MIT one of five

Universities plan film library

By Linda Stewart

Plans are still being formulated by MIT and four other universities to build a multi-million dollar film library which would house a collection of the world's greatest films.

The library, which would allow for a greater variety of courses and films, will contain the collections of MIT, Harvard, Brown, Brandeis, and Boston University.

Neutral ground

Last year, as noted in Freestone III, only four schools were involved in the project. Brown is the latecomer. The library will be located on some "neutral ground" somewhere between the five schools. Currently, none of the individual college collections is large enough to permit an overall study of the history and criticism of the cinema. It is expected that the library will be in partial operation by some time next fall, and it will probably be located in the Boston area.

The five colleges will apply for grants from a number of foundations to buy films which are not already in their collections. At least 40 films will be needed for a representative collection.

Only for scholars?

The selected movies will be used for scholarly research rather than commercial exhibition. Students will be able to use the individual films for writing honors theses and will also be able to make comparative studies of films by great directors such as Eisenstein, Fellini, and Hueton. It is stressed that the library would not compete with public theatre and movie houses by sponsoring showings to large undergraduate audiences.

The commercial value of the films will be one of the major problems in creating an adequate library. Because many of the movies are still publicly owned, owners will have to be assured that they will be used only for scholarly purposes. There would be virtually no chance of acquiring rights to the films if the university planned to sponsor public showings.

Contemporary films

The library hopes to acquire contemporary films (Please turn to Page 14). WANTED

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