Obtaining Library Materials from Outside MIT

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

DELIVERY TO MIT LIBRARIES

I. 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 online as PDFs.

*For Articles...*

*How to Borrow Through ILB? #1: Article Database + SFX*

You can make ILB requests through article and other databases by clicking the “SFX” button. In the new window that opens, click “borrow it from another library through Illiad.” This will open up the ILB request form, already filled out with the article information.

**Example: Historical Abstracts Database**

(http://libraries.mit.edu/get/hist-abs)
For Books, DVD, CDs, Microfilm, etc . . .

How to Borrow Through ILB? #2: Worldcat
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.

For Anything (Books, Articles, Theses, etc.) . . .

How to Borrow Through ILB? #3: ILB Request Form
You can request items here: http://libraries.mit.edu/ilb (also linked on Libraries’ home page). Select the type of material you want and complete the form.
II. BorrowDirect
- Includes Ivy League university libraries
- With “unmediated borrowing,” you can request items directly from other BorrowDirect libraries without going through the ILB office
- Unlike ILB, with BorrowDirect you can request items owned by MIT that someone else checked out
- Use MIT's Worldcat (http://mit.worldcat.org) for BorrowDirect

III. Boston Library Consortium (BLC) Direct Borrowing
- Same idea as BorrowDirect, but with different institutions
- Many Boston-area universities are members of the BLC, including Tufts, Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern, and Brandeis, in addition to MIT
VISITING OTHER LIBRARIES

I. 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

II. Harvard Special Borrowers Card

- The special borrowers card lets you borrow books from Harvard’s Widener Library and seven other Harvard libraries.
- For more information, see: http://libraries.mit.edu/ordering/non-mit-access/hcl.html

III. Harvard Countway Library of Medicine Card

- This card gives access to Harvard's Countway Library of Medicine in the Longwood medical area in Boston.
- Faculty, grad students, and research staff are eligible for borrowing privileges; undergrads are eligible for on-site use of materials.
- For more information, see: http://libraries.mit.edu/countway