

From: [REDACTED] </O=ITHAKA/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, October 9, 2010 11:20 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ithaka.org>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ithaka.org>
Subject: RE: Extreme robotic activity of JSTOR at MIT

Thanks [REDACTED],

If it's helpful, I am working with [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] at MIT.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 09, 2010 11:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Extreme robotic activity of JSTOR at MIT

Fyi. [REDACTED] is someone I have known a long time so I thought I should give [REDACTED] a heads up.

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 09, 2010 11:15 PM
To: '[REDACTED]@MIT.EDU' <[REDACTED]@MIT.EDU>
Subject: Extreme robotic activity of JSTOR at MIT

Dear [REDACTED]

I wanted to let you know about an extreme step we have taken this evening. Our staff have blocked access to JSTOR from MIT. This is a highly unusual step and one we do not take lightly. We have had to do so because someone is systematically attempting to download large parts of the JSTOR database from within MIT's IP range. They use robots to open a session, download a PDF, open a new session, download another PDF, and keep repeating at a high rate. Not only is this a problem because it is beyond the terms of the license, but the downloading is so extensive that it impacts other users and has even brought some of our servers down. We worked through a similar incident at MIT three weeks ago and thought that the activity was being done by a visiting scholar who had left. But it has started again at an even faster rate. I am not writing you to complain about the activity; I just wanted you to be aware of the extreme step we have taken and why.

Our staff have communicated with your staff and will be working to get MIT access back up just as soon as possible.

I'll keep you posted as I hear more.
Best regards,

[REDACTED]