

News from the
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Bibliotech

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

Editor

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Design

Pentagram

From the Director

After a year and a half of supporting MIT research and learning by providing remote services and ongoing access to both digital and tangible content, we were finally able to welcome the community back into our physical spaces this fall. Students, faculty, and staff were eager to return to library spaces, and none more so than the transformed Hayden Library and Building 14 Courtyard. I'm pleased to share some beautiful views of these dynamic, welcoming, light-filled spaces in this issue of *Bibliotech* (p. 5).

The renovation wasn't the only large, complex project that we realized this year — in July we launched Search Our Collections, a new library search platform. This was a launch three years in the making, and I'm grateful to the many staff involved (p. 10). Our entire MIT community — and beyond — will be the beneficiaries of this hard work, with a greatly improved experience discovering and accessing our rich collections.

Deputy Director Tracy Gabridge '88 has been one of the steady hands guiding us through the many opportunities, challenges, and complex initiatives of the last several years; she will be sorely missed as she retires from the Libraries this fall after more than 20 years. I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that I have relied greatly on Tracy's knowledge of MIT and of the Libraries, her keen strategic insights, and her unwavering commitment to the organization and its vision.

Whether we're enabling a better experience in our physical spaces or searching our collections online, the Libraries are able to pursue our most urgent priorities with the support of our loyal donors. Your generosity is a gift to the whole MIT community. Thank you.



All my best,
Chris Bourg, PhD
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Photo
Shawn Henry





Hayden Library and Courtyard Reopen

The MIT Libraries welcomed the community back into the renovated Hayden Library and Building 14 courtyard on August 23. MIT's robust COVID-19 safety protocols allowed the Libraries to safely welcome more than 10,000 students, faculty, and staff in the first three weeks, while 24/7 access to the courtyard provides the community with accessible and inviting outdoor space to enjoy.

"These beautiful new spaces really came alive as we opened up to the community," says Chris Bourg, MIT Libraries director. "Seeing students, faculty, and staff using the spaces, interacting with our collections, and making connections with each other in new ways confirms all our hopes for this renovation."

To celebrate the reopening, community members were welcomed with special giveaways at the start of the semester, enjoyed a free coffee or tea offer from the Courtyard Cafe, and wrote picture postcards of the new spaces to a loved one, with postage provided by the Libraries.

Watch a video about the library and courtyard redesigns at libraries.mit.edu/hayden-renovation.

Photo
Opposite, the Building 14 Courtyard and porch.

Following pages:
Quiet Reading Room,
Courtyard porch.

All photos: John Horner





EXIT

Our New Search Platform by the Numbers

In July, the Libraries completed a major project to replace the system that supports our website and implement a new user interface for searching, browsing, and using collections. Search Our Collections, guided by our vision for a digital-first library, aims to provide the MIT community with a more seamless experience navigating our rich resources online.

3.4M

Records migrated

58

Integrations providing services including interlibrary borrowing, course reserves, MIT theses, Distinctive Collections requests, and Google Scholar

36

Months of work

40

Staff members on the project team

News from MIT Press

Announcing the MIT Press Diverse Voices Grant Program

In keeping with its mission and longstanding commitment to address the lack of diversity in publishing, the MIT Press announces the launch of the Diverse Voices Grant Program. The Program will expand funding for new work by authors whose voices have been conspicuously underrepresented in publishing. To help fuel greater equity, grants will provide direct financial assistance to scholars from across the arts, humanities, and sciences. The grant program will be supported by the Press's longstanding Fund for Diverse Voices.

The MIT Press welcomes applications from new or returning authors from diverse backgrounds. Candidates who have significant personal experience or engagement with communities that are underrepresented in scholarly publishing are strongly encouraged to apply. Diverse Voices Grants will be administered on a rolling basis throughout the year and the funding may be used for research, travel, child care, developmental editing, permissions, or any other costs associated with the writing process.

To learn more about the Diverse Voices Grant Program, visit mitpress.mit.edu.

News from CREOS

Center forms advisory committee, welcomes postdocs, and announces new grant funding

It has been a busy past few months for the Center for Research on Equitable and Open Scholarship (CREOS). Launched in 2018, CREOS responds to the need for credible research to inform efforts for a more equitable and open scholarly ecosystem. Here are just a few examples of the center's recent activities.

External Advisory Committee Launched

The committee will provide expertise and advice to help shape the research direction of CREOS, help identify potential funders and partners, and provide feedback on the center's direction, project ideas, and priorities. Members include Leslie Chan, associate professor in the Centre for Critical Development Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough and the director of the Knowledge Equity Lab; Erin McKiernan, neuroscientist and community manager for the Open Funders Research Group at SPARC; Tressie McMillan Cottom, associate professor in the iSchool at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and 2020 MacArthur Fellow; Safiya Noble, associate professor at UCLA, and co-founder and co-director of the UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry; Anasuya Sengupta, co-founder and co-director of Whose Knowledge?; and Geeta Swamy, associate vice president for research, Duke University, and vice dean for Scientific Integrity at Duke's School of Medicine. Read more about them at libraries.mit.edu/creos.

