

# Activism at MIT Libraries

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MIT Libraries



# Contextual Grounding: Activism & DISJ\* at MIT Libraries



\*Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

We envision a world where enduring,  
abundant, equitable, and meaningful access  
to information serves to **empower and  
inspire humanity.**



The MIT Libraries contribute to a better world with openness and transparency, via curiosity and inquiry, by **pursuing social justice and an ethic of care.**



Our Values

## Creating a Social Justice Mindset: Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in the Collections Directorate of the MIT Libraries

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**Citable URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/108771>

**Date Issued:** 2017-02-09

**Abstract:**

The Collections Directorate of the MIT Libraries sponsored a task force to identify opportunities for archives, technical services, preservation, scholarly communication, and collections strategy staff to manifest the values of diversity, inclusion, and social justice in their daily work. In this report the Collections Directorate Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (DISJ) task force describes some of the overarching social and economic contexts for academic libraries, as well as the core professional values that guide us, and offers recommendations to the Directorate for operationalizing the values of diversity, inclusion, and social justice. The task force aims to demonstrate, through our recommendations, how DISJ values might guide every aspect of our work. We look forward to working together to foster a social justice mindset throughout the MIT Libraries' Collections Directorate.

**URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/108771>

**DISJ should be a focus throughout the library – in every department, at every level, pertinent to every job and every staff member.**

**DISJ is a core part of the Libraries' mission – not an 'add on' to what we already do – but an essential part of every job.**



— Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Resource Manual for MIT Libraries Staff, May 2017

# April 18, 2017: Day of Engagement, Day of Action

MIT's Day of Action was inspired by the Institute's historic leadership in [the March 4 Movement of 1969](#), and built on the highly successful [Day of Action held by Princeton University on March 6, 2017](#). MIT's event was organized extremely quickly.

A public call to action was issued at the beginning of March and garnered signatures from hundreds of community members; content proposals were solicited starting in mid-March and led to the over 70 sessions and activities that took place over the course of the day, including lectures, panel discussions, workshops, film screenings, food offerings, music, and art-making.



<http://web.mit.edu/fnl/volume/295/dayofaction.html>



CATEGORY ARCHIVES: ZINES AS RESISTANCE

## WHY? Why Make Zines in times of strife (and calm)

Posted on [April 6, 2017](#) by [kwooten](#)

*Contributed by Milo Miller*

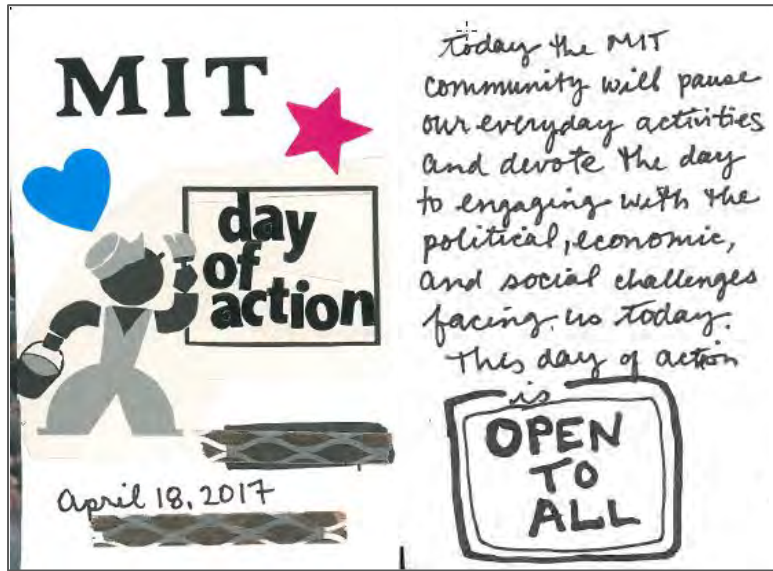
I feel like this is a conversation that keeps happening over and over within zinester and zinelib communities, but it's one that's timeless. For some of us, we kind of know it inherently, but it's always good for a refresher and to get new eyes, ears, and typewriters clacking about it. So, presented in listicle format, it's *Why Make Zines*, *Spring 2017 edition*:

- Ease of access
- Ease of production & distribution
- Choose your own adventure
- Ownership & Control
- Catharsis
- Communication & Sharing
- Community
- Legitimizing experiences/voices

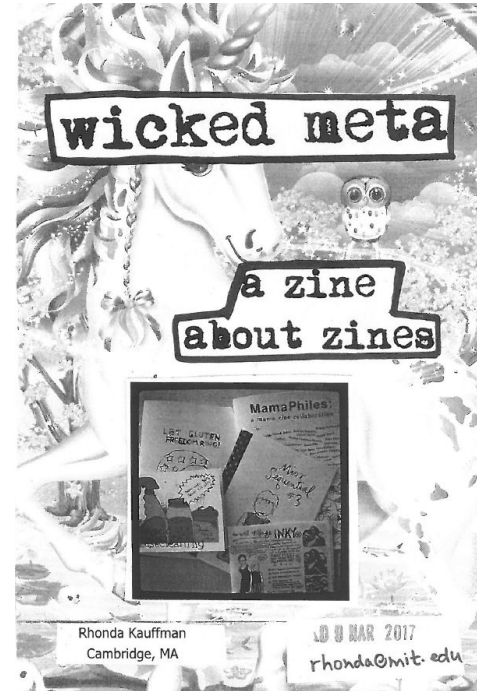
<http://zinelibraries.info/category/zines-as-resistance/>



