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TRB Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation – ABG40
January 12, 2009, 7:30-9:30PM
TRB 88th Annual Meeting
Hilton – State

1. Welcome and introductions, Sandy Tucker, Chair

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 14, 2008 meeting approved with one correction – Laura Barhydt, PHMSA, attended the meeting.

3. Tom Palmerlee, TRB Staff liaison to TRIS, thanked Sandy Tucker for her service to the committee. Wes Lum, TRB Group Executive Board, Section Chair, presented Sandy with a certificate of appreciation. Sandy thanked the committee members and friends for their involvement.

4. National Transportation Library Update, Amanda Wilson

- USDOT – Since November 2008, working on integrating USDOT Library into NTL. Still working on some issues but hope to have changes complete by February. Described current staff.
- NTL joined science.gov, deep web federated search with access to many databases.
- TLCat – Paccar, NJDOT, and USDOT libraries added.
- RITA launched Climate Changes Clearinghouse today (climate.gov) – working with AASHTO RAC/TKN Task Force whose members are adding content.
- NTL now responsible for TRT maintenance; during past year, trying to work out processes and procedures for updating, etc.
- RITA launching transportationresearch.gov – NTL will be highlighted on the site, with access via user name and password. It will include documents and other information from TRT Subcommittee, including new terms; a collaborative workspace for TKNs; and an easier way to collect metrics for the Resource Sharing pilot.
- Resource Sharing Project – Of \$15,000 to cover shipping costs, only \$50 has been spent so far, so the funds should last a long time.
- Roberto Sarmiento announced that NUTL will provide free document delivery service to all TKN members free of charge; this is in addition to free loans. Members should identify themselves and make requests through OCLC. Northwestern will absorb all costs.
- A joint TKNs/National TKN meeting will be held on June 18 at USDOT following SLA's Annual Conference in D.C.
- Transportation Librarians Roundtable – 30-35 participants most months. As a follow-up to January's session on cataloging, NTL wants to set up templates and best practices for cataloging transportation technical reports. Also as a follow-up to an earlier TLR, they want to develop a one-page ROI sheet for libraries.
- Upcoming in 2009:
 - Strategic planning at NTL following merger with USDOT Library

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- Annual report to mark 10 years of NTL
- Overhaul of web tools
- Developing robust program assessment.
- National Safety Data Clearinghouse – funds have been allocated by BTS to NTL to house data and digital resources.
- Respond to RITA's focus on UTCs as research partners
- Communities of interest in nine broad categories will be developed

5. TRB Update, Barbara Post

