


Getting Set Up to Use the MIT Libraries

Welcome to MIT! Here are some steps you can take to get up and running and make sure you get the most out of the MIT Libraries.

- **Checking out books** – In almost all cases, if you have an MIT ID, you’re set to check books out of the MIT Libraries.
- **Get your Harvard card . . .** – MIT faculty, students, and research staff are eligible for Harvard Special Borrowers cards, which let you check books out from Widener and seven other Harvard libraries. Go to <http://libraries.mit.edu/harvard>, fill out the application, and take the emailed authorization to the Widener Library Privileges office.
- **. . . And also your BLC and Countway cards** – If you can get a Harvard card, you’re also eligible for Boston Library Consortium (BLC) card, which lets you borrow from the 16 other member libraries around New England (such as BC, BU, Tufts, and Brandeis). Drop by any library service desk to get one: <http://libraries.mit.edu/blc>.
 - Faculty, graduate students, and research staff are also eligible to borrow from Harvard’s Countway Library of Medicine. You can apply for a card online: <http://libraries.mit.edu/countway>.
- **Set your Google Scholar preferences** – If you use Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>), you can set it up to link to full text from MIT’s subscription journal articles and e-books. Click on “Settings” (by the gear icon: ) at top right to go to “Scholar Settings” and then enter “MIT” next to “Library Links.”
- **Choose your delivery location for Interlibrary Borrowing (ILB)** – Go to ILLiad, our ILB system, click on “Change your information” (on the right), and choose the library where you prefer to pick up your ILB books: <http://libraries.mit.edu/ilb>.
- **Set up your citation management tools** – The Libraries provide support for **Mendeley** and **Zotero**, open-source programs to collect and organize sources and create bibliographies: <http://libguides.mit.edu/zotero> and <http://libguides.mit.edu/mendeley>.
- **Sign up for MIT Libraries alerts** – You can subscribe to RSS feeds of Libraries News & Events (<http://libraries.mit.edu/news/>) or recent additions to the library collections (<http://libraries.mit.edu/help/rss/barton/index.html>); follow the Libraries on Twitter (@MITLibraries); like the MIT Libraries on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mitlib>); or follow the Libraries on Foursquare for tips when you check in around campus (<https://foursquare.com/mitlibraries>).
- **Download the LibX toolbar** – This Firefox extension adds a toolbar to quickly search the Barton catalog, e-journals and databases, and Google Scholar and embeds links to Barton look-ups in Amazon, the New York Times Book Review, and more: <http://libraries.mit.edu/libx>.
- **Get the Firefox bookmarklet for off-campus journal access** – This puts a bookmark button in Firefox that authenticates you as an MIT user for subscription web sites: <http://libraries.mit.edu/about/faqs/remote-proxystring-bookmarklet.html>.