

News from the
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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

Here at MIT, we are always looking to the future, with an eye toward doing our part to build a better world. This issue of *Bibliotech* takes a look at some of the major initiatives driving the future of the Libraries:

- I'm excited to share with you the design for the Hayden Library renovation by Kennedy & Violich Architecture (p. 6), which preserves what is special about Hayden while responding to the evolving needs of our community and the way knowledge is created and consumed today.
- As computation reshapes the future of the Institute with the Schwarzman College of Computing launching this fall, it is also defining our work. Our own Heather Yager offers an inside look at how the College is identifying essential needs and the unique role the Libraries can play (p. 10).
- A future defined by AI—where the power of computing is brought to all fields of study at MIT—is one where the open sharing of knowledge is necessary for the kind of breakthroughs we envision. Over two years, the Ad Hoc Task Force on Open Access to MIT's Research has identified strategies to support and increase the open sharing of MIT publications, data, software, and educational materials. Our final recommendations were released to the community this fall (p. 8), and now the critical work of implementation begins.

None of this would be possible without the forward-thinking supporters (p. 18) who fuel our work all year long. Your generosity means so much to us, especially at this time of momentous change. Thank you for sharing our vision.

All my best,



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Photo
Shawn Henry



A New Vision for Hayden

Libraries reveal designs for upcoming renovation

The Libraries have been developing designs for the upcoming Hayden Library renovation with Kennedy & Violich Architecture (KVA). The new design will support the ways that the MIT community uses library space today, adding program space and infrastructure upgrades while preserving and restoring Hayden's greatest architectural assets—its two-story volume with views to Lipschitz Courtyard and double-height windows overlooking the Charles River.

“Our goal was to create a library space that supports more research, more learning, more interaction, more community building, and better access to both print and digital collections,” says Director Chris Bourg. “KVA’s design, with its flexible, multi-purpose spaces, allows us to meet emerging needs while keeping much of what makes Hayden such a popular space on campus.”

The first floor has been designed as a dynamic and flexible community space for research and dialogue, where a new café, event space, and reservable study rooms will encourage impromptu gatherings, collaborative work, and community events. Adaptable furniture and mobile book shelving will allow users to “hack” spaces, customizing work spaces and conversation areas to their needs. The second floor will remain a quiet study space—an important need for MIT community members—suffused with natural light.

Design Highlights

- With views of the Charles River on the south side and Lipschitz Courtyard to the north, the spaces of the first floor will be opened to maximize the natural light afforded by Hayden’s double-height windows.
- A new café will offer coffee, drinks, and snacks.
- The entire first floor will be accessible 24/7 to anyone with an MIT ID; this represents a significant increase of 24/7-accessible space on campus.
- An expanded new elevator, public stair, and circulation pathway will allow easy access from one library level to another.

“KVA’s design allows us to meet emerging needs while keeping much of what makes Hayden such a popular space on campus.”
—Chris Bourg

- Ten reservable rooms are designed for collaborative research projects, group study, or as private space to practice a presentation or conduct an interview.
- A flexible event and teaching space can be configured in different ways to host events ranging from lectures to book signings to hackathons, as well as library workshops and MIT classes.
- Adjacent to the second floor Reading Room will be staff offices for subject librarians and experts in scholarly communications, with areas for consultations with MIT students, faculty, and researchers.
- Additional space on the east side of Building 14’s second floor will provide space for teaching and working with library collections; it can serve as additional open study space when not in use.

Access and sustainability have been priorities throughout the design process. A new elevator, the removal of non-accessible mezzanines, and the addition of new gender-inclusive restrooms and a lactation room will all contribute to a more inclusive and welcoming library space. In addition to aiming for LEED Gold certification, the Hayden renovation will also be piloting two new certifications for MIT: Fitwel, a building certification focused on positive impacts on occupant health and wellbeing, and an interior design strategy that uses environmentally responsible materials.

Thank You

The MIT Libraries is grateful to the following donors who have given generously to the Hayden Library renovation project. Their visionary support will provide MIT with a truly dynamic, inclusive, and comfortable space for research, learning, and community building.

David desJardins '83
Raymie Stata '90, SM '92, PhD '96
Ursula Burns
Sid Yip

For up-to-date information on the renovation’s progress, visit libraries.mit.edu/hayden-renovation.

