

News from the
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News from the MIT Libraries, an official publication of the MIT Libraries, is published twice a year, in the fall and spring.

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Design

Pentagram

From the Director

The upcoming partial renovation of Hayden Library is a long-awaited project that has the potential to transform the way students, faculty, and staff use library space at MIT. A key part of our vision for the redesign is creating spaces that are welcoming to a diverse range of users and that invite creativity and inquiry.

So much of what we do is an invitation to our communities—to explore and contribute to knowledge, to partner with us, and to be part of a conversation. Digitizing 100 rare works newly available in the public domain (p. 10) is a call for creators to use and build on this content. Through our new research initiative, we're inviting colleagues like Philip Cohen (p. 08) to help inform a more open and equitable scholarly ecosystem. In the new Hayden, we envision welcoming more installations like last fall's *The Laughing Room* and *The Control Room* (p. 12), which raised compelling questions about artificial intelligence, humor, humanity, and public and private space. A library is a space for quiet and concentration; it is also a venue for provocative and important conversation.

I cannot wait to welcome you to the new Hayden in 2020. Until then, I hope you consider your visit to any MIT library an open invitation to explore freely, learn passionately, and create the future.

All my best,



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Photo
Bryce Vickmark





Destination: Hayden

Library to undergo renovation in 2020

In January, the MIT Libraries announced plans to renovate Hayden Library next year, with a reopening slated for the fall term of 2020. The project developed from recommendations by the MIT Task Force on the Future of Libraries, which stressed the importance of “welcoming and inclusive spaces for discovery and scholarship,” as well as the need to address building renewal needs and code updates.

“Hayden has been a special place for so many MIT students, faculty, and alumni,” says Chris Bourg. “But the world has changed substantially since the library was first built, along with the ways that people discover, consume, create, and share knowledge. The Libraries want to be responsive to these changes and incorporate these new realities into physical library space.”

MIT has engaged Kennedy & Violich Architecture (KVA) to work with the Institute to plan for the next version of Hayden, and the project is currently in the design phase. The areas planned for renovation include the first and second floors. Design goals include creating both vibrant, interactive spaces as well as quiet zones, with specific improvements including:

- Significant expansion of 24/7 study space
- A café
- Greater variety of study spaces—for both individual and group work, with both quiet and conversation zones and varied seating styles
- Flexible teaching and event space

Photo
L. Barry Hetherington



Photo
Bryce Vickmark

“We’ve gathered input from the MIT community over the last several years about what they want from library spaces,” says Tracy Gabridge ‘88, deputy director of MIT Libraries. “This project aims to meet those diverse needs—from a place to grab coffee and run into friends to a spot to work together with others, all while having space for quiet study and reflection.”

The project kicked off with an event at Killian Hall on February 13, where Bourg presented the Libraries’ vision for its spaces, outlined the design process, and answered questions from the community. The design phase has also included community feedback through a series of workshops planned by KVA in March and April.

While the design for the library is still taking shape, Bourg is confident the renovated spaces will strengthen Hayden’s role in bringing people together: “We envision the new Hayden Library as a destination on campus, a place that is open, welcoming, and that invites community members to make connections between ideas, collections, and each other.”

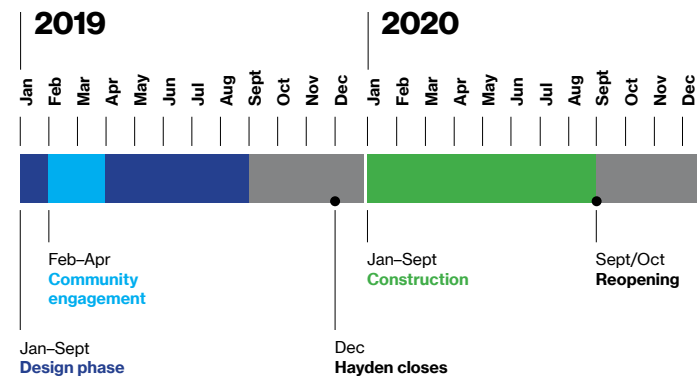
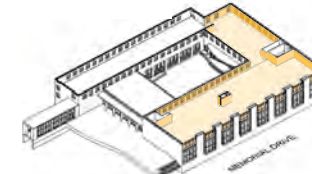
Hayden Renovation at a Glance

What’s changing, when, and why

Building 14
First Floor



Building 14
Second Floor



*Tentative timeline

Goals

- Create a destination on campus for faculty, students, and staff—an intellectual town square
- Support a variety of learning and research styles and welcome a greater diversity of users
- Communicate the creative possibilities in our spaces and invite our community to “hack the library”

Daunting Problems and Thrilling Promises

MIT Libraries' first visiting scholar reflects on his work to create a more open and equitable knowledge system
—By Philip N. Cohen

Philip Cohen

One of the many privileges of a life in professional academia is the right to set one's own agenda. As a tenured professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, 20 years into an academic career, I'm freer than ever before to experiment and explore.

