

# Bib·li·o·Tēch

NEWS FROM THE MIT LIBRARIES

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3



4



5



6



12

## CONTENTS

PAGE 2: FROM THE DIRECTOR

PAGE 3: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

PAGE 4: FROM THE ARCHIVES

PAGE 5: SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES

PAGE 6: LEWIS MUSIC LIBRARY TURNS 10

PAGE 8: DONORS TO THE LIBRARIES

PAGE 12: WHAT'S NEW

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Photo by Richard Howard

The MIT Libraries are privileged to provide library services to a remarkably computer-savvy community, and we have quite a lot of fun designing computer-based products and services to support that community. In fact, our aptitude and enthusiasm for technology-based solutions is sufficiently well established that a recent issue of the national newsletter *Library Journal Academic Newswire* featured a number of recent MIT Libraries' innovations currently in beta test in the MIT Libraries (<http://libraries.mit.edu/help/betas/>); including the Dewey Research Advisor, LibX (MIT's version of a Firefox toolbar that allows users to search the library catalog, Google Scholar, and other search tools) and another tool that enables

the searching of MIT's Barton catalog from an Amazon.com book screen.

But we also know that productivity and learning come in many sizes and flavors, and that advanced technology can have its down sides, including complexity, instability, and, yes, even desperation. Who among us doesn't dread upgrading the software on their personal computer or hasn't experienced the frustration of an inexplicably unavailable network-based journal or database? So while the MIT Libraries like technology, and we work hard at supporting the people of MIT with stable, state-of-the-art technology, we also offer more than just technology. We support the MIT community with spaces and products and "people-based" services that reflect the more holistic needs of student and faculty life at MIT.

- The Browsery in the Humanities Library, for example, hosts a collection of books and multimedia (not to mention comfy reading chairs) that offer balance and perspective to our intensely analytical community.
- Group study rooms, home to lively discussions in almost every library, flout the "shushing" stereotype of the libraries of yesteryear.
- The new Media Suite in Barker Library supports seminars and multimedia study needs, as does the Information Intersection on the Student Street in the Stata Center.
- Library workshops on every imaginable topic of interest to researchers reach thousands of MIT students and faculty every year.
- Receptions under the "Barker Dome" welcome graduate students in the fall and alumni in the spring.
- Individual research consultations with highly skilled librarians help graduate students, post-docs, and undergraduates navigate the complex world of online and physical research resources.
- The Lewis Music Library offers respite and inspiration through its graceful facilities as well as through its splendid collections and innovative performance programs.

- Our Institute archives and rare book collections (soon to enjoy a new display and instructional space) introduce students to the deep history of MIT and the disciplines they study.

### Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes.

Henry David Thoreau

We know through assessment that this balanced approach to service is effective for our community, and several weeks ago I had the pleasure of finding intellectual affirmation of its merits in John Maeda's new book *The Laws of Simplicity* (The MIT Press, 2006). This slender, thought-provoking work offers ten laws for balancing simplicity and complexity in design, technology, and business. His sixth law speaks to the importance of context, and as illustration he draws upon the metaphor of the distinctly different roles of the laser beam and the light bulb in illumination. The focused laser beam, Maeda asserts, will of necessity, be narrow. Context, he goes on to argue, may initially be perceived as in periphery, but it is definitely not peripheral. If the Libraries computer- and network-based services are the laser beam that focuses directly on productivity in research and education, then the "people-based" services of the MIT Libraries are an equally important light bulb that illuminates the MIT experience more broadly and in an expanded social and intellectual context.

"Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes," cautioned Henry David Thoreau. Happily, MIT students and faculty will need no new outfits to take benefit from either the human services or the technical services offered by the MIT Libraries in support of new information, fresh ideas, intellectual balance, and social engagement. These dual forms of illumination provided by the Libraries are both technical and social, and it takes only a quick log on or a step through the door to get started.

