

Bib·li·o·Tēch

NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1 SPRING 2003

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Photo by Richard Howard

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our planning for the next generation of library services is improved by the thoughtful contributions and lively interactions alumni/ae bring to the voyage.

MIT alumni/ae are amazing people. This should come as no surprise, of course, since they were once MIT students (who are also pretty amazing) and once studied with MIT faculty (ditto, amazing).

The fact that MIT's former students go into the world to lead intellectually, engaged, and highly contributive lives is taken for granted among the old timers here at MIT. As a relative newcomer to the Institute, however, I have only begun to appreciate just how engaged MIT's alumni/ae are with ideas, the world at large, and the communities in which they live and work.

MIT alumni/ae bring that same spirit of engagement to their relationship with the Institute. They are at the cutting edge of ideas and issues of importance to the nation and the world, and are always interested in knowing how they can contribute to the continuing excellence of MIT.

The uniqueness of MIT alumni/ae, and the great pleasure of meeting them—wherever they reside—has been happily reinforced for me in a series of visits I have been privileged to make to MIT clubs over the past year. From Washington DC to Northern California to Cleveland, MIT alumni/ae have greeted me with warmth and charm and have listened with great interest to the emerging story of the MIT Libraries in the 21st Century.

But they are also, most certainly, MIT people, asking wonderful questions, challenging our assumptions, suggesting solutions to key problems, offering to introduce us to technology and people that might prove useful, following with email, and in every other way imaginable signaling their interest in the challenges and opportunities the MIT Libraries face in a rapidly changing information technology environment.

The value of alumni/ae interest to the MIT Libraries cannot be overstated. Whether they are intrigued by our research initiatives as we probe the frontier of digital information management, or concerned that the Libraries traditional resources and services continue to meet the needs of MIT students and faculty, MIT alumni/ae let us know that the role of the Libraries was—and is—important to them.

Indeed, it seems that almost everyone has a story about how the MIT Libraries made a difference to them during their years at the Institute. Alumni/ae credit one or another of the Libraries with making it possible to study and write in peace. Some found joy (and reprieve) in collections of the Music Library. Many held part-time jobs in one of the Libraries. More than a few met their future spouses and/or spent happy hours on study dates in the Hayden or Barker libraries. Still others discovered for the first time, in the MIT Libraries, the magical qualities of rare books and original manuscripts.

Alumni/ae interest remains high in today's MIT Libraries. We are grateful to those who have donated so generously to the preservation and conservation of the Libraries' unique and important print collections. Alumni/ae have made it possible to renovate spaces to support contemporary study needs and information resources. We deeply appreciate the generosity of those alumni/ae whose gifts endow the collections that make the Libraries' resources a distinctive, valuable asset to the Institute. Alumni/ae participate in the *Honor with Books* program, remember the Libraries in their annual giving, and advocate for the Libraries in a variety of venues important to our mission.

I look forward to continued opportunities to meet with MIT alumni and alumnae through the MIT club network and on the MIT campus. Our planning for the next generation of library services is improved by the thoughtful contributions and lively interactions alumni/ae bring to the voyage. Shaping the future of the MIT Libraries for the 21st Century is a lot more fun when alumni/ae come along for the ride.

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TAMING THE WILD BUSINESS DATABASE

*“Give me a fish and I will eat for a day.
Teach me to fish and I will eat for a lifetime.”*

This maxim resonated at Dewey Library for Management and Social Sciences this past fall as Dewey librarians launched a series of business research workshops for Sloan students. Offered during lunch hours and early evenings throughout the semester, the workshops focused on selecting the right databases for research on companies, industries and markets, and international business. Over 190 students from a range of Sloan programs (MBA, PhD, Leaders for Manufacturing, Management of Technology, System Design and Management, and Sloan Fellows) participated in 23 workshop sessions. Their response

has been highly enthusiastic. A common sentiment, as one new MBA student excitedly expressed it, was, “In 45 minutes here today, I’ve found information for my project that previously would have taken me several days to pull together!”

The workshops are part of an initiative by Dewey librarians to help students meet the challenges of business research in a complex and highly networked environment. Unlike other fields that may rely on a core of 10 to 12 databases, business and management researchers must often work with at least four times that number. In addition to databases of citations and full-text research journal articles, there are also sources for news, corporate information, trade and industry reports, market studies, data on financial instruments, and a range of economic, social, and demographic statistics. All of these information genres comprise the raw material of business research. Knowing which database to choose from such a wide and varied field can be daunting. The goal of the workshops was to teach students how to take advantage of this wealth of resources, both efficiently and effectively.

