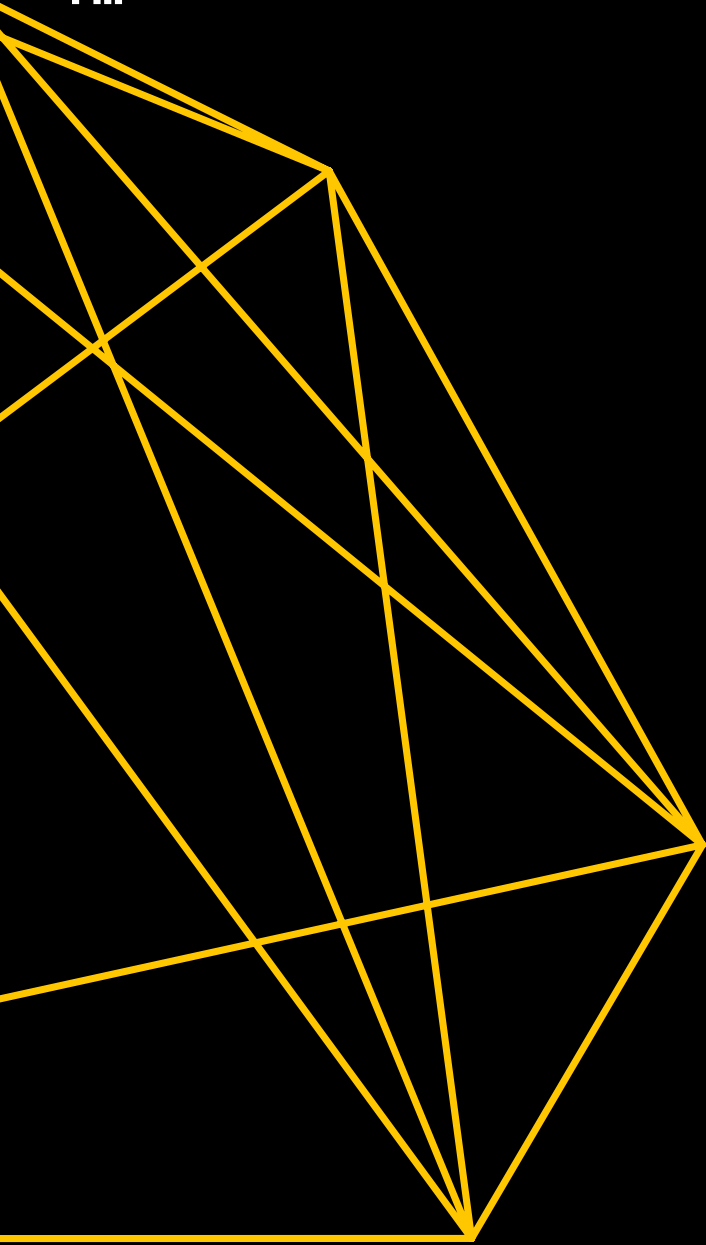


News from the
MIT Libraries

Massachusetts
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Bibliotech

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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.

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Design

Pentagram

From the Director

The people of MIT are incredibly passionate about the teaching and learning that happens here and eager to share knowledge that empowers and inspires the world. I see it in our faculty, students, alumni, and our dedicated staff who engage with the community every day to pursue the Institute's mission.

In this issue of *Bibliotech* you'll hear from some of those staff members – people who work directly with students, faculty, and researchers – about the varied ways they support research, learning, and discovery (p. 4). You can also read a recap of the spring MIT Reads event with author, assistant professor of mathematics, and retired NFL player John Urschel, who spoke about his twin passions for math and football (p. 10).

Appropriately, we share these stories with you alongside the annual Honor Roll of donors. The Libraries couldn't do what we do without you, passionate people who provide generous support year after year. On behalf of all the library staff, thank you.

Photo
Shawn Henry



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bourg'.

All my best,
Chris Bourg, PhD
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A Day in the Life

How library staff support the MIT community

To meet teaching and learning needs across MIT, library staff engage with the community through research support, instruction, outreach, and much more. It all makes for a busy and varied workday! Discover how experts across the Libraries might spend a typical day as they support faculty, students, and researchers at the Institute and beyond.