Ann J. Wolpert, Director of Libraries  
617 253 5297 [awolpert@mit.edu](mailto:awolpert@mit.edu)

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

## ADVANCING LIBRARIANSHIP IN KOSOVO

*A year ago in November the MIT Libraries hosted a group of nine librarians from the National and University Library of Kosovo. MIT librarians introduced their Kosovar counterparts to new skills and systems in university librarianship as part of a program sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

*In spring of 2006 Rebecca Lubas, MIT Libraries' Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services, was invited by the U.S. State Department to participate in National Library Week in Pristina, Kosovo. In the following article Rebecca shares experiences from her visit.*

This spring I was given an extraordinary invitation: I was invited to speak at National Library Week in Kosovo—an effort supported by the U.S. State Department to help modernize Kosovo libraries and encourage resource- and knowledge-sharing among Kosovar librarians. The conference emphasizes cooperation among all ethnic groups in a country that was once torn apart by ethnic strife.

Libraries in Kosovo have been slowly rebuilding after years of neglect and damage. This year, both academic and public libraries are preparing to make a major leap forward—changing from a card catalog system to an integrated library system. By April, a few libraries had implemented the Ex Libris Aleph system (the same system used at MIT Libraries) and were beginning to adapt their workflows to automation.



National and University Library of Kosovo

The National and University Library—site of the Library Week conference—is on the campus of the University of Pristina. The Library is filling the difficult dual role of being both a national archive and a resource supporting an active university system. This fall, the institution is dividing into two parts to serve the very different needs of each “library.”

One innovation that the University Library is trying is the opening of stacks. Previously, university students could only have one book at a time retrieved for them. An open stack environment, something that American universities take for granted, will not only be a convenience but will also foster a new approach to learning and research.



Photo by L. Barry Hetherington

Rebecca Lubas, MIT Libraries' Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services,

The Kosovar librarians are eager to learn and advance information accessibility in their country. In preparation for the huge step of automation, they have been updating their cataloging skills and learning computer cataloging standards. They are interested in cataloging materials in multiple formats. During the conference I gave them a crash course in video, electronic resources, map, microform and graphics cataloging, and presented a “live” demonstration in their database. Over 40 librarians attended the sessions and many of the training materials were translated into Albanian and Serbian to be circulated amongst others who couldn't be there for the conference.

Despite the many logistical and historical challenges facing the Kosovars, their energy to move their country forward was inspirational. Everyone was very welcoming and excited to hear about methods in American libraries. Beyond the technical questions, they asked a lot of questions about American library users and library management.

U.S. support of Kosovo libraries will reach beyond Library Week. Possible developments include bringing librarians to the U.S. to earn the Masters of Library Science degree, and further increase the knowledge transfer between our cultures. To learn more, see the Kosova Librarian's Association web site: [http://shbk-ks.org/krye\\_eng/index\\_eng.htm](http://shbk-ks.org/krye_eng/index_eng.htm)

Rebecca Lubas, Head, Cataloging & Metadata Services  
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Photo by Besim Kokollari



## FROM THE ARCHIVES CREATING A WINDOW TO HISTORY



Photo by L. Barry Hetherington

Future Institute Archives' exhibit space

In recent years the Libraries have improved spaces used for researching, administering, preserving, and storing archival materials. However, one space has been missing—a public place to display some of the extraordinary items in its collections. That is about to change.

Through a generous gift of an anonymous donor, work is underway to build a new exhibit space adjacent to the Institute Archives & Special Collections (14N-118). The once blank corridor wall outside the Archives will become a literal window into MIT's remarkable special collections.

A group consisting of staff from the Libraries' Archives, Preservation Services, and Administrative Services departments has been working with an architect and museum designer to design the space. Particular attention is being paid to the special needs associated with displaying archival materials. These include lighting (to protect the exhibited materials from harmful UV rays and excessive light, special lights and filters will be used); temperature and humidity (to ensure proper control within the space, a dedicated HVAC unit will be installed); and security (to protect the valuable items that will be on display, proper deterrence systems will be employed).

The once blank corridor wall outside the Archives will become a literal window into MIT's remarkable special collections.

Tom Rosko

The exhibit area is being created out of an existing Archives' workroom, adjacent to the reading room. The space is being expanded by incorporating an underutilized portion of the Libraries' Digital Instruction Research Center (DIRC). A new wall between the spaces was erected in August, in time for usage of the DIRC at the start of the fall semester. Plans are being finalized and construction on the exhibit space itself is expected to begin this fall.