Following pages:
A conceptual sketch for the first floor of the renovated Hayden Library shows a new stair that will connect to the second floor reading room, a café, self-service areas, study rooms, and flexible seating that will be available throughout the library



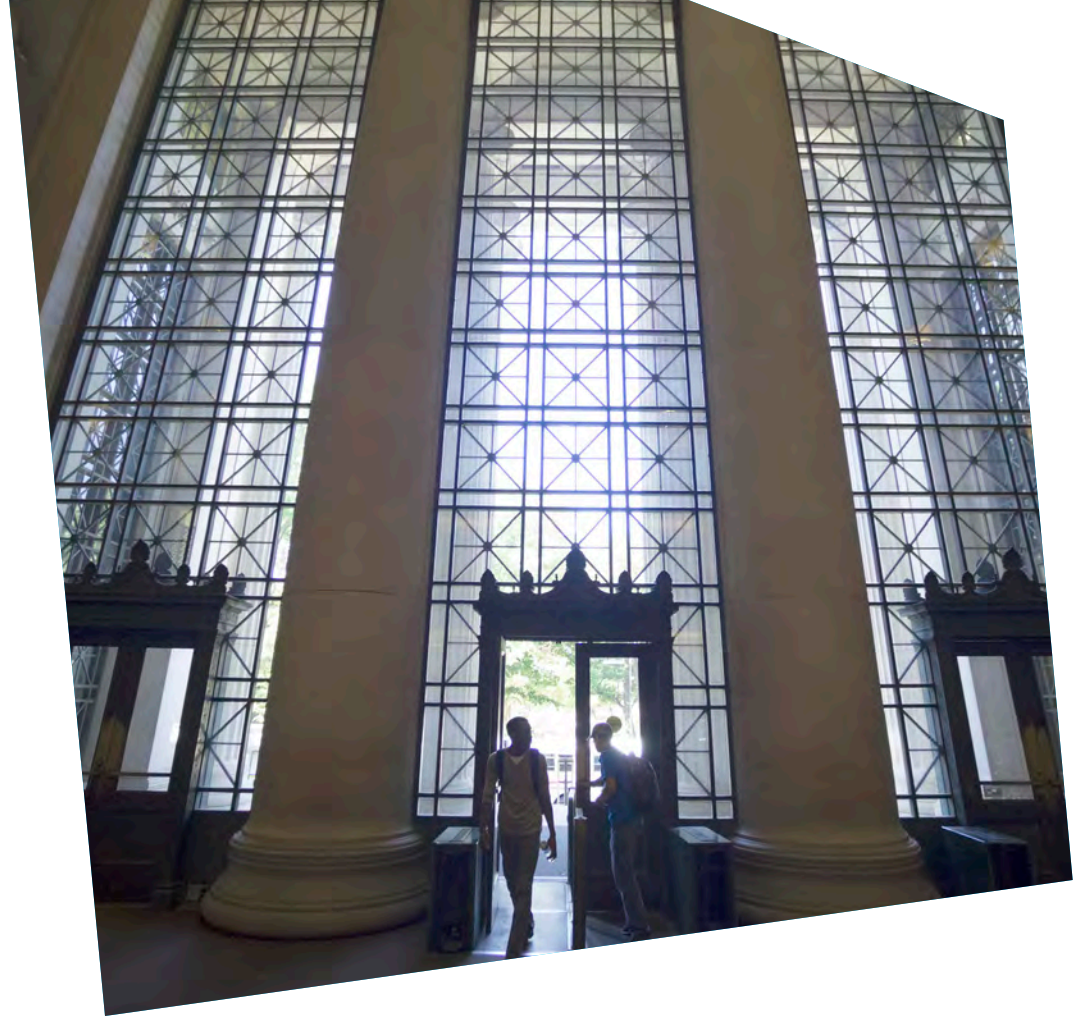
MIT
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Open Access Task Force Releases Final Report

Recommendations urge MIT to openly share the products of its teaching and research

This fall, the Ad Hoc Task Force on Open Access to MIT's Research released its final recommendations aimed at supporting and increasing the open sharing of MIT publications, data, software, and educational materials. The task force, convened by Provost Martin Schmidt in July 2017, was charged with exploring how MIT should update and revise its current open access policies to further the Institute's mission. Over more than two years, task force members gathered input from experts across campus and beyond to better understand local, national, and global practices and policies related to open access. A draft set of recommendations was released in March for public comment, and this input was incorporated into the final report.

"MIT has long been committed to sharing its research openly with the world, because it has understood that new discoveries occur most often when we build on prior knowledge and make new and creative connections between facts, data, knowledge, and insights," says Chris Bourg, co-chair of the OA task force along with Hal Abelson, Class of 1922 Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. "As MIT enters a new era shaped by computing, openness is more critical than ever. Computational access to open collections of knowledge means that discovery can happen at a speed and a scale that most of us have yet to imagine."



