42nd out of 42
MIT came in last out of 42.

The contest was the amount spent last year by MIT on its top universities on operating and periodicals.

MIT did little better in the number of volumes in its libraries, coming in 39th. These statistics are drawn from a survey of 42 top universities conducted by Princeton University.

Can MIT allow its libraries to do so poor and still be in the front ranks of the contest for academic excellence? Probably not.

Both science and engineering are in the midst of an enormous information explosion. MIT must remain abreast of the new knowledge if it is to be a leader of the future.

Although much is to be desired from MIT's library system, some much-needed improvements are being planned. These include:

1. New facilities for the Dewey Library. The forthcoming five-story building behind the Sloan Building will include added space for the economics and industrial-management library.

2. Research into automation of the library. A new computer would eliminate duplication in the library system, and students would present a machine-readable card when checking out a book. The necessary information would be read from the card and stored in a computer memory unit.

3. A feasibility study of combining the libraries of several engineering libraries in Building 10. Prof. William N. Locke, Director of Libraries, is working with an architect and an outside consulting firm to determine how a combined library would eliminate duplication in the engineering and science collections. Duplication is a growing problem, as engineering education increasingly stresses basic science.

These improvements are welcome steps in the right direction for the MIT libraries. However, as Prof. Locke has said, MIT could easily be spending twice as much on its libraries. However, they are not enough.

"Enormously rich but going bankrupt rapidly," joked one MIT official. He was referring to MIT's library and the overall deficit that is not in itself bad, for MIT is for its current excellence and the promotion of Sponsored Research, is studying an architect and an outside consulting firm to determine how a combined library would eliminate duplication in the library system, and students would present a machine-readable card when checking out a book. The necessary information would be read from the card and stored in a computer memory unit.

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