The corridor outside the space will be reworked. The current solid corridor wall will be rebuilt with windows for peering into the exhibit area. Exhibit cases will line the hallway and new floor tile will be installed, framing the space. Accessible from the corridor, the space will contain several archival-quality exhibit cases: some hanging, some freestanding and moveable, to allow for flexibility in exhibit design. The cases will be suitable for displaying a variety of materials of different formats and sizes: documents, photographs, rare books, maps, plans, etc. A glass wall will separate the exhibit space from the Archives' reading room, with a door to provide access during classes and special events.

The MIT Libraries have a wealth of wonderful items to put on display and a wide range of potential exhibit topics. We're delighted that soon we'll have an appropriate space to share these special collections with the MIT community.

While the construction of the physical space is underway, plans are also being developed to promote exhibits through instruction and outreach activities. Additional funding will help, with planning, preparing and curating such exhibits. To learn more about the project and ways to help, contact: Sharon Stanczak, Director of Development at (617) 452-2123.

Tom Rosko, Head, MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections  
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# SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES

## A PORTRAIT OF GENEROSITY

Colorful canvases with sun-splashed landscapes of Italy and coastal Carolina fill Jim Rothnie's home art studio. Painting is an interest this MIT alumnus is able to devote more time to since he and his wife, Marianne, retired to South Carolina in 2002. When Jim reminisces about his years at MIT, he paints a picture that is as warm and vibrant as his artwork.

"I loved being a student at MIT," said Rothnie when he recalls the excitement around learning that he found amongst his MIT peers. Jim's fond memories of MIT and his gratitude to the Institute where he earned three degrees (SB in EECS in 1970, and an SM and PhD in civil engineering in 1972) recently inspired the Rothnies to establish a \$50,000 endowment for the MIT Libraries.

Jim and Marianne, who met in the third grade, were married while Jim was in graduate school. He attended MIT on an ROTC scholarship and joined the Army after completing his graduate work. In 1973 he was stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he served as a platoon leader until transferring to Washington, DC to work with the Department of Defense. In 1976 it was an MIT connection—a former fraternity brother—who persuaded the couple to return to Boston, where Jim took a position with the Computer Corporation of America. He also worked at Kendall Square Research Corporation and Data General before becoming Chief Technology Officer of EMC Corp., the world's largest data storage company, in 1995. At EMC Jim oversaw the development of innovative technologies designed to archive massive data files.

His background in data storage led to an interest in the MIT Libraries' DSpace project—the digital archive created by Hewlett-Packard and the Libraries to store and preserve MIT's intellectual output. Rothnie lends his insight and expertise in this area by serving on the MIT Libraries' Visiting Committee. He feels the challenges of digital archiving—including changing media formats and scholarly communication issues—are areas where the MIT Libraries can make a difference.

**The Libraries are at the cusp of something very important. I'd like to see MIT continue to be a leader in this area.** Jim Rothnie



Photo by Rob Kaufman

Jim and Marianne Rothnie

"The Libraries are at the cusp of something very important. I'd like to see MIT continue to be a leader in this area," Rothnie said. He and Marianne also feel it's important for the Libraries to provide spaces for students to study. Jim used the libraries as a quiet space for studying, away from the commotion of his fraternity, and feels it's important for MIT to offer welcoming environments conducive to study and learning.

"The Libraries are very grateful for the Rothnies' generosity and for Jim's service to MIT," said Ann Wolpert, MIT's Director of Libraries. According to Wolpert, the Rothnies' unrestricted gift will help the Libraries to fund areas of greatest need.

Heather Denny, Communications Officer  
617 253 5686 [hdenny@mit.edu](mailto:hdenny@mit.edu)



Lewis Music Library

Photo by L. Barry Hetherington

## RENOVATED LEWIS MUSIC LIBRARY TURNS TEN!

There was great excitement ten years ago when the newly renovated Rosalind Denny Lewis Music Library opened its doors. Thanks to the generosity of Cherry Emerson ('41) and other donors, the dream of a new music library on campus was finally fulfilled. The library gained significant space and functionality by adding a mezzanine, new listening/viewing equipment, comfortable study rooms, increased shelf space, an audio preservation room, a special collections room, and new office space for staff. In addition, it was beautiful to behold in its sycamore wood with mahogany trim and glass panels etched with a canon composed by world-renowned composer and Institute Professor John Harbison. What a contrast to the old Music Library!