The final recommendations include ratifying an Institute-wide set of principles for open science and open scholarship.

"The MIT community will affirm our collective commitment to the overarching principle that control of scholarship and its dissemination should reside with scholars and their institutions," reads the report. If ratified, these principles would provide guidance for MIT departments, labs, and centers as well as individuals in making decisions about communicating and sharing their work and should provide the basis for Institute-wide negotiations with publishers.

Additional recommendations include broadening the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy to cover all MIT authors; asking departments, labs, and centers to develop discipline-specific plans to encourage and support open sharing from their faculty, students, and staff; and appointing an implementation team to prioritize, shepherd, and support the recommendations. Read the full set of recommendations at open-access.mit.edu.

Photo
Christopher Harting

The Computational Library

A Q&A with Heather Yager,
associate director for technology

Heather Yager leads Digital Library Services, which provides technology strategy and planning, software development, user engagement, and web services in support of the Libraries' mission. *Bibliotech* asked her to share her perspective on the role of libraries in enabling computational research.

What is a “computational” library?

It's all about taking what academic libraries do very well—curating and providing access to the information used during the course of research, and then stewarding and preserving the information generated by that research—and applying it to computational research. We're working to ensure that MIT's collections are accessible by machines, algorithms, applications, and people, and to support data-intensive research from start to finish, from data licensing and acquisition to data management to long-term data storage and access.

The MIT Libraries recently launched an API. Tell us about it.

Launched in March, our discovery index and public API (known as the TIMDEX, after MIT's mascot) is our first step towards enabling computational access to the full suite of information and data managed by the Libraries. Currently, the TIMDEX indexes online journal subscriptions, MIT theses, and our full catalog of print and electronic books. The application programming interface, or API, provides the building blocks for using that information externally, in a piece of software, or as raw data. It's our first experiment with building a library that functions as a programmable environment, where our user communities can design and code their own ways to access and analyze our collections, and the Libraries can join collaborative projects. See what the team is building at timdex.mit.edu.



Photo
Bryce Vickmark

Tell us about serving on the Working Group on College Infrastructure for the Schwarzman College of Computing. How do you see the Libraries playing a role?

Our working group was charged with examining how to ensure that departments have the information and resources they require to meet their computational needs, including methods of accessing and storing data. Our goal was to develop a common framework and language for thinking about computing across campus that ensures equitable access to resources and to build a common understanding of the needs associated with computational research. We spoke to each department, lab, and center across MIT to learn about their needs.

Overwhelmingly, their responses indicated the need for expert consultation on data management and a framework for bringing data to campus and managing it equitably, securely, and responsibly. As for our role, I think Chris Bourq said it best in a recent talk at the Consorcio Madroño: “Librarians know better than most people how information is collected, assembled, and organized, so we know where things can go wrong. [We] can help ensure scholars are aware of the shortcomings of the data they use, and can help mitigate those impacts.”

With a long history of providing information for use in research, managing it equitably, advocating for open scholarship, and taking the long view on durable information access, the Libraries are uniquely positioned to help build a computational research support model at scale at MIT.

Distinctive Collections by the Numbers

The Institute Archives and Special Collections was renamed in the spring to reflect the breadth and ambitions of the department. Here's a look at this core resource that inspires learning, research, and experimentation at MIT and beyond.

Data as of July 2019

27,252

Cubic feet of archival collections

56,019

Items in digital collections

1,190

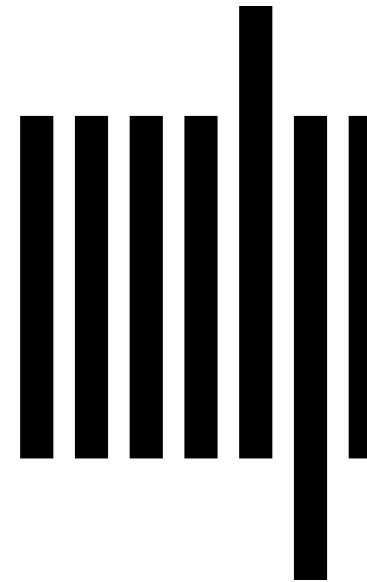
Finding aids newly available online

282,663

Archival items cataloged

News from the MIT Press

Bringing content to readers in new ways



It's an extraordinary time at the MIT Press with new projects aimed at pushing the boundaries of university-based publishing. This spring the Press launched two initiatives to bring content to readers in new ways.

