

News from the
MIT Libraries

Massachusetts
Institute
of Technology

Spring 2020
Vol.32 / No.1

MIT
Libraries



Project BIR



Contents

03
From the
Director

05
Designing
the Hayden
Experience

10
Sharing
Knowledge
for the
Benefit of All

14
MIT Receives
Personal
Papers of
Artist Otto
Piene

16
News from the
MIT Press

17
Staff News

18
Remembering
Elda Chisholm

20
What's New

Bibliotech

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

Editor

Brigham Fay
Director of
Communications
617.253.5686
brighamf@mit.edu

Design

Pentagram

From the Director

After years of imagining a redesigned Hayden Library, seeing our plans finally take shape is thrilling. We're seeing our bold ideas for libraries realized not only with the construction of new physical spaces, but with the development of new models for sharing knowledge.

Last October we announced a principle-based framework ("the MIT Framework") to guide our negotiations with scholarly publishers. In January, we signed the first contract that aligns completely with the framework (p. 20), an innovative collaboration with three other universities. The Committee on the Library System has been critical in guiding these efforts, and I'm grateful to chair Roger Levy for sharing his experiences as a champion of open scholarship in this *Bibliotech* (p. 10).

All this tremendously exciting work generates from the foundational ideas of the Future of Libraries report—that the physical space of libraries plays a unique role in our communities, that knowledge is most impactful when it is shared openly, and that working collaboratively is the best path toward the future we want to see.

Thank you, as always, for all you do to support our progress.

**Chris Bourg, PhD**

Director of Libraries
617.253.5297
cbourg@mit.edu
@mchris4duke
chrisbourg.wordpress.com

Photo
Shawn Henry





Designing the Hayden Experience

Libraries staff plan for life after renovation

While the architectural vision for the Hayden Library renovation took shape, another, equally important design process also has been playing out. The MIT Libraries Service Design Team, comprising staff from across the organization, has been tasked with rethinking what happens in Hayden once the library reopens.

“When we think about the future of Hayden, we’re thinking about much more than opening the doors to a beautiful, updated space,” says Karrie Peterson, head of Liaison, Instruction, and Reference Services and team lead for the Service Design Team. “We’re thinking carefully about the ways people will interact with library space, collections, technology, and people in the new Hayden. This renovation is an opportunity to work with our community to reshape those interactions in new and exciting ways.”

“I see service design as the bridge between the vision that Kennedy & Violich Architecture has created and the expertise of Libraries staff who understand our users’ needs and expectations,” says Cassandra Silvia, space project coordinator and member of the team.

Since January 2019, the Service Design Team has been planning not only how to ensure continued service through Hayden’s closure, but also how the Libraries can take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the renovated spaces. This work encompasses several phases, from providing input on the building design and furniture selection to imagining the evolution of Hayden programming well after the reopening.

“We have been looking at different aspects of library services and asking, what’s going to be different when the building opens?” says Peterson.

Image
Conceptual rendering of the Hayden Library first floor, showing the new central stair and reservable group study rooms. Courtesy of Kennedy & Violich Architecture.

Images

Right:
Conceptual rendering of the
second floor reading room.

Following pages:
Conceptual rendering of the
new cafe seating area on
the first floor.

Courtesy of Kennedy &
Violich Architecture.

To tackle this challenge, the team broke down service design into the following categories, each guided by a principal idea:

- **Community building:** Create and enrich connections between people; foster learning communities at MIT
- **Student learning (including teaching support):** Support students as consumers, creators, and influencers in the information ecosystem
- **Research support:** Support scholars doing research in the Libraries, especially computational research, while providing critical core services
- **Consultations:** Direct library users to the right expert, regardless of where they start or what they need
- **Wellness:** Understand and support people in our community holistically
- **User experience:** Offer efficient, reliable, and anticipatory services

Working with stakeholders across the Libraries, team members have considered how best to use new spaces to achieve the Libraries' vision for each category. For example, the new event/teaching space brings opportunities to host new kinds of programs, such as a student panel on privacy or a hands-on transmedia storytelling workshop. Team members are exploring how a space designated for "mindfulness" on the quiet second floor can provide a technology-light oasis for students to take a break from studying. Others are strategizing how to create an atmosphere where library users ideally have to ask for help less often, but also feel welcome when they do.