Avery Boddie

Lewis Music Library Department Head

Boddie manages Lewis' extensive collection of music, audio, and media resources and oversees all library operations while performing outreach, instruction, and research consultations. A typical workday for Boddie might include:

- “Working with a PhD researcher who was writing a dissertation on the history of Black-invented technologies. Part of this research involved a music mixer, the MPC One+, which was revolutionary in the evolution of rap and hip-hop in the late 80s and 90s. I decided to order one for the library and play around with it, so I would be more familiar with the technology and able to assist in their research.”
- “Collaborating closely with Music and Theater Arts (MTA) on our ‘Artist Forum’ series. These are events in Lewis where we’ll bring in a prominent local composer, artist, or musician to give a lecture on their work or area of research. It’s been exciting to restart this series after the pandemic, as it’s historically been very popular with our users.”
- “Meeting with stakeholders across MTA to coordinate how the music library might continue to serve the MIT community as the new MIT Music Building (W18) opens this fall.”
- “Administering Lewis’ wide-ranging collections: I’m working with our Music Library Assistant Laura Brisson to do a much-needed weeding project, involving an overview of our 30,000+ scores, to allow us to collect more diverse genres and composers of music, better fitting the curricular needs of MTA and our user community. Part of this work also involves

providing our users greater access to our resources by purchasing an increasing number of digital scores.”

Kai Alexis Smith

Architecture and Planning Librarian

Smith helps the MIT community find information on architecture, art, design, and urban studies and planning. She is the liaison librarian for the International Design Center and the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P) and oversees exhibits in the Rotch Library Gallery. Smith lists some other recent activities:



- “Supporting students virtually and in person with research questions like hunting down standards from different countries in different languages, or tracking down theses from faculty in different countries, or archives where drawings might be located, among other things.”
- “Managing Rotch Library orientations, including recorded and in-person sessions for SA+P constituents. I coordinate and lead comprehensive tours, showcasing Rotch Library history, design evolution, and the diverse services offered at the different service points and collections.”
- “Reaching out to new SA+P and Media Lab faculty, fellows, and MITDesignX cohorts with research resources.”
- “Organizing events like the popular ‘Books and Bites’ to showcase our rare and hidden collections – like artists’ books, zines, and ephemera – to encourage usage in research and classes.”
- “Co-organizing a workshop with the Women and Gender Services Center in conjunction with the MIT Reads selection, *Disability Visibility*. I lectured on zine history, and colleagues shared items from Distinctive Collections and taught accessible zine-making techniques.”

Staff News



Thera Webb

Women@MIT Project Archivist

Webb leads the Women@MIT archival initiative, which adds the papers of MIT women faculty, staff, students, and alumnae to the historic record by collecting, preserving, and sharing their lives and work. She is actively involved with donors to the archives, organizes outreach to promote the collections, and leads instruction sessions for classes and student groups. Webb describes some more examples of her daily activities:

- “Working with a researcher on identifying collections related to a women scientist or a group of women at MIT – this can be something as simple as identifying what courses someone taught or trying to find a copy of an unpublished dissertation chapter that may be in her advisor’s files.”
- “Archiving and uploading new oral histories for the Margaret MacVicar Memorial AMITA (Association of MIT Alumnae) Oral History Project.”
- “Meeting with a retiring faculty member to go through her office and pack up items she wants to donate to the archives related to her work at MIT.”
- “Working on my own research projects on women at MIT – current projects include updating the biographical information on [MIT founder William Barton Rogers’ wife] Emma Savage Rogers, creating a comprehensive list of the women employees at the RadLab which operated from 1940 to 1945, and trying to find information about Pauline Hopkins (1859-1930), who was one of the earliest science fiction writers and was a Black woman who worked as a stenographer at MIT in the 1920s.”