The workshop format was designed to combine the synergy of small group interaction with the flexibility offered by wireless and web technologies. Sloan students typically work in teams and small groups; the workshops replicated this model. Workshop sessions consisted of 8 to 12 students, each of whom brought a wireless enabled laptop. Librarians also worked with wireless enabled laptops, a lightweight projector, and a portable screen. This “infrastructure” allowed librarians to make creative use of the limited instructional space in Dewey Library while enhancing opportunities for individual attention and the give-and-take of a team environment.

To help students understand the complex multitude of business databases, Dewey librarians used web-based technology to create a **Business Database Advisor** (<http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/business-databases/>). The Advisor uses a sequence of menus and brief

descriptions to guide researchers quickly through the steps of selecting a database, leading them to a direct link to that database. This tool is the basis for the workshops’ instruction.

In an end-of-semester evaluation, students said that the workshops had significantly helped their research and that they are continuing to use the Business Database Advisor. In response to this feedback, Dewey librarians will offer more workshops during the spring term.

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Photo by L. Barry Hetherington

Engineers Learn Business Databases

Catherine Friedman, Head, Dewey Library, demonstrates the use of a business online database during the January Independent Activities Period workshop: *Finding Business Information for Engineers*, one of 31 IAP events sponsored this year by the MIT Libraries. Held in the Libraries’ new Digital Instruction Resource Center, this hands-on workshop showed how to take advantage of business databases available at MIT.

NEW MIT LIBRARIES DIGITAL RESEARCH GROUP INITIATES FOUR PROJECTS

Last fall the **DSpace** digital repository system (<http://www.dspace.org/>) was launched as a new service of the MIT Libraries and as an open source system for the world to use. The response has been overwhelming, both at MIT and around the world. DSpace staff are in discussion with a dozen research units around campus about joining the system this year, and the open source system has been downloaded by more than two thousand other institutions world-wide since the November public release.

DSpace is also growing as a production service of the MIT Libraries, supporting the important new educational technology initiatives underway around campus. OpenCourseWare (<http://ocw.mit.edu/>) will use DSpace as its long-term archive for courses so that MIT faculty and others interested in course material published by OCW can find it and reuse it long after it's gone from the active OCW web site. DSpace is also working with the Open Knowledge Initiative (<http://web.mit.edu/oki/>) to define interactions between course management systems like STELLAR or SloanSpace, and a long-term repository like DSpace. This will allow interested faculty members to conveniently find and reuse teaching and research materials. Since it handles the vexing issues of making important and valuable digital material available indefinitely in a stable, well-managed, economical archive, DSpace is serving as a critical piece of all of these efforts.

Now that DSpace is a reliable service of the Libraries, it's time to take the "lessons learned" to the next stage. In the summer of 2002, the MIT Libraries formed a new **Digital Library Research Group** to continue the work of the DSpace project and to undertake new research projects related to digital libraries and digital archiving. The Digital Library Research Group has received four grants for new projects, totaling approximately \$2.4 million over the next three years.



Hal Abelson, Class of 1922 Professor of Computer Science and Engineering addresses DSpace Symposium, *Scholarly Communication in a Digital World*, in November. The symposium can be viewed on MIT World at <http://web.mit.edu/mitworld/content/libraries/scdw.html>



Robin Gallimore, Center Director, HP Labs, Bristol, UK and Director, HP Digital Media Systems Laboratory, on the left, talks to MIT President Charles Vest at the DSpace Symposium and Launch in November 2002.

Photo by L. Barry Hetherington

DSpace Federation Project

DSpace was designed to be made available as open source software to other organizations. We also are establishing a "federation" of institutions with a formal relationship to the DSpace system at MIT, both in the technical sense of shared content and services, and in the organizational sense of shared development and maintenance of the system. The goals of the DSpace Federation are:

Develop a critical corpus of content representing the intellectual output of the world's leading research universities in digital formats

Promote the continued development of the DSpace system through an Open Source community of developers at many institutions

Promote interoperability of archival repositories and long-term preservation of scholarly work by complying with published standards and supporting national and international initiatives to develop standards in this domain.