It's an ongoing process that considers how the Libraries support research, learning, and community at MIT well beyond the reopening, according to Peterson: "It's finding the right balance of technology, furnishings, staffing, and other aspects of library space that works optimally for our community. Not just for opening day, but also for Year 1 and Year 5."





Sharing Knowledge for the Benefit of All

A Q&A with Roger Levy, chair of MIT's Committee on the Library System

Roger Levy is an associate professor in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and director of the MIT Computational Psycholinguistics Laboratory. *Bibliotech* asked him to share his perspective on leading the Committee on the Library System (CLS) and MIT's commitment to open scholarship.

Tell us about your role on CLS. Why did you want to be involved?

Libraries have been an important part of my life since I was just a few years old. I was a voracious reader, and my mother would check out books for me from the local public library by the dozen. Growing up in Tucson, Arizona, some of my most vivid memories were in local public libraries. In high school, I would spend hours wandering the stacks of the University of Arizona library and discovered research on topics that I'd never imagined, and during graduate school, the library was singularly important in allowing me to expand my knowledge beyond what I could learn from my faculty advisors and teachers. I am sure that experiences and memories like these are very common among members of the MIT community, and I think we are all deeply indebted to our libraries. My service on CLS is, I hope, a small step toward repaying my own personal debt.

I am especially grateful to be able to serve because CLS is one of the best platforms at MIT for advancing open access in scholarly publishing, which I am very passionate about. All of the over seven billion people on our planet stand to benefit from access to the knowledge we are constantly creating and refining in our research and teaching, but only a miniscule fraction have anything like the access that we enjoy at MIT and other elite institutions. With the Internet and digital publication, the main barrier to sharing that knowledge with the rest of the world is no longer technological: rather, it is the restrictions on open sharing



that we researchers are all too accustomed to accepting when we publish our work. Because CLS is the steward of MIT's Faculty Open Access Policy, we have a crucial role to play in helping shift MIT to a norm of open sharing that benefits all of society.

What excites you most about MIT's vision for the future of libraries?

MIT has developed a compelling vision that the community served by our libraries is not just the people who happen to have an MIT affiliation, but in a very meaningful sense extends beyond to Cambridge, the United States, and even the entire world. Although the physical footprint of the MIT Libraries remains extraordinarily important, it is now equally importantly a "computational library" that can bring knowledge and learning to people around the globe. As academic scholarship continues to move to a norm of open sharing, more and more of the digital collections curated by the Libraries will be available to anyone who wants to access them. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to fulfill MIT's mission to "to bring knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges," and the potential impact is tremendous.



Photo
Levy at the Libraries' Open Access Hackathon in 2018

CLS was closely involved in developing the MIT Framework for Publisher Contracts. What impact do you hope it will have, both for the MIT community and scholarly communications more broadly?

The framework is grounded in the simple truth that the value inherent in published scholarship is fundamentally the product of the work by researcher-authors, our fellow peer reviewers, editors, and the institutions that support us. The principles of the framework manifest a public commitment to supporting the rights of MIT community members to freely share the scholarship that we have created. Libraries are crucial players around the globe in bringing about the shift to a norm of open access publication because of their long-standing contractual relationships with scholarly publishers and because the actions of a library are larger in scale than the actions of any handful of faculty members. I know that MIT and the nearly 200 institutions endorsing the framework have the backs of faculty members around the country in supporting our rights to open dissemination of our scholarship.

How have the MIT faculty responded to the framework?

Starting in November 2019, CLS and the Libraries have been holding information sessions throughout the Institute on open access, the framework, and ongoing negotiations with scholarly publishers. The ecosystems of scholarly publishing environments are different for different fields; the coin of the realm for a field's main publishers can range from journal articles to monographs to conference proceedings papers. One of CLS's principal responsibilities is to serve as liaison between the MIT community and the Libraries, so it is important for us to understand the incentives and challenges operative in each scholarly field. Faculty have brought enlightening, diverse voices and opinions to these discussions, but what really strikes me is the tremendously widespread support for the core grounding of the framework: that we and the institutions that support us are responsible for the value in published scholarship, and that the benefit to society is greatest when our scholarship is immediately and freely available to the entire world.

MIT Receives Personal Papers of Artist Otto Piene

“We hope researchers as well as MIT students work with these materials to investigate the intersections of art, culture, and technology.”