See all MIT Libraries’ subject experts at libraries.mit.edu/experts/

New Appointments

Amadea Bartle
Access Services Assistant

Vernica Downey
*Metadata Librarian
for Distinctive Collections*

Sylvia Figueroa-Ortiz
*Community Engagement
Program Manager*

Eliza Martin
*Administrative
Assistant*

Mikki Simon Macdonald
Institute Archivist

Peace Ossom
*Director of Research
Data Services*

Ariana Rutledge
Conservation Associate

Cynthia Schwarz
*Program Head for
Enterprise Services*

Maddie Scranton
Administrative Assistant

Jacoby Sherrell
HR Generalist

Erin Shives
GIS and Statistics Librarian

Chris Tam
Access Services Assistant

Jake Zelikovsky
Music Library Assistant

Retirements

Daniel Sheehan
*Program Head, GIS and
Statistical Software Services*



2024 Infinite Mile Awards

The Libraries honored the outstanding contributions of its employees on June 11, recognizing achievements in the following categories.

Bringing Out the Best

Aya Fujita Ross
Administrative Assistant

Community Building and Engagement

Thera Webb
Women@MIT Project Archivist

Tough Questions/ Critical Thinkers

Jeremy Prevost
Lead Engineer

Unsung Hero

Katie Rusin
Project Coordinator

Collaboration and Inclusion

Internal Communications Working Group: Palak Patel, Francesca Bozor, Thera Webb, and Katharine Dunn

Innovation, Creativity, and Problem Solving

Carpentries@MIT Team: Ece Turnator, Ye Li, and Daniel Sheehan

Results, Outcome, and Productivity

The LibAnswers Implementation Project Team: Martina Anderson, Tina Chan, Lara Day, Melissa Feiden, Amanda Hawk, Derek Hixon, Lisa Horowitz, Donald Long, and Chris Tanguay.

User Service and Support

The Rotch 24/7 Pilot Group: Jaclyn Wilson, Felicity Walsh, Howard Martin, Maria Rodrigues, Laura Hanscom, Deborah Lenares, Kim Maxwell, Mohamed El Ouiridi, Lisa Horowitz, Kai Smith, Amy Nurnberger, Daniel Sheehan, Jana Dambrogio, Matt Saba, Caitlin Canfield, Kendall Dawson, and Elanienne Coste

Christine Moulen “Good Citizen” Award

Daniel Sheehan
Program Head, GIS and Statistical Software Services

Peace Ossom Named Director of Research Data Services

Peace Ossom joined the Libraries in August to lead the Department of Data and Specialized Services (DSS). In addition to overseeing strategy and operations of DSS’ multi-tiered research data activities such as creating data management plans, the DOI minting service, and GIS support, the director will manage an array of relationships outside of the Libraries, including serving as a key collaborator with the Institute’s Office of Research Computing and Data.

“Libraries are deepening services in engagement with the research process in all stages of the data lifecycle, while critically assessing how to align these processes with our values,” said Ossom. “MIT Libraries have been forward-thinking in this regard. I am delighted to join this effort and eager to undertake endeavors that contribute to a lasting impact on data use and access within MIT and across the wider research community.”

Ossom was previously the Associate Director of the Network of the National Library of Medicine National Center for Data Services and Associate Curator at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. She also served as Director of Research Data Services at the University of Texas at Arlington. Ossom is also an active educator, teaching at San Jose State University’s graduate iSchool program and the UTA undergraduate public health program. Her research areas are in scholarly research behaviors, open data and open science, and DEIA. She holds a Master of Library Science and a Master in Health Studies from Texas Women’s University.



From the NFL to MIT

John Urschel reflects on a life of math and football for MIT Reads



John Urschel, assistant professor in mathematics at MIT and a former offensive lineman for the Baltimore Ravens, spoke at Hayden Library on April 11 about his memoir, *Mind and Matter: A Life in Math and Football*, the spring 2023 selection for MIT Reads. The book was selected in collaboration with students in the introductory writing class, Writing and Experience: Reading and Writing Autobiography.

Urschel, who played three seasons for the Ravens, began a PhD in mathematics at MIT while still playing in the NFL. He spoke about his early interest in puzzles and math, scheduling his time

as a student athlete at Penn State, and his motivation for writing the book.

“I had a level of visibility, a level of attention, and a level of credibility with young people all across this country that your top mathematicians just did not have, fair or unfair,” said Urschel. “I think I had a very legitimate responsibility to do this, to be in the position that I was in, to have the sort of platform that I had, to really push the importance of math and how beautiful math is.”

