "I loved knowing that each book was selected by a student group on campus."

Keep reading →

This fall, the MIT community is reading *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, chosen in partnership with My Sister's Keeper, an initiative designed to support the continued success of MIT's black women students. Visit libraries.mit.edu/mit-reads

Thank You

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STEPHEN SKUCE & STEWART ROBERTS at Discovery Under the Dome

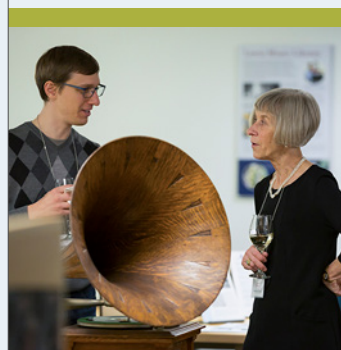
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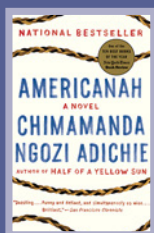
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Study Break
Furry First Friday

November 3
2–3:30PM
Hayden Library (14S-100)



MIT Reads Book Discussions

Americanah

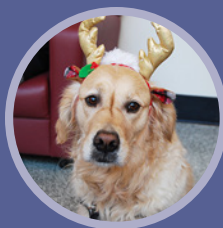
Mid-November
Visit libraries.mit.edu
for updates



DECEMBER EVENTS

Study Break
Cookies with Canines

December 14
2–3:30PM
Hayden Library (14S-100)



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