



MIT LIBRARIES' NEWS

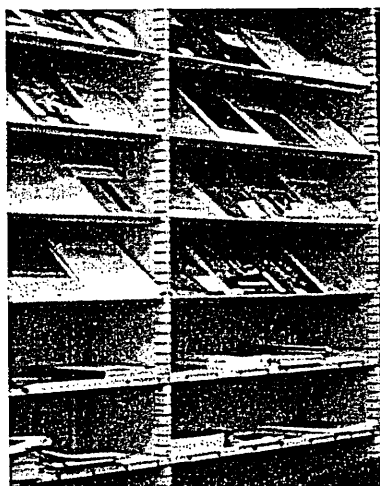
A Report to the Faculty

As the Dollar Falls, Subscription Prices Rise

The decade of the 80's was one in which library budgets were severely strained by the rising cost of journals. For several years during the period, the inflation rates were double-digit and they were consistently higher than the increase in the Consumer Price Index. In most academic libraries, including MIT, this resulted in journal cancellation projects and reduced expenditures for monographs. Unfortunately, we expect inflation rates for 1990/91 to again be extremely high — 15-20 percent overall — perhaps the highest inflation in a single year that we have ever experienced.

While the causes of the continued inflation over the last year have been several (higher production costs, expanding scholarly activity, commercialization of scholarly publishing), one of the greatest contributing factors has been the position of the dollar on the foreign currency market. The changes in average price of foreign journals sold by Faxon, a large journal vendor in this country, closely parallel changes in the value of the dollar against major foreign currencies. The average price rose by 86.8 percent

between 1977 and 1982, a period when the dollar was weak, but fell 3.8 percent as the dollar strengthened between 1982 and 1984. The value of the dollar fell again between 1985 and 1987, with a 40 percent devaluation against the Dutch guilder during that two-year period. Meanwhile, the



*Current journals shelves in Lindgren Library.
Photograph : Ginny Such.*

average price of foreign journals increased by 22 percent during the first of these two years and by 17 percent during the second year. Price increases for individual titles can also serve to illustrate the effect of the change in the value of the dollar. The 1985 exchange rate of 3.2 German marks to the dollar fell to 1.6 DM/dollar in 1988. In other words, it took 31 cents to

buy a mark in March, 1985, and 62 cents in March, 1988. Within this context, it is not surprising that *Cell & Tissue Research*, which is published in Berlin, increased in price from \$1125 in 1985 to \$2133 in 1988.

This summer, while the major European publishers were setting the exchange rates for their 1991 subscriptions, the dollar reached levels that were among the lowest since World War II. Elsevier has announced a rate of 1.78 guilders to the U.S. dollar, about 18 percent lower than last year's rate. This will contribute to an average price increase of about 35 percent in U.S. dollars for Elsevier titles. Springer-Verlag's dollar increase, including exchange rate and price increase, is expected to be 23-24 percent, and British titles are expected to increase by 15-20 percent. These inflation rates will have a major negative impact on our library budget this year, and in future years, too, as long as scientific publishing is concentrated in foreign commercial firms and the value of the dollar remains low.

*Carol J. Fleishauer, Associate
Director for Collection Management
and Technical Services*

BARTON On The Network: The Story Up To Now

The MIT community has been eagerly anticipating access to the MIT Libraries' BARTON catalogue through the MIT campus computer network. For members of the community who are connected to the campus network, especially those with Athena accounts, access to BARTON is now supported because of a cooperative effort between the Libraries and Information Systems Network Services.

As of this writing (September 1990) an alpha test front-end is in place which facilitates access to the BARTON catalogue as well as to other information services and library catalogues which support remote login throughout the Internet. Athena account holders can now access BARTON through a hardware connection consisting of a Cisco Systems terminal server and a GEAC Computers Ltd. five unit communication controller. Our experience to date has indicated frequent use of this service even though we have not yet announced its operational status. We have also not experienced any significant periods when all five ports were occupied and others were denied access. Development of this front-end is continuing through the efforts of an MIT student, Mitchell Charity.

Programming development continues in order to address keyboard mapping requirements and screen displays from other platforms. At present, access to the BARTON catalogue is available only through Athena. Announcements will be made as access is extended throughout the network. Presently, the MIT Libraries' catalogue is available only through Athena. Announcements will be made as access is extended throughout the network. Ultimately the MIT Libraries' catalogue will become another information node on NEARnet and the Internet.

BARTON Network Access Instructions:

```
At the Athena prompt -athena%  
type: telnet library  
      or...  
      telnet library.mit.edu  
      or...  
      telnet 18.84.1.12  
      press <enter>
```

Each of those telnet commands will take you to the library front-end, where instructions will explain how it can connect you to BARTON or to other catalogues or services. You will then see the following screen:

```
This is an alpha test of a program which will soon be available via telnet on Library.MIT.edu
```

```
Thoughts, comments, observations encouraged.
```

```
Please send them to mcharity@athena
```

```
Thank you.  
Press any key to continue ...
```

You will then see this screen:

```
Welcome to Library.MIT.edu
```

```
Type <RETURN> to connect to BARTON (MIT).
```

```
Type /?<RETURN> for info and help,  
//<RETURN> for menu.
```

```
Command:
```

Typing <RETURN> will then connect into the BARTON catalogue as you use it within the MIT Libraries.

The command: //<RETURN> takes you to a screen which offers an array of options: access to BARTON, of course, and access to selected catalogues which support remote login. Locally, the Boston University Library Catalogue

(TOMUS) is available and nationally the University of California system catalogue (MELVYL) is supported for access from this front-end. It is important to remember that each of these systems has a different command and search structure and that when connected to that catalogue the user must follow those instructions. There are national initiatives underway to address this problem, but at present users must be able to move and adapt to different environments for each catalogue system.