Speaking alongside his wife and co-author Louisa Thomas, a contributor at *The New Yorker*, Urschel read an excerpt from the book and engaged in conversation with moderator Louise Harrison Lepera, a lecturer in Comparative Media Studies and Writing. A Q&A with the audience touched on the different communication styles of mathematicians and football players, the work ethic and drive they share, the lessons of failure, and the importance of letting things go.

“Life’s really too short to spend time doing things that don’t fully match your current priorities,” said Urschel, who retired from football in 2017 to focus on his doctorate and growing family. “I think it’s OK to not be afraid of redirecting yourself towards what you think matters most to you and what you care most about.”

Watch a recording of the event on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/MITLibraries.

Image
From left, Louise Harrison Lepera, John Urschel, and Louisa Thomas.
Photo: Bryce Vickmark.

News from MIT Press

Investing in the future of open knowledge



At a time when access to reliable information has never been more critical, the MIT Press is leading the way in open access to high-trust publications. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has access to the knowledge they need to shape a better future.

University presses play a crucial role in disseminating groundbreaking research and ideas. Unlike commercial publishers, they prioritize knowledge creation over short-term profits. The MIT Press excels in integrating science, technology, art, and design to address global challenges—and by making digital versions of scholarly works freely available, the MIT Press accelerates the pace of research and innovation, supporting equitable access to knowledge. The MIT Press maintains rigorous standards for all publications, ensuring high-quality open-access works.

The new MIT Press-Arcadia Open Access Endowment Fund helps ensure global access to critical scholarship through high-quality open books and journals. This initiative not only expands open access but also supports essential textbooks, trade books, and subscription products, maintaining a comprehensive publishing program.

Thanks to a generous matching gift from Arcadia, every dollar donated over the next four years will be doubled, maximizing the impact of contributions.

Learn more at mitpress.mit.edu/give-to-the-mit-press/

What's New

New exhibits showcase Distinctive Collections

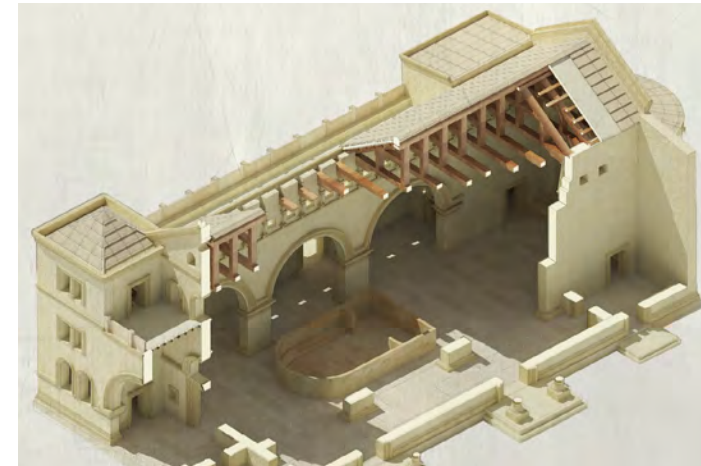


Image
Francesca Liuni,
Qalb Lozeh cutout.

Out of Antiquity: The “Dead Cities” in Syria and Their Islamic Architectural Legacy

Maihaugen Gallery

Through December 19, 2024

The “Dead Cities,” a romantic Orientalist name given to a group of more than 820 settlements in northwestern Syria, present the most complete classical rural setting in the world. Masterfully carved out of gray limestone and built without cement, many stood in pristine condition until the early 20th century. This exhibit features detailed drawings by Francesca Liuni for a book by Nasser Rabbat, as well as maps, models by Elshareef Kabbashi, academic books, and photographs, showcasing the widespread influence of the Dead Cities’ architecture on later Islamic structures.

From Samurai into Engineers: Eiichiro Honma and MIT’s First Japanese Students

Hayden Library Loft

Through December 19, 2024

From Samurai into Engineers marks the 150th anniversary of the graduation of MIT’s first Japanese student, Eiichirō Honma (SB 1874), and highlights the experiences of Honma and other Japanese students at MIT who followed in his footsteps.

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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