In January of this year, the Libraries began a project with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to define the DSpace Federation in collaboration with six other major research institutions in the US and Canada: Columbia University, Cornell University, Ohio State University, and the Universities of Rochester, Toronto, and Washington. With support from MIT Libraries staff, these institutions will install, configure and evaluate



DSpace, and define a business plan for its use in their own institutional context. They will also help us develop the DSpace Federation's business plan.

With so many hundreds of institutions independently considering DSpace to build institutional repositories, getting the right definition of the DSpace Federation in a timely way is critical to the continued success of this effort.

For more information, contact MacKenzie Smith (kenzie@mit.edu).

DSpace@Cambridge

DSpace@Cambridge is a collaborative project of Cambridge University Library, the Cambridge University Computing Service, and the MIT Libraries to extend DSpace into Cambridge University and the United Kingdom. This important initiative will help ensure that the collective digital intellectual resources of Cambridge University are systematically captured, preserved, and made accessible for both present-day and long-term use.

Funded by the Cambridge-MIT Institute (CMI), DSpace@Cambridge will further develop the DSpace functionality as part of the DSpace Federation, of which Cambridge University is the sole representative from Europe. Strategies will be established for the University regarding deployment costs, intellectual property rights issues, organizational change, institutional governance, and policy issues, based on the proposed implementation. Using the experience thus gained, Cambridge University also will act as an exemplar site for other UK institutions interested in implementing DSpace.

Cambridge University Library will make its own special contribution to the development of DSpace by utilizing the expertise in digital preservation that it has acquired during the last four years through its participation in the Cedars (<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/cedars>) and CAMiLEON (<http://www.si.umich.edu/CAMiLEON/>) digital preservation projects.

For more information, see the DSpace@Cambridge website (www.lib.cam.ac.uk/dspace/) or contact Julie Walker (jhwalker@mit.edu).

Organizational Issues in Institutional

Repository Development—A Seminar Series

Also through CMI, the MIT Libraries will collaborate with the Cambridge University Library to provide a series of seminars dealing with the business aspects of developing digital institutional repositories in the UK. Based on knowledge gained in the development of a sustainable business plan for MIT's digital institutional repository, this series of seminars is meant to streamline the process of developing similar business plans for universities, archives, libraries and museums in the United Kingdom. In addition, MIT's UK counterparts will have valuable contributions to make to our understanding of digital preservation costs and methods.

For more information, contact Mary Barton (mbarton@mit.edu).

SIMILE

In the Fall of 2002, Hewlett-Packard Company, the original funder and development partner for the DSpace project, funded a follow-on research project called **SIMILE, Semantic Interoperability of Metadata and Information in unLike Environments**. The project is led by MIT Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science David Karger of the Laboratory for Computer Science, and also involves researchers from Hewlett-Packard Labs, the Semantic Web Activity Group of the WorldWideWeb Consortium, and the MIT Libraries. Progress on the SIMILE project will be reported in a future issue of *BiblioTech*.

For more information, contact MacKenzie Smith (kenzie@mit.edu).



At University of Cambridge/MIT's Digital Library Services Workshop, January 2002, Cambridge University, UK, are (l to r): Michael Holdsworth, Cambridge University Press; Ann Wolpert, Director, MIT Libraries; Peter Morgan, Medical Librarian, Cambridge University; Margret Branschofsky, DSpace User Support Manager, MIT Libraries; Charles Jardine, Computer Officer, Cambridge University; Mike Sayers, Director, Cambridge University Computing Office; Mick Bass, Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, DSpace Development Team; Ellis Weinberger, Cambridge University Research Associate; Peter Fox, Cambridge University Librarian.

MAKING RARE BOOKS MORE ACCESSIBLE

From such titles as John Canton's 1751 *Method of Making Artificial Magnets* to Alfred Sloan's 1964 *My Years With General Motors*, the MIT Libraries are home to an impressive collection of rare and special materials that reflect the printed history of science and technology. In late 1999, a Libraries' task force conducted a major study of MIT's rare book collections. These special collections were carefully stored in a secure, stable environment, but the Libraries lacked a suitable "rare book room" for their display, and intellectual access was limited to brief records in a microfiche catalog. Due to resource constraints, very few of the titles had received electronic catalog records during the Libraries' move to the Barton online catalog in the early 1980s; as a result, the rare books were largely invisible to the MIT community.

In response to the task force's recommendations, the Libraries' staff are working systematically to integrate these rich and varied collections into the intellectual life of the Institute. Physical evaluation of every volume is well underway, the creation of detailed electronic catalog records is ongoing, an expert book and paper conservator has been hired, and a state-of-the-art conservation lab was recently dedicated.

