TASK FORCE REPORT

Space Exploration
Libraries\' evolving role as places for learning, making, holdings, and community
page 4

3 ARCHIVING IN REAL TIME
6 INFINITE MILE AWARDS
7 STAFF NEWS
8 WHAT'S NEW
9 HONOR ROLL
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
617–253–5297
chrisbourg@mit.edu
chrisbourg.wordpress.com

“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

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 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 make 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.”

“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.”

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.
Space Exploration
Libraries’ evolving role as places for learning, making, holdings, and community

“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.

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

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 reimaged 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.

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.”

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.”

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.”
Infinite Mile Awards

Annual celebration of excellence honors employees’ exceptional contributions

Innovations, Creativity & Problem Solving
Matt Bernhardt, Web Developer

Community Building
Julianna Langan, Collections and Administrative Assistant
Crossing the Charles competition captains: Katharine Dunn and Mikki Macdonald

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

Results, Outcome & Productivity
Mary Jeanne Yuen, Metadata Production Associate

Unsung Hero/Heroin
Judith Gallagher, Financial and Payroll Associate
Tim Rix, Systems Administrator

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.

New Appointments

MARTINA ANDERSON // E-Resources Associate
EMILY CRAWFORD // Digital Collections Associate
RENEE 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
**What’s New?**

**MIT Libraries Partner with History Faculty on Slavery Project and Class**

The Institute Archives and Special Collections is partnering with Craig Winder, Barton L. Weider 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 Flügel, 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 Flügel. 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 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**

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.

---

**Bibliotech**

**What’s New?**

**GIF**

**Thank You**

**Bib·li·o·tech**

**09**
Fall & Winter Events 2017

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Study Break
Furry First Friday

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

JANUARY EVENTS

Workshops & Classes
IAP: Independent Activities Period

**January 2–February 2**
Offered throughout the month

Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/mitlib
Follow us on Twitter @mitlibraries
Follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/mitlibraries