**. . . you have an incredible selection of scores and CDs, and nice librarians and student [assistants] happy to suggest a good CD for some relaxation and distraction from class work during any stressed-out afternoon.**

David Glasser ('06), Engineering graduate student

So after 10 years, how has the library served its users? Here are some statistics since 1996 to put things into perspective:

- People entered the library over 500,000 times to study, listen to music, watch a music video, work on problem sets, play the piano keyboard, discuss course work with a friend, and yes, even take a little nap on our incredibly comfortable lounge chairs.
- Approximately 330,000 items were circulated from the library, revealing the popularity of music and the library on campus.
- More than 26,000 books, scores, and recordings were added to the collection.
- Over 20 concerts and events were performed in the library by MIT faculty, students, and staff.
- A total of 26 music oral history interviews with 16 individuals were recorded, and over 100 CD copies were produced from audio tape transfers in the library's audio preservation room.

While these figures are impressive, they do not tell the whole story. This library has meant many things to many people. For some, it has suggested exploration—discovering a new composer, song, or musical style. For others, the library has provided inspiration—to perform and listen to the masterpieces in music history. For yet others, the library has been a place of solace where one could escape the pressures of school by listening to music, studying quietly, or just unwinding in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. In the words of engineering graduate student, David Glasser, “. . .you have an incredible selection of scores and CDs, and nice librarians and student [assistants] happy to suggest a good CD for some relaxation and distraction from class work during any stressed-out afternoon...”.

# TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOP TENS FROM THE LEWIS MUSIC LIBRARY



There is no doubt that the Lewis Music Library has indeed made a significant impact on the lives of many and continues to play a vital role in the arts at MIT. The vision that began ten years ago has brought countless benefits to those who have entered its doors. And we have plans to keep the momentum going. In the next ten years we will increase the scope and depth of our collection. In step with MIT's music curriculum, we will continue to expand our subject areas so that classical music along with jazz, popular music, folk music, film music, electronic music, and world music, will be collected more extensively. And in response to the overwhelming popularity of our online resources, such as the Naxos Music Library, we will add more online products for our networked patrons, as well as house an extensive collection of books, scores, and recordings that are simply not available online. The coming years will also see more concerts and events in the library, additional preservation projects to reformat and restore historic MIT recordings, and steady growth of the Music at MIT Oral History project.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating our tenth anniversary. Please stay tuned to our website: <http://libraries.mit.edu/music/> for more information on upcoming events. We look forward to many more decades in which the library and its music will continue to serve and inspire the MIT community.

Peter Munstedt, Lewis Music Librarian  
617 253 5636 [pmunsted@mit.edu](mailto:pmunsted@mit.edu)

## TOP TEN MOST CIRCULATED CDS:

- 1 Vivaldi - L'estro armonico. & Bartók - String quartets. (tied at 226 loans)
- 2 Schumann - Dichterliebe, Liederkreis. & Corelli - Concerti grossi op. 6. (tied at 215 loans)
- 3 Corelli - Trio sonatas. (213 loans)
- 4 Wagner - Tristan und Isolde. (209 loans)
- 5 Mozart - Don Giovanni. (204 loans)
- 6 Music from Ethiopia. (202 loans)
- 7 Handel - Messiah. (198 loans)
- 8 Bizet - Carmen. & Bach - Brandenburg concertos. (tied at 196 loans)
- 9 Shona spirit: mbira masters from Zimbabwe. (193 loans)
- 10 Mozart - String quartets 14 & 15. (191 loans)