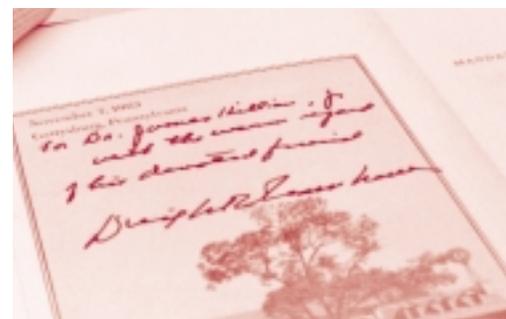
Like MIT itself, the Libraries' rare book collections are unique. Many of the titles in the **Legacy Collection** originally resided in the stacks; these are volumes that were consulted and studied for decades by countless students and researchers. Large numbers of additional volumes, many of them highly valuable, have been received in the form of gifts and bequests from generous alumni, faculty, and other supporters of the Libraries. The **Founders Collection** consists of volumes originally assembled for personal use by William Barton Rogers, Francis Amasa Walker, and other pivotal figures from MIT's early years. The Libraries' rare book collections now comprise a singular intellectual treasure with enormously strong holdings in the history of science and technology.

Detached boards are a common condition problem, due to a combination of use and leather deterioration.



Working in the E. Martin and Ethel Wunsch Conservation Laboratory, Heather Kaufman, Preservation Services Librarian, carefully folds a damaged plate back into a rare book.

Dwight Eisenhower, *Mandate for Change: 1953-1956*, New York, 1963. The MIT Libraries' copy is inscribed, "For Dr. James Killian Jr., with the warm regard of his devoted friend, Dwight Eisenhower."



Photos on this page by L. Barry Hetherington

The Libraries' goal is to maximize the availability and usefulness of these collections both at MIT and throughout the larger academic universe. The responsible servicing of such special material requires two levels of expert support. First, the physical security, safety, and preservation of these precious artifacts are of paramount importance. Second, the intellectual control and access requirements for such materials exceed those for standard print collections.

The Libraries' staff have devised a method whereby physical assessment, along with high-level cataloging, can happen in tandem. Heather Kaufman, Preservation Services Librarian, closely examines the physical condition of each volume. This condition assessment is multifaceted, providing a snapshot of the book's current physical state, a listing of required repairs, and special handling instructions. These findings are entered into a searchable database so that conservator Christine McCarthy, in order to maximize efficiency, can batch books needing similar treatments (repairing broken hinges, mending torn paper, removing caustic adhesives, and so on). The condition assessment also serves as a guide for the Archives staff who house and control the collection, and instructs them in how to handle each title. When a student or researcher requests a title, the assessment database cues the librarian to instruct the reader in any special handling a given volume might require during use.

Once a volume's condition has been fully assessed, librarian Stephen Skuce carries out a much more extensive cataloging process than would be done for a typical modern publication. Certain data from the condition assessment is entered into the catalog record, along with a detailed physical description and various "copy-specific" notes on the features that distinguish each particular volume.

The Libraries are well on their way to ensuring that the rare book collections, like all the other resources, will be widely used by MIT's students, faculty, and researchers for years to come.

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SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES:

Celebrating Accomplishments and Looking Forward to New Challenges

Events abounded at the MIT Libraries throughout the Fall, because there was much to celebrate.

October 9, 2002 saw the celebration of the official opening of new and newly renovated spaces in Building 14. Well over 200 students, faculty, and staff toured the Institute Archives, the new entrance to the Hayden Library, including the 24-Hour Study Room and Circulation desk, the E. Martin and Ethel Wunsch Conservation Laboratory, and the offices of Systems and Technology Services. This signaled the completion of the first phase of the Libraries' long-term plan for serving students and faculty in the 21st century.

The previous weekend, Corporation Chairman Alex D'Arbeloff dedicated the **E. Martin (1944) and Ethel Wunsch Conservation Laboratory**. The expanded facility and the addition of a conservator to the existing preservation program allow the Libraries to address the special needs of rare materials as never before. As long-time collectors and admirers of antique furniture and books, Martin and Ethel Wunsch appreciate the critical need for appropriate conservation and preservation of the Libraries' collections. When he was approached with the idea of supporting the preservation program, Martin's response was immediate and positive. The fund created by Martin and Ethel Wunsch will enable both conservation of rare and unique works, as well as increased access by students and scholars to these significant intellectual assets.

