

FY 2003 Computer-Related Capital Equipment Requests for the MIT Libraries

Proposed Approvals for Q1

This quarter's requests were handled jointly by the members of the outgoing Computer Coordinating Committee (C3) and the Library Technology Consultants. We received 161 requests for 234 items, totaling an estimated \$230,452. For this first round of requests, we recommend the approval of 135 requests costing an estimated \$165,091.

The Libraries have dedicated a significant proportion of our resources to the purchase and implementation of the Aleph system in the past years. As a result, this year there are several areas where we have some catching up to do. These include upgrading all computers which fall below MIT's recommended minimum speed; support for the ergonomic review of staff workstations; and upgrading any workstations which are inadequate to run Aleph. For this round, requests that directly serve the public make up 30% of the approved dollars. However, this figure is misleading in that it reflects only equipment directly available for public use. At a time when the Libraries have made a strategic decision to build electronic services and collections available to members of the MIT community at their own desktops, a more accurate sense of our commitment to service is reflected by the allocations in support of access or teaching (details below.)

Technical Support Goals

C3 identified six technical support goals. The requests we approved break down as follows (these are percentages of the \$165,091 approved and add up to more than 100% since a single request may meet more than one goal):

- ...Access... providing enhanced patron access to resources, including patron self-service – 48%
- ...Teaching... providing tools to better instruct and serve patrons – 32%
- ...Creative... doing creative and innovative things we have not done before – 12%
- ...Productivity... technology that enhances workplace production by our staff – 64%
- ...Sharing... equipment meant to be shared by a workgroup or the whole libraries – 25%
- ...Health... tools to improve the ergonomics of our work – 9%