This connection through the campus computer network is an important first step in the Libraries' desire to offer information services to the community through the network. The Libraries are continuing to move forward with plans for a new catalogue system, and a key requirement is that it function within the campus computer network to service the community as a basic educational service. At present, feedback from users is promising. For the Libraries this initiative represents a productive service which is enabled through the cooperative efforts of several departments, notably Information Systems and the staff of Project Athena.

Greg Anderson, Associate Director for Systems and Planning

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Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Director of Libraries, 14S-216, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

Special Purchases

Among the thousands of publications selected for the MIT Libraries, we would like to draw your attention to a group of important new reference and research materials that have been received.

Dewey Library:

Buyouts Annual Review, 1990.
Contains data for a ten year period on leveraged buyouts in the U.S. (HD2746.5.B89 1990)

American Statistics Index, cumulatives for 1974-1979 and 1985-1988.
These cumulations complete the indexing for U.S. Government statistical publications from 1974 to the present. (HA202.A25 1974-)

Humanities Library:

Dissertation Abstracts Archival Edition, 1861-1984.
Ask at the Humanities Reference Desk for assistance using this CD-ROM version.

Modern Critical Interpretations, edited by Harold Bloom.
Each of the 151 volumes in this series treats a different author. Check on BARTON for call numbers.

Phonefiche: New England Phonebooks and U.S. Cities Over 500,000.
This microfiche set is located at the Humanities Reference Desk and contains phonebooks for all of New England as well as for U.S. cities with populations over 500,000.

Science Library:

Comprehensive Medicinal Chemistry.
A critical treatment of aspects of drug design, manufacture and action. (REF.RS402.C65.1990)

Science Citation Index.
The CD-ROM version is now available for the period 1985 to the present; ask at the Science Reference Desk for assistance using this.

Jennifer S. Banks,
Preservation and Collections Librarian

New Librarian Staff

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of David S. Ferriero as Associate Director of Public Services, effective April 1, 1990. David brings to this position a wealth of experience in public services, extensive knowledge of all aspects of research librarianship, and a deep understanding of the culture, traditions, and inner workings of the Institute and the MIT Libraries.



David S. Ferriero, Associate Director for Public Services
Photograph: Ray Charbonneau

David began his career at MIT as a student assistant while he was still an undergraduate at Northeastern University. Following a stint in the Navy, David rejoined MIT as a member of the support staff and entered the master's program at Simmons College. His first professional position was as Assistant Humanities Librarian for Interlibrary Borrowing. He was appointed Humanities Librarian in June 1977. David has also served as Acting Head of the Science Libraries. Since August 1987, he has carried the additional title of Public Service Projects Coordinator.

Among David Ferriero's many activities are those of Lecturer at Simmons College, membership on several OCLC advisory groups, active involvement in the Boston Library Consortium and NELINET, and participation in the American Library Association. He has been a member of MIT committees on commencement, and the quasiquintennial (125th anniversary). He has served on numerous library committees, most recently as a member of the Planning Team that developed the strategic plan in 1988.

It is most gratifying to see a long time member of the staff appointed to a senior level position after an exhaustive search process involving a number of well qualified candidates.

Jay K. Lucker, Director of Libraries

Expansion of BARTON, The Libraries' Online Catalogue

BARTON, the MIT Libraries' Online Catalogue, currently reflects the Libraries' holdings from 1973 to date. Materials added to the Libraries' collections between 1963 and 1973 are reflected in the Libraries' card catalogues, and those from pre-1963 are reflected in the microfiche catalogue. The Libraries are committed to expanding the online catalogue to reflect all of its holdings. This has become an even more important goal since the catalogue has become available from offices through dial-up access and also from Athena workstations outside the Libraries.

In April, the Libraries began the first step toward reaching this goal. We have contracted with OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Incorporated, to match our card catalogue records for all monographs purchased between 1963 and 1973 against its database in order to create tapes of machine readable records to correspond to our holdings. In those cases when MIT has unique holdings, the MIT records will be keyed in. We will be loading the tapes containing these records into BARTON over the next year. By October 1992, we will have added approximately 175,000 records to our online catalogue, increasing the size of the catalogue by forty percent and providing much better coverage of our retrospective collection.

Carol J. Fleishauer, Associate Director for Collection Management and Technical Services

Input Sought on Libraries' Collections

MIT Libraries staff use many techniques to learn of collections needs from faculty in the various Schools that our Libraries serve. In our decentralized system, most of these efforts originate in individual divisional or branch libraries and are attempts to discover the needs of the users of those individual libraries. We know, however, that many students and faculty must use more than one campus library because the collections are not divided neatly along research lines. Therefore we want to take an opportunity for a general assessment of perceptions of collections strengths and weaknesses across the campus. While collections funds continue to be severely strained by the rising cost of scholarly journals (see *As Dollar Falls, Subscription Prices Rise*, page 1), we still feel it is necessary for us to discover research or instruction needs that we are not serving well so that we can make the best possible allocation of the limited funds we have. Therefore we invite your response to the following questions:

Your Name:

Your Department:

Phone:

MIT Library or Libraries You Most Frequently Use:

Are there areas of MIT Libraries' collections which should be strengthened to support the course-related needs of your students? If so, what are they?

Are there areas of MIT Libraries' collections which should be strengthened to support your own research needs or those of your graduate students? If so, what are they?

Depending on the nature of your response, we may want to contact you for additional information. I would also be happy to hear from you at 3-5962.

Carol Fleishauer,
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for Collection Management
and Technical Services
Room 14S-312

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