Photo

“Centerbeam” on the National Mall, by artists of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, MIT; Washington, DC, summer 1978. Photo: Calvin Campbell

The personal papers of the late Otto Piene, a leading figure in kinetic and technology-based art, have been donated to MIT’s Institute Archives, part of the MIT Libraries’ department of Distinctive Collections. The collection, which comprises 68 boxes of material, is a gift of Piene’s wife, Elizabeth Goldring, an artist, poet, and senior fellow at MIT’s Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS).

Known for working at the intersection of art, nature, and technology, Piene was the first international fellow of CAVS in 1968. He succeeded the center’s founder György Kepes as director from 1974 to 1994. Piene’s works are included in the collections of museums around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Nationalgalerie Berlin; the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

The collection includes correspondence and promotional materials related to Piene’s exhibitions, along with some original artwork and audiovisual media. “Piene’s work makes an important contribution to our Distinctive Collections,” says department head Emilie Hardman. “We hope this will be a useful collection for researchers as well as MIT students who can work with these materials to investigate the intersections of art, culture, and technology.”



News from the MIT Press

MIT Press redefines university publishing with exciting ventures

The MIT Press is committed to reimagining what a university press can be. This spring, the Press is delighted to announce several exciting projects that push the boundaries of university-based publishing.

The MIT Press has received a three-year, \$850,000 grant from the Arcadia Fund to perform a broad-based monograph publishing cost analysis and to develop and openly disseminate a durable financial framework and business plan for open access (OA) monographs. The Press, a leader in OA publishing for almost 25 years, will also undertake a pilot program to implement the resulting framework for scholarly frontlist and backlist titles.

The Harvard Data Science Initiative and the MIT Press are pleased to announce the launch of the Harvard Data Science Review (HDSR), a multimedia platform featuring leading global thinkers in the burgeoning field of data science. With demand for data scientists booming, HDSR provides a centralized, authoritative, and peer-reviewed publishing community to service the growing profession.

Critical thinking is at the core of what we do at the Press, and that's mirrored in the 50th title in the popular Essential Knowledge Series. *Critical Thinking* by Jonathan Haber complements the overall goal of the Essential Knowledge Series and provides foundational knowledge that informs a principled understanding of our world, giving readers the tools to make their own decisions.

Staff News

New Appointments

Christopher Butler
Manager of Infrastructure Engineering

Courtney Crummett
Collection Strategist for Science and Engineering

Kimberly Doorley
Access Services Assistant

Adam Jazairi
Full Stack Engineer

William Lemos
Resource Development Assistant

Drew Nichols
Administrative Assistant

Jeremy Prevost
Lead Engineer

Maria Rodrigues
Facilities Administrator

Sadie Roosa
Collections Strategist for Repository Services

Heather Smith
*Project Manager/
Business Analyst*

Elda Sotiri
Cloud Infrastructure Engineer

Katie Zimmerman
Director of Copyright Strategy

Photo
Beth Brennan is recognized for 20 years of service to the Libraries at the annual staff breakfast. Photo: Bryce Vickmark

Retirements

Michael Noga
Collections Strategist and Earth and Planetary Sciences and Mathematics Librarian

