

(Continued from page 1) study in the library. Although other libraries such as Dewey allow a limited number of space cards, self-service takes away the convenience. Further, no one has shown how a library can maintain a reasonable checkout. According to sources within the Library administration, special policies are in effect for some students; one student who frequents the Library has reportedly received authorization from the Medical Department to live there unmolested.

SCC Questionnaire

A questionnaire distributed recently by the SCC in the Library, dealing with furnishings and uses of the Facility has led many students to question the Committee's competence with its stated policies. The questions asked if the respondent felt the furnishings in the Library should allow or discourage sleeping, and whether the respondent felt that the Library should be used for such purposes. Suggestions for improving the library's facilities were also mentioned on the questionnaire.

"It seems to me," one student told The Tech, "that they're asking whether the Library should be a place to study or another dormitory. I don't think that having people live there is a proper use of the facilities." The SCC questionnaire cited sleeping on the existing furniture as one reason for the high rate of wear that has plagued the Library's facilities. The furniture has been provided directly by Physical Plant in the past; there are, as yet, no indications that this policy will change, as the results of the survey are still being processed.

Questions of Access

According to Student Center Librarian Francis E. Harlett, other problems enter into the consideration of the Library's use. The checkout at the door, for instance, has been given discretionary power to determine if users of the Library are members of the Institution community, due to problems when the Library opened with use of the facilities by students from other colleges in the area. Harlett explained that institutional identification is not required at all times of persons entering the Library, but that the checkers challenge only those people whose MIT affiliation is open to question. "Some students, who see someone walk in ahead of them without being challenged, complain that they are being unjustly harassed," Harlett said. "We feel that the majority of the users will benefit by these policies."

Usage Declined

Harlett told The Tech that usage of the Library had declined in recent years, due to the closed period of student operated mental reading rooms and other library facilities. She pointed out that this had "caused the problem of students borrowing some books without doing what.

The Library has, according to Harlett, many uses beyond that of study. It is, to most students, a place where they can always go and count on finding other people to talk with at all hours; it provides other services, such as areas for reading newspapers and other periodicals. The librarian feel that these are important side benefits at MIT, where work and isolation can be so much of a strain, emotionally and physically."

Harlett cited problems with users who don't return books to the shelves, or who hide or remove books, as important problems for other users. "Ten or twelve years ago, students had a misunderstanding of respect for regulations and courtesy," she said. "The students are much more uncultured on that kind of thing now."

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