The MIT Libraries are more than just a place for students to consume information—they are creative and participatory community spaces where students are invited to make connections between ideas, collections, and each other. This can happen through hackathons and interactive exhibits, in the audio lab or the GIS and Data Lab, in our all-campus reading program or in dozens of workshops and events held during Independent Activities Period (IAP) and throughout the year.

With access to the Libraries’ friendly staff and the best scholarly information available, MIT students never have to get stuck working on a problem alone. The Libraries can connect students to information from wherever they happen to be, with more than five million items in print and millions more in digital formats. Partnerships with Harvard, Wellesley, and other major research libraries allow students to visit and use their collections, and MIT’s WorldCat lets students request materials from other libraries worldwide. Consulting a librarian is often the quickest route to help students find what they need, and we encourage all to Ask Us. We’ve got experts in every subject from aeronautics to urban studies, plus specialists in geographic information systems, research data management, copyright, and much more.

The Libraries are a portal to the knowledge produced at MIT and beyond. The Institute Archives and Special Collections contain MIT’s founding documents, the personal papers of noted faculty such as “Doc” Edgerton and Norbert Wiener, and rare books like Newton’s Principia. Students can explore the digital repository DSpace@MIT to access decades of MIT theses and scholarly works by MIT faculty and researchers.

Any student is welcome in any of our libraries, whether they are looking for expert help, to collaborate on a group project, or simply take a study break. Our five locations offer some of the campus’s most sought-after study spaces, offering extreme quiet, secure 24/7 access, and comfortable seating. In 2020, Hayden Library will undergo a renovation of its first and second floors, with improvements including a café, expanded 24/7 area, a greater variety of study spaces, a teaching and event space, and new and engaging ways to interact with library collections. Hayden Library is expected to close at the end of the fall 2019 term and reopen in fall 2020; find more information about interim services and alternative study spaces during the renovation at libraries.mit.edu/hayden-renovation.