## TOP TEN MOST CIRCULATED SCORES:

- 1 Schubert - Gesänge für eine Singstimme mit Klavierbegleitung. Peters. (99 loans)
- 2 Haydn - String quartet, B flat major, op. 76 no. 4. Wiener Philharmonischer. (81 loans)
- 3 Boulez - Le marteau sans maître, pour voix d'alto et 6 instruments. Universal Edition. (77 loans)
- 4 Strayhorn - Take the "A" train; edited by Gunther Schuller. Smithsonian Institution. (75 loans)
- 5 Haydn - Quartet for 2 violins, viola and violoncello. Op. 74, no. 1. Eulenburg. & Mozart - Don Giovanni. Vocal score. Schirmer. (tied at 72 loans)
- 6 Chopin - Balladen. G. Henle. (69 loans)
- 7 Corelli - Sonate: a violino e violone o cimbalò. Edizioni Scelte. & Beethoven - Klaviersonaten. G. Henle. & Vaughan Williams - The lark ascending: romance for violin and orchestra. Eulenburg. & Beethoven - Piano sonatas; edited by Heinrich Schenker. Universal Edition. (tied at 68 loans)
- 8 Purcell - Dido and Aeneas; edited by Ellen Harris. Eulenburg. & Bartók - Music for string instruments, percussion and celesta. Boosey & Hawkes. (tied at 67 loans)
- 9 Beethoven - Klaviersonaten. G. Henle. (66 loans)
- 10 Porter - The Cole Porter song book. Simon and Schuster. (65 loans)

For call numbers and additional information about Top 10 titles go to:  
<http://libraries.mit.edu/music/activities/index.html>



## WITH APPRECIATION: DONORS TO THE MIT LIBRARIES JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006

I am pleased to acknowledge the support of the many alumni, faculty, staff and friends who supported the MIT Libraries in Fiscal Year 2006. Gifts to the Libraries are vital to our efforts to deliver innovative services and high-impact information resources to MIT's world-class education and research community.

Ann J. Wolpert, Director, MIT Libraries

### \$1.5 MILLION +

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Mr. Thomas F. Peterson, Jr.



Photo by Ed Quinn

Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. (1957), namesake of the MIT Libraries' Conservator position

### \$250,000 - \$499,999

Anonymous

### \$25,000 - \$99,999

Mr. & Mrs. Lionel L. and Vilma Kinney  
Dr. & Mrs. James B. and  
Marianne H. Rothnie

This listing acknowledges donors of gifts and pledges of \$100 and greater during FY06 (July 1, 2005- June 30, 2006).

Every attempt has been made to report accurately. We apologize for any omissions or errors, and encourage you to contact Jos Wanschers, Development Officer at 617-253-9323, jgwansch@mit.edu, if you notice any inaccuracies.

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### BEQUESTS

Vilma and Lionel (1953) Kinney Fund  
John A. (1941) and Elizabeth H. Stern Fund



Photos in this section are from the fourth annual Honor with Books reception hosted during Commencement '06 by the MIT Libraries and the MIT Parents Association.

### \$250 - \$499

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 Dr. Tridib K. Banerjee  
 Dr. Marjorie C. Brandriss  
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Marjan Rafat and mother

### \$100 - \$249

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 Mr. Stuart M. Fishkin and  
 Ms. Joan A. Lombardo  
 Dr. Daniel L. Flamm



Tiffany Yu and family

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Photo by Justin Knight



William C. Peters and family

**\$100 - \$249 CONTINUED**

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Beginning this fall, members of the MIT Community will be able to use a new media suite in Barker Library for viewing visual media, and for conducting group meetings, instruction sessions and presentations. The suite, on the fifth floor of Building 10, is equipped with a 48" plasma screen, a DVD/VCR player, laptop and computer station connections, and it's also web and cable-accessible. It's ideal for viewing selections from Barker's collection of over 200 engineering-related DVDs and videos. The room can be reserved for groups of up to 15 people by calling the Barker Service Desk at 253-5661 or sending email to [barker-circ@mit.edu](mailto:barker-circ@mit.edu).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lewis Music Library  
10th Anniversary Celebration**

**Live music performances,  
refreshments and remarks**

**Wednesday,  
November 15,  
2pm-4pm  
Building 14E-109**

**BiblioTech: News from the MIT Libraries**

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