Welcoming Postdocs

In September, three postdoctoral associates started two-year terms as part of a program funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Corey Johnson, who received a PhD in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University, will work with Stephanie Frampton, associate professor of literature, on advancing equity and accessibility in archives and special collections. Suman Maity, who received a PhD in computer science from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, will work with Professor Roger Levy of Brain and Cognitive Sciences on computational social science for scholarly communications and



open and equitable scholarship. Ashley Thomas, who holds a PhD in cognitive science from the University of California, Irvine, will work with Rebecca Saxe, John W. Jarve (1978) Professor in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, on tools for rigorous and reproducible research.

New Grant Funding

CREOS has received an IMLS National Leadership Grant for the project Community Tracking Indicators for Open and Inclusive Scholarship. The team will create measures based on open bibliometric data, web and social-media mining, and community input. These indicators will support the evaluation of large-scale interventions, benchmark comparisons, and monitor the health of the scholarly information ecosystem over time. The indicators will go beyond “overall impact” measures to advance the understanding of who is — and who is not — participating in open scholarship.

Photos
Left to right:
Corey Johnson, Suman
Maity, Ashley Thomas

Staff News

2021 Infinite Mile Awards

The Libraries honored the outstanding contributions of its employees on June 24, recognizing achievements in the following categories.

Bringing Out the Best

Nina Davis-Millis
Director, Community Building and Engagement Program

Innovation, Creativity and Problem Solving

The Distinctive Collections Restart Team:
Ashlynn August
Mattie Clear
Myles Crowley
Jana Dambrogio
Neal Johnson
Grace Johnson-DeBaufre
Ayako Letizia
Jess Meyers
Jenn Morris

Results, Outcome and Productivity

Tania Fersenheim
Senior Systems Librarian

Information Delivery and Library Access and Lewis Music Library support staff teams:

Moses Carr
Astride Chery
Ashley Clark
Lara Day
Jim Eggleston
Cate Gallivan

Allyson Harper-Nixon
Jessica Holmes
Samuel Hong
S. Kohler
Forrest Larson
Georgina Lewis
Maura Liggio
Donald Long
Howard Martin
Jacky Martin
Alyssa Maynard
Jessa Modell
Jonathan Paul
Daniel Pribble
Pixie Rose
Jessica Shrey
Maria Walsh
Jaclyn Wilson
Hannah Winkler

Unsung Hero

Jonathan Paul
Access Services Assistant, Barker and Rotch Libraries

Howard Silver
Head, Data and Specialized Services

Christine Moulen “Good Citizen” Award

Sam Locke
Human Resources Assistant

New Appointments

Dhruti Bhagat-Conway
User Experience Designer

Laura Crook Brisson
Music Library Assistant

Olimpia Estela Caceres-Brown
IT Support Analyst

Lara Day
Scanning & Annex Services Associate

Laura Hanscom
Head, Scholarly Communications and Collections Strategy

Retirements

Tracy Gabridge
Deputy Director

Forrest Larson
Circulation/Reserves Associate, Lewis Music Library

Aaron Hunnewell
Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer

Howard Martin
Access Services Manager, Hayden Library

Amy Nurnberger
Interim Head, Data and Specialized Services

Tina Pappas
Head, Discovery and Engagement Platforms

Aya Ross
Administrative Assistant

Howard Silver
Head, Data and Specialized Services

What's New

Image

Jessica TranVo, "Wish You Were Here," digital collage

Covid-19 Collection Available Online

The Department of Distinctive Collections is pleased to announce that MIT community contributions to the COVID-19 Collection are now available online. This effort began in the spring of 2020 to collect the ongoing experiences of MIT community members during the pandemic in real time. Students, staff, faculty, researchers, and alumni contributed their personal reflections, first-hand accounts, photography, and artwork to the collection. Information about each donation — and a link to view and download the items — is available online.

We are still accepting contributions, and all members of the MIT community are invited and encouraged to participate. Materials will be preserved and made available as part of the historical record which will contribute to our understanding of and research about this time for years to come.

To share your story or view the collection, please visit libraries.mit.edu/documenting-covid19/



Honor Roll

Thank you

We are grateful for the generosity of our library friends and supporters. Our donors enable the Libraries to support the MIT community and to advance the Institute's mission by producing, collecting, and sharing knowledge to solve the world's biggest problems. Thank you for your support.

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