Although MIT remains fast-paced and future-oriented, the Libraries' older collections have increasing relevance and interest. Students still become excited when they see a first edition of a book by Sir Isaac Newton or one of Doc Edgerton's original lab notebooks. Thanks to Martin and Ethel Wunsch and to the anonymous alumnus who got the preservation center project off the ground in the first place, students today and in the future will benefit from access to the extraordinary rare and unique materials in the MIT Libraries.

The world-wide launch of DSpace, the digital repository of MIT's intellectual output, provided a reason to celebrate in November. MIT and corporate partner Hewlett-Packard, were delighted by the enthusiastic reception that DSpace received. President

Charles M. Vest; Robin Gallimore, Center Director, HP Labs, Bristol, UK & Director, HP Digital Media Systems Laboratory; and Ann J. Wolpert, Director of MIT Libraries, opened the symposium: *Scholarly Communication in a Digital World*. Speakers Hal Abelson from MIT, James Boyle from Duke University Law School,

and Clifford Lynch of the Coalition for Networked Information each provided their unique perspective on this important topic. With more than 150 people attending the symposium, and with coverage in more than 50 news outlets around the world—in the first week—the launch can truly be considered a success. (See more on DSpace on pages 4 and 5).

“RECORDED KNOWLEDGE IS AS FRAGILE AS THE MEDIUM ON WHICH IT IS RECORDED AND AS ENDURING AS THE HUMAN RESOLVE TO TRANSMIT IT.”

The Future of the Past: Preservation in American Research Libraries, Abby Smith

The Libraries' recent accomplishments—made possible with the help of individuals, foundations and corporate partners—enable MIT students and faculty to be served more effectively. The research initiatives that explore the challenges of managing information, and the renovated spaces with their broad range of services and resources, represent important progress towards advancing the Institute's mission of excellence in education and research. Long-term plans include additional research projects, ongoing space enhancements, and an eventual reconfiguring of the Libraries' facilities.

M.J. Miller, Director of Development

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Corporation Chairman Alex d'Arbeloff receives check to establish endowed fund for the E. Martin and Ethel Wunsch Conservation Laboratory. (l to r): Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries; Ethel Wunsch; Alex d'Arbeloff; Sandy Washburn, Office of Campaign Giving; E. Martin Wunsch.

MITLibraries

BiblioTech: News from the MIT Libraries, an official publication of the MIT Libraries, is published twice a year, in the Fall and the Spring.

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Designed by Korn Design, Boston

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARIES?

SFX COMING SOON— *What does that mean?*

Soon red buttons labeled *SFX* will appear in citations in many of the Libraries' online databases. The Libraries are implementing the *ExLibris SFX* tool to facilitate linking from article citations in online databases to the full text. *SFX* allows users searching from databases licensed for the MIT community, such as *INSPEC*, *PsycINFO*, or *Web of Science*, to link to journal articles. Clicking the *SFX* button in a citation brings up a menu of options: get online full text when available, check the Barton catalog for the print version, request from Interlibrary Borrowing or Document Services, or get help from librarians using *Ask Us!*

For more information on *SFX*, see
<http://libraries.mit.edu/about/faqs/sfx.html>

Bib·li·o·Tēch WINS GOLD

BiblioTech: News from the MIT Libraries, received the Gold Medal in the 2002 District 1 Publication Awards Competition in the Newsletter (2 colors or less) category from CASE—the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. CASE provides education professionals in alumni relations, communications, and development with essential tools to advance their institutions. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded in each publication category.

September 11th Memorial Records Preserved

The Institute Archives has taken into MIT's permanent collection the comment banners hung in Lobby 10 and memorial note cards left at the reflecting wall created in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. These records and others collected in the future will offer information about the many activities at MIT relating to September 11th and provide a broad perspective for study, reflection, and remembrance.

For long-term storage of the comment banners, the Libraries Preservation Services staff researched and purchased boxes with appropriate preservation properties. The banners were carefully rolled to accommodate three-dimensional artifacts affixed to the paper—for example red, white, and blue paper rosettes. Over 150 memorial note cards were examined, carefully cleaned, and housed in polyethylene sleeves.

For further information about the records (collection AC 531), contact the *Institute Archives and Special Collections at mithistory@mit.edu*



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