Several years ago I moved to help fill a void I saw in sociology—a need for greater openness and transparency in research practices and publications—something that many scientists in other disciplines were moving to embrace. I founded SocArXiv, an open social science archive for research papers, modeled after arXiv in math and physics and bioRxiv in life sciences.

Working with the Center for Open Science and a steering committee of sociologists and librarians (including Chris Bourg), we started accepting papers in 2016, and now host more than 3,000. The work is free to share and read, with links to research materials, and proper archiving and tagging, so it's accessible and discoverable by anyone.

Since 2016, I've had lots of work to do to help build an equitable, open, and durable system of knowledge communication, and it's work I love. Thanks to the leadership of Chris Bourg, support from a group of libraries from the Association of Research Libraries, and a sabbatical leave from Maryland, in 2018 I had the opportunity to extend that work at MIT's new Center for Research on Equitable and Open Scholarship (CREOS) as its first visiting scholar.

This followed the Grand Challenges Summit at MIT last spring, which led to a broad set of research challenges to drive innovation in this area. In response to those challenges, over the course of the fall, Director of Research Micah Altman and I conducted an analysis of the state of peer review. From that, we developed a proposal to create an academy-owned peer



review system in which researchers pledge peer review units in the form of tokens—for example, five reviews per year—and those are used to support innovative new publishing programs. That way new, open peer review initiatives can draw from a bank of volunteer reviewers, reviewers can receive credit for their contributions, and we can study the results to improve the program as we go. Finally, working with Jessica Polka, the director of ASAPbio, a non-profit promoting transparency and innovation in life science communication, we are formulating a set of design principles for open scholarship innovations. We hope to release white papers from each of these projects in the coming months.

We hope this collaboration will make concrete contributions to the efforts of those across disciplines and institutions who are grappling with the daunting problems and thrilling promises of the future—how to create and bring more knowledge to more people, more equitably and efficiently, in a sustainable way. Working in the MIT Libraries gave me the chance to embrace that set of challenges, and to enter a new area of research and discovery in my career. I'm grateful for that chance, and excited about the work that lies ahead.



Akhnaton (Amenophis IV)

[based on the cast at Cairo, & the reliefs in the Berlin Museum.]

Libraries Digitize 100 Works to Celebrate Public Domain Day

Works are free to anyone to read, use, and build upon
—By Katie Zimmerman

On January 1, 2019, a new set of published works entered the public domain in the US for the first time in two decades, when the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act extended copyright protections and limited the public domain to works published before 1923. In honor of the occasion, and to show our appreciation for the public domain, the Libraries staff digitized 100 works from MIT Libraries collections and made them available on the Internet Archive. These works are now freely available to read and use without any copyright restrictions.

To showcase the collection, Libraries staff wrote short reflections about items of interest that were posted on the Libraries' news website. Public Domain Day festivities also included a well-attended IAP class, where participants learned how to determine when something enters the public domain, and a Wikipedia edit-a-thon, where volunteers uploaded hundreds of public domain images, ranging from vintage photos of the Bronx to H.G. Wells' view of the ancient world.

The Libraries' efforts involved more than a dozen staff across many departments, making possible an incredible celebration of the public domain that will continue into the rest of the year—and into every year that follows. We're already looking forward to the next batch of books we can release into the public domain in January 2020.

Explore the Public Domain Day Collection at libraries.mit.edu/public-domain

Katie Zimmerman is the Scholarly Communications and Licensing Librarian at MIT Libraries.

Akhnaton, from *The Outline of History: Being a Plain History of Life and Mankind* by H.G. Wells, 1923.

Laugh Tracks and Libraries

Hayden Library is part of an interactive art installation powered by AI

Video from *The Laughing Room* was shown live on monitors at Hayden Library and streamed online.

Still photos courtesy of metaLAB (at) Harvard

For one weekend last November, visitors to Hayden Library found a novel distraction from their p-sets and research: they could watch an impromptu sitcom playing out in real time across town. Hosted at the Cambridge Public Library, *The Laughing Room* was an artificially intelligent room, designed to look like a sitcom set and programmed to play an audio laugh track whenever people in the room said something that its algorithm deemed funny.

The Control Room, a companion installation located in Hayden Library, displayed a live stream of the action at the CPL while another monitor showed the algorithm at work.