Ellen Finnie
Head of Scholarly Communications and Collections Strategy



Remembering Elda Chisholm

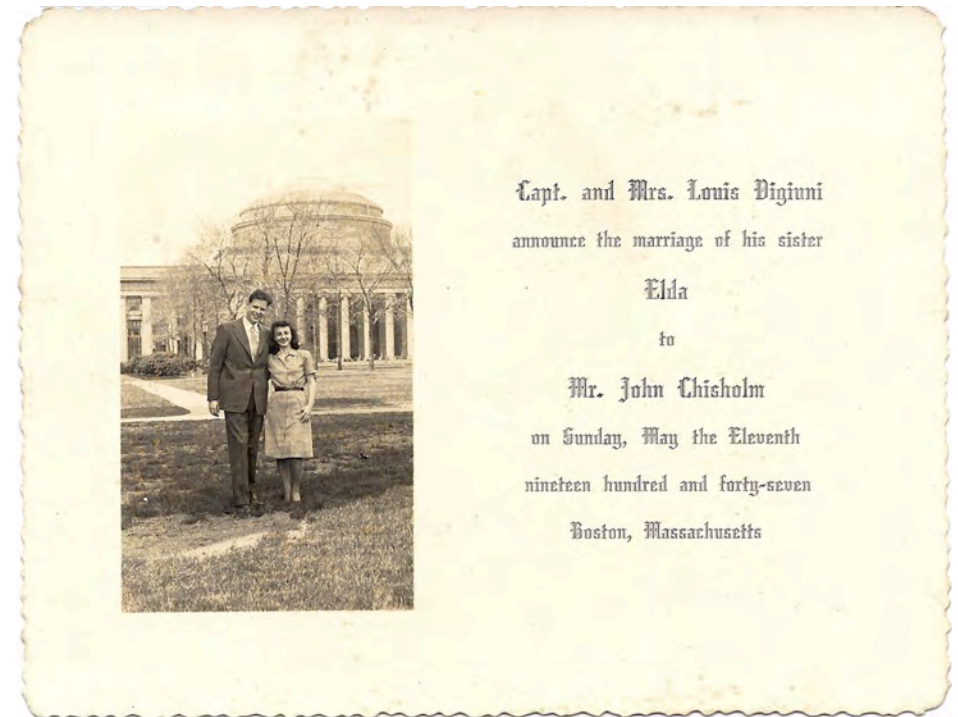
Photo
Elda and John Chisholm's wedding announcement featured a picture of the couple in front of MIT's Great Dome.

Elda Digiuni Chisholm (1919-2019) was offered a job at the MIT Libraries the very day she applied in 1945. "Other women were afraid to apply for library jobs at MIT, because the work would be so technical, but not Mom," said her son, John Chisholm, '75, SM '76, at Elda's memorial service. "She was confident she could learn whatever she would need to learn."

Elda remained at the Libraries until 1959. She continued to work in school and public libraries after relocating to Florida and would later earn her bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University at age 52. Elda worked as a school teacher until well into her 80s.

The Libraries were thrilled to welcome Elda back to the MIT campus in 2015, when she reminisced with Libraries staff about her tenure, reviewed Institute records from that time, and compared perspectives on library work, then and now. Back in Building 10, where she had worked 70 years prior, she remarked on the differences in the reading room under the Great Dome, which had recently been restored, its oculus uncovered for the first time since World War II.

Elda passed away peacefully on September 4, 2019, 80 days after her 100th birthday. She generously included the Libraries in her estate plans, a tribute to a place that helped nourish her lifelong passion for education, according to John: "The MIT Libraries were dear to her and among the most important relationships in her life."



What's New

Chris Bourg Speaks on Open Science at the UN

Libraries Director Chris Bourg participated in the first United Nations Open Science Conference in New York on November 19, organized by the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library in collaboration with the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). With a theme of “Towards Global Open Science,” the conference aimed to elevate the discussion about open science and open research to the global level and to examine the role of open science in advancing the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bourg spoke on a panel entitled, “Open Science and Library Infrastructures.” See video from the conference and other materials at research.un.org/conferences/OpenScienceUN.

Libraries Negotiate Innovative Open Access Agreement with ACM

Developed in collaboration with the University of California, Carnegie Mellon, and Iowa State University, a new agreement with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) is the Libraries’ first publisher contract completed under the principles for open scholarship in the MIT Framework for Publisher Contracts, released in October.

Under the agreement, the MIT community will continue to receive unlimited and unrestricted access to all articles in the ACM Digital Library. As of January 1, 2020, articles with by MIT authors published during the period of the agreement in ACM journals, conference proceedings, and magazines are made openly available at the time of publication at no cost to the authors. Additionally, ACM will make deposits into the institutional repository DSpace for all MIT co-authors. The new agreement also expands the range of rights MIT authors retain when publishing with ACM.



New Active Learning Classroom Opens

Hayden is not the only library getting an upgrade. IAP 2020 saw the official opening of the Barker Active Learning Classroom in Barker Library. Located on the library’s sixth floor, the newly refreshed space includes wall-mounted monitors, rolling whiteboards, and seating for 40 people. The space was designed primarily for Libraries-hosted classes and workshops for the MIT community and is especially well suited for hands-on activities.

Photo
Chris Bourg at the UN Open Science Conference. Photo: UN Library



**Office of the Director
MIT Libraries
105 Broadway, Suite 6101
Cambridge, MA 02142**

**NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cambridge, MA
Permit No. 54016**

