Collections at the MIT Libraries
Making Socially Responsible and Strategic Choices

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SPARC/ACRL January 21, 2017
Topics for today

1. Background and Intent
2. MIT Collections Reorganization
3. Current Initiatives/Future Directions
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We have been here before

“As an agent of change, printing altered methods of data collection, storage and retrieval systems and communications networks.”

- Elizabeth Eisenstein, The Printing Press as an Agent of Change (Cambridge, 1979)
We have been here before

“The first age of the printed book was undoubtedly a period of excitement and bold experimentation.”

– Andrew Pettegree, *The Book in the Renaissance* (Yale, 2010)
Purpose: Voting with our dollars

“Our food dollars can either go to support a food industry devoted to quantity and convenience and ‘value’ or they can nourish a food chain organized around values—values like quality and health . . . as soon you begin to treat that expenditure not just as shopping but also as a kind of vote—a vote for health in the largest sense— food no longer seems like the smartest place to economize.”

— Michael Pollan
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New Department: Scholarly Communications and Collections Strategy
We take the values of open access, diversity, and social justice as a lens for framing collections decisions, and as important guideposts for navigating and favorably shaping the scholarly communications landscape.
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Scholarly Communications & Collections Strategy

- Managing collections budget
- Providing copyright and author rights support and outreach
- Implementing faculty OA Policy and other OA supports
- Developing and applying collections strategy
- Licensing and negotiation
Activities & Directions

- Formed negotiations team and established new principles-based model for negotiations
- View expenditures on OA initiatives as investments in scholarly communications models (arXiv, Reveal Digital)
- Explore partnerships with the MIT Press
- Incorporate scholarly communications issues into library instruction program
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thank you