The installations, on view November 16–18, were the work of Jonny Sun and collaborators Hannah Davis and Christopher Sun. Jonny Sun is an author and illustrator, PhD candidate in urban studies and planning, affiliate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, and creative researcher at the metaLAB at Harvard. *The Laughing Room* and *The Control Room* were presented as part of ARTificial Intelligence, an ongoing program led by Associate Professor of Literature Stephanie Frampton that fosters public dialogue about the emerging ethical and social implications of artificial intelligence (AI) through art and design.

“Cambridge is the birthplace of artificial intelligence, and this installation gives us an opportunity to think about the new roles that AI is playing in our lives every day,” said Frampton. “It was important to us to set the installations in the Cambridge Public Library and MIT Libraries, where they could spark an open conversation at the intersections of art and science.”

“I wanted the installation to resemble a sitcom set from the 1980s—a private, familial space,” said Sun during an artists’ talk event held at Hayden Library November 17. “I wanted to explore how AI is changing our conception of private space, with things like the Amazon Echo or Google Home, where you’re aware of this third party listening.” Having the companion installation in Hayden—where people were actually tuning in—continued the sitcom metaphor.

“It was important to us to set the installations in the Cambridge Public Library and MIT Libraries, where they could spark on open conversation at the intersections of art and science”
—Stephanie Frampton



Participants found the experience equal parts creepy and joyful. The AI-powered laugh track, trained on a dataset of stand-up comedy routines, prompted genuine laughter from some; others were unsettled by its unpredictable patterns. Visitors and project collaborators alike were impressed with how the phony living room setting fostered real connections between strangers.

“This has been an extraordinary collaboration,” said Frampton. “It has shown us how much interest there is in this kind of programming and how much energy can come from using the libraries in new ways.”

The Laughing Room will be on display in the MIT Wiesner Student Art Gallery in May.

Day 5: The Dinosaurs



Dinosaurs were a diverse group of reptiles that first appeared around 240 mya. They were the dominant land animals for 135 million years.

One dinosaur was the *Stegosaurus*, which was a large, quadrupedal, herbivorous dinosaur. They had distinct broad, upright plates and spiked tails.

Almost all dinosaurs suddenly went extinct 66 mya from an impact event. Dinosaurs now live on in birds.

This, DAY 5, was the next 174 million years, and it was Good.



Two examples of student work, created with support from the Libraries, focus on our understanding of the how the world has evolved — in vastly different ways. *Creation* (detail, left), by Laura Bergemann, Helen Sakharova, Maia Hannahs, Junyu Yang, and Crystal Chen, was created in Jeffrey Ravel's history class, Making Books in the Renaissance and Today. Members of the class studied rare books, set type and carved linoleum blocks to print on the Beaver Press, and bound their projects in the Wunsch Conservation Lab. For his UROP with EAPS professor David McGee, Andrew Iverson studied ancient lake basins in the American southwest and central Andes (above). Using resources in the GIS & Data Lab, he estimated what the shorelines of ancient lakes would have looked like in order to make inferences about how the region's climate has changed over thousands of years.

Staff News

Chris Bourg (left) and Rachael Weisz (right) congratulate Judith Gallagher (center) on 30 years with the Libraries.

Photo
Bryce Vickmark

New Appointments

Martina Anderson
Acquisitions and Appraisal Librarian

Ashlynn August
Digitization Associate

Amanda Baker
Preservation Assistant

Osman Din
Platform Architect

Sam Fishkind
Human Resources Assistant

Pat Flanagan
Director of Space Planning and Strategy

Eric Hanson
Metadata Operations Engineer

Emilie Hardman
Interim head, Institute Archives and Special Collections

Jessica Holmes
Access Services Assistant

Samuel Hong
Access Services Assistant

Sefanya Hope-Hiennadi
Access Services Assistant

Cherry Ibrahim
Human Resources Generalist

Elizabeth Johnson
Acquisitions Associate

Sue Kriegsmann
Deputy Director, Center for Research on Equitable and Open Scholarship (CREOS)

Julia Lanigan
Acquisitions Associate

Ye Li
Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Librarian

Alexandra McGee
Women @ MIT Project Archivist

Stephanie Toews Moeling
Director of Finance and Administration

Caitlin Robles
Senior Project Manager /Business Analyst

Adam Shire
Enterprise Systems Engineer

Retirements

Robin Deadrick
Human Resources Administrator

Keith Glavash
Associate Director for Administration

Czeslaw Jankowski
Tangible Serials Acquisitions Assistant

Rich Wenger
E-Resource Systems Manager



New Acquisition

An audio wayback machine



Photo
Saro Acharya

MIT is where the future is invented, but there is also deep interest in understanding the past. The Lewis Music Library recently added to its collection of historical music players by acquiring a large Regina music box from ca. 1898. The machine produces music using 15.5-inch metal discs, its ethereal sound transporting the listener to another era.