The MIT Press Reader (thereader.mitpress.mit.edu) is a digital magazine that draws on the Press's rich archive and family of distinguished authors to provide thought-provoking excerpts, interviews, and other original works written for the general public but backed by academic rigor. Each week, the editors unearth gems from the catalog, call upon authors to cast their expertise on issues facing the world today, and dive into the stories that inspired the books.

The MIT Press Direct is a newly launched platform for libraries that facilitates discovery and access to MIT Press's distinguished collection of ebook content. Cost-effective and easy to use, Direct offers DRM-free access to more than 2,500 ebooks and is already available through NERL, California Digital Library, LYRASIS, and other platforms.

Staff News

Infinite Mile Awards

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

Innovation, Creativity, and Problem Solving

Discovery Index Team:
Ben Abrahamse
Cataloging Coordinator
Helen Bailey
Engagement and Data Engineer
Li Cheung
Project Manager/Business Analyst
Mike Graves
Senior Software Engineer
Rhonda Kauffman
Metadata Librarian
Jeremy Prevost
Senior Software Engineer

Collaboration and Inclusion

Staff Advisory Council Launch Team:
Shannon Hunt
Executive Assistant to the Director
Stephanie Kohler
Access Services Assistant
Sam Spencer
Administrative Assistant and Access Services Associate

Results, Outcome, and Productivity

NE36 Move Team:

Grace Mlady
Facilities Administrator
Beverly Turner
Program Head, Metadata and Digital Collections Services
Kelly Hopkins
Administrative Assistant

Bringing Out the Best

Cherry Ibrahim
Human Resources Generalist

Tough Questions/Critical Thinker

Barbara Williams
Aeronautics/Astronautics and Physics Librarian

User Service and Support

Georgiana McReynolds
Reference Services and User Experience Librarian

Unsung Hero

Renee Hellenbrecht
Administrative Assistant

Christine Moulen “Good Citizen” Award

Jeremiah Graves
Access Services Manager, Barker and Rotch Libraries

New Appointments

Ana Rodriguez Balanta
Administrative Assistant, Collections

Beth Barnett
Marketing and Communications Assistant

Astride Chery
Annex Services and Scanning Assistant

Mattie Clear
Reference Associate

Grace Johnson-DeBaufre
Digitization Associate

Jessa Modell-Wasserman
Resource Sharing Assistant

Olaniyan Mustapha
Program Head for IT Service Management

Jonathan Paul
Access Services Assistant

Retirements

Georgiana McReynolds
Reference Services and User Experience Librarian

Joanne Samuelson
Administrative Assistant

From left: Cherry Ibrahim, Jeremiah Graves, Chris Bourg, Barbara Williams, Georgiana McReynolds

Photo
Jia Spiggle



What's New

Photo

Jay Forrester and Robert Everett watch as Stephen Dodd and Ramona D. Ferenz operate Whirlwind, MIT's first digital computer, 1950. Photo: MIT Museum

Students Create Archival History of Computing at MIT

Launched in June, a new website, Archival History of Computing at MIT, 1950-62, was created by a team of MIT undergraduate students in collaboration with the Programs in Digital Humanities and the MIT Libraries. Starting in November 2018, participants studied the MIT Computation Center archives from the Libraries' Distinctive Collections, digitized documents, created metadata, programmed the underlying code for the website, wrote stories about the archive, and conducted analyses in code and words. The site includes stories—ranging from the “Rise and Fall of Project Whirlwind,” about the first large-scale and high-speed computer, to uncovering the role of women—as well as simulations of performing basic programming operations on the IBM 704 computer and an interactive visualization showing the connections between the top 100 contributors in the Computation Center archives. Explore the archive at comphist.digitalhumanitiesmit.org.

Distinctive Collections Opens Web Archives to the Public

The department of Distinctive Collections (formerly Institute Archives and Special Collections) began collecting MIT-produced and affiliated webpages through the Archive-It tool in 2016.

These web archives, ensuring that valuable information about the Institute is accessible to researchers in the long term, were made available to the public this summer. Selected websites include those from MIT special projects, departments, student groups, alumni groups, and more, including recent developments such as the launch of the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing.

“By capturing websites of groups soon after their creation, a future researcher can see how these areas evolved from conception to an established group at the Institute,” says Joe Carrano, digital archivist.

See the archived webpages at archive-it.org/home/MIT.



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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