# Make Change, Make Zines



- Librarian Ethos
- Diversity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Initiatives
- Participating in and archiving social experience



- Quiet, creative reflection
- Processing
- Safe space



MIT IAP | Independent Activities Period

# History of Activism @ MIT via a Glance at the Archives

Engineering Wikipedia edit-a-thon

Finding gene info & more: a tour of the NCBI "omics" network

Finding Images with the MIT Libraries

Gene Set Enrichment Analysis

**Get Up. Stand Up! History of Activism at MIT via a Glance at the Institute Archives**

*Alena McNamara, Ece Turnator, Anna Boutin-Cooper, Sofia Leung*

Jan/18 Thu 02:00PM-04:00PM 2-139

Enrollment: Sign up here: <http://libcal.mit.edu/event/3784597>

MIT students have been involved with activism for decades. While the most well-recorded protests are those of the 1960s and 1970s against the Vietnam War, MIT students have stood up for what they believe in throughout the Institute's history. In addition, students of color, LGBTQ students, Black students, and international students have all had to establish their claims to equal space in the Institute. The Institute Archives and Special Collections preserves documentation of the history of the Institute, including many activist efforts by students, faculty and staff. Join us to learn about the struggle for equity and inclusion inside and outside of MIT.

Sign up here: <http://libcal.mit.edu/event/3784575>

Sponsor(s): Libraries

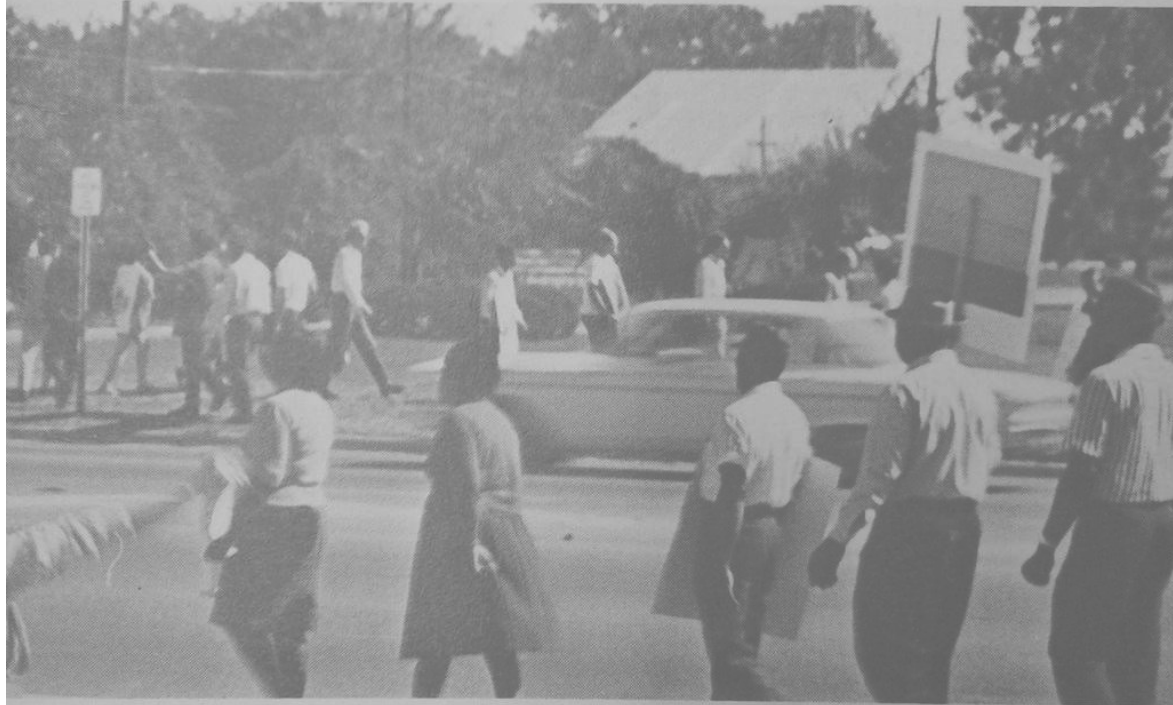
Contact: Alena McNamara, [amcnamar@mit.edu](mailto:amcnamar@mit.edu)

GIS Level 2

Introduction to GIS & Mapping



# FIGHT RACISM!



- What type of item or document is it? What details jump out at you? Record a brief statement describing it physically.
- When was the item created or circulated? If it doesn't say, can you guess?
- What events or activities are represented in the document?
- What does the document convey to you about the attitudes toward student activism at the time?
- Why was the item created? What was its intended audience? Who else might have seen it?
- Consider your initial impressions. What assumptions might you be bringing into your observations?

## Individual Questions to Consider

- How does each item relate to the others in the packet?
- What else can you derive from your materials, together or apart?
- What other information do you want? What context would help you to understand and interpret the items?
- Whose perspectives are not represented here?
- Do you think this material is an accurate representation of events? How might bias have affected the creation or form of this material?

## Packet Questions

# HISTORY OF ACTIVISM AT MIT.

Snapshots from 1969-1971 (context between 1960-2000)



- Timeline
- Timeline
- Timeline
- Timeline
- Timeline
- Timeline
- Timeline
- Timeline

Institute Archives



Timeline created for the class by Ece Turnator, Digital Humanities Librarian

“What is this about? For me, it’s about knowing people have been here before. It’s about remembering and maybe **feeling less alone**. It’s to think about what will be remembered of today, and how that memory might be preserved.”

**Alena McNamara**

Librarian for the School of  
Architecture + Planning





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