

From the Office of Public Relations
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Tel: UN 4-6900, Ext. 2701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Myer M. Kessler, who heads a research program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology aimed at easing the problems of scientific communication through systems engineering and automation, has been appointed Associate Director of the M. I. T. Libraries.

Announcement of the appointment was made by Professor William N. Locke, Director of the Libraries.

Dr. Kessler will succeed Richard L. Snyder, a member of the M. I. T. libraries staff since July 1, 1959, who is leaving effective December 31 to become Director of Libraries at the Drexel Institute of Technology at Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. Kessler is a former physicist at M. I. T.'s Lincoln Laboratory whose interest in transmission, storage and retrieval of scientific information stems from his own problems in dealing with the burgeoning amount of scientific literature.

In 1959, Dr. Kessler was appointed chairman of an ad hoc committee at Lincoln to look into the communications problems within the laboratory. This led to the expansion of library services and other innovations there, but it also led to a continuing interest on the part of Dr. Kessler in the larger problems of scientific communications and a desire to contribute to its growth. His experience at Lincoln with large-scale automatic data handling systems -- such as the SAGE continental air defense system -- suggested to Dr. Kessler that modern systems engineering and computer technology might open avenues of dealing ..

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Dr. Kessler/M.I.T. -- 2

with the literature explosion.

In 1962, Dr. Kessler moved to the main campus of M.I.T. in Cambridge to initiate and head a full-scale research effort -- called the Technical Information Program -- within the university Libraries system. The program is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Kessler will continue as director of the Technical Information Program, but as Associate Director of the Libraries he will take on the added responsibility of beginning the introduction of TIP-developed automation techniques into the Library system.

Dr. Kessler was born in Odessa, Russia, and received his bachelor's degree in 1939 and his master's degree in 1940, both from M.I.T. in biophysics. He was a staff member at M.I.T.'s war-time Radiation Laboratory during World War II where he worked on early radar systems. He studied at Duke University from 1945-48 where he received his doctor's degree in physics. After two years as a staff physicist with the U.S. Bureau of Standards, Dr. Kessler became an assistant professor of physics at Brandeis University. In 1952, while still teaching at Brandeis, he became associated part-time with the Lincoln Laboratory which he joined in 1954 on a full-time basis.

Dr. Kessler is married to the former Minuetta Shumiatcher of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. They have two children. The family lives at 30 Hurley St., Belmont, Mass.

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