The Many Ways to Obtain Library Materials from Outside MIT

- All of the options outlined below take time!! Make sure you plan ahead.

Interlibrary Borrowing (ILB)

- ILB obtains materials not owned by MIT. You’ll be notified when the book or other item you requested is available for pickup. Articles are usually delivered as online PDFs.
- You can request items here: [http://libraries.mit.edu/ilb](http://libraries.mit.edu/ilb) (also linked on Libraries’ home page)
- Or you can make ILB requests through article and other databases by clicking the “SFX” button. This will open up the ILB request form, already filled out with the article information.

- Or you can make ILB requests through MIT’s Worldcat. If you click the “Interlibrary Loan” button, it will open up the ILB request form, already filled out with the item’s information.
Boston Library Consortium (BLC) Direct Borrowing

- Many Boston-area universities are members of the BLC, including Tufts, Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern, and Brandeis, in addition to MIT
- With “unmediated borrowing,” you can request items directly from other BLC member libraries without going through the ILB office
- Unlike with ILB, you can request items owned by MIT that someone else has checked out

Boston Library Consortium (BLC) Card

- You can get a BLC card at any library service desk. With the card, you can visit other member libraries and check out books.
- For more information, see: http://libraries.mit.edu/ordering/non-mit-access/access.html

Harvard Special Borrowers Card

- The special borrowers card lets you borrow books from Harvard’s Widener Library and seven other Harvard libraries.
- Undergraduates are currently eligible for a card through a pilot program running through May 2011.
- For more information, see: http://libraries.mit.edu/ordering/non-mit-access/hcl.html