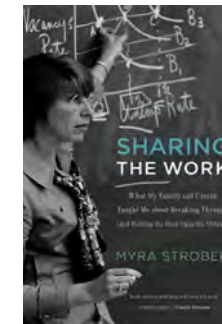
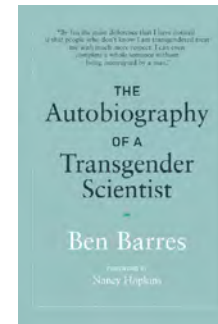
“Students are thrilled to hear these unique sounds, and they are always interested in the mechanical design of these machines,” says Peter Munstedt, retired music librarian.

The music box joins a 78rpm player (ca. 1910), cylinder player (ca. 1905), and turntable from the 1960s in the library’s collection, which is supported by the Class of 1982 Music Library Fund.

“Lewis Music Library’s collection of historical music technologies enables students to see how technologies have shaped the way music was perceived and created in the past in order to form an understanding of how technology—its advances and its limitations—are affecting music today,” says Michael Cuthbert, associate professor of music.

News from the MIT Press

MIT Press launches new Fund for Diverse Voices



The MIT Press has a long and rich history of publishing books by and about underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), including significant recent works such as Ben Barres’s *The Autobiography of a Transgendered Scientist*, Hélène Courtois’s *Finding Our Place in the Universe*, and Marie Hicks’s *Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing*.

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, the Press is pleased to announce the formation of a new fund which will allow further growth of our publication list by women and other underrepresented groups in STEM fields. The Fund for Diverse Voices will enable the Press to offer competitive advances to talented authors, cover the cost of high-quality production features that may not be financially feasible otherwise, hire developmental editors, and ensure that these works reach the widest readership possible.

The forthcoming books, *Women in Mathematics* (revised and updated) by Lynn Osen and *Carbon Queen: The Remarkable Life of Nanoscience Pioneer Mildred Dresselhaus* by Maia Weinstock, will be among the first titles published with the support of the fund.

To learn more about the MIT Press Fund for Diverse Voices, visit mitpress.mit.edu/give-mit-press.

What's New

Michael Toler (left) accepts the Mohamed Makiya Prize from Akram Ogaily on behalf of the Aga Khan Documentation Center.

Photo
Tamayouz Excellence Awards

MIT Libraries and MIT Press Staff Honored with MIT Excellence Awards

Business and Management Librarian Shikha Sharma was the recipient of an MIT Excellence Award, presented at a ceremony at Kresge Auditorium on March 21. Sharma, who joined the MIT Libraries in 2015, is described by her colleagues as a “powerhouse.” Her work with faculty, researchers, and students at the Sloan School of Management includes coaching student teams, helping provide the innovative databases needed by Sloan researchers and entrepreneurs, contributing to faculty research, learning how to use APIs with international data resources, and much more.

The MIT Press is proud to announce that its own Diversity and Inclusion Working Group (DIWG) received the 2019 MIT Excellence Award for Advancing Inclusion and Global Perspectives at the Institute. Founded in 2017, the DIWG seeks to increase awareness about issues of diversity, establish a set of internal best practices toward a more inclusive workforce, and support colleagues in implementing a strategy to diversify Press voices, including in publications and participation in wider communities, social media, and events. Thanks to the work of the DIWG, the MIT Press has implemented several new initiatives, including wider recruiting for its internship program, an important pipeline for those seeking entry-level positions in publishing; transgender inclusivity training; and monthly welcome lunches for new employees. Through these efforts, the MIT Press hopes to serve as a model for the scholarly publishing industry.

The MIT Excellence Awards and Collier Medal acknowledge the extraordinary efforts made by members of our community toward fulfilling the goals, values, and mission of the Institute. They are among the highest honors awarded by MIT.



AKDC Receives the Mohamed Makiya Prize

The Aga Khan Documentation Center at the MIT Libraries was awarded the Mohamed Makiya Prize of the Tamayouz Excellence Awards, recognizing individuals or organizations who promoted, encouraged, campaigned, or influenced the advancement of architecture and the built environment in the Middle East. Michael Toler, interim program head and Archnet content manager, accepted the award on behalf of AKDC at a ceremony in Amman, Jordan, on December 8.

“It is a particularly meaningful honor to receive an award named for Dr. Mohamed Makiya, not only because he was a great architect and intellectual, but also because his archive was the first received by AKDC,” said Toler in his acceptance speech. “It established AKDC as a trustworthy custodian of valuable archives; a steward that would not be content simply to catalog, preserve, and lock away artifacts, but one with an explicit foundational vision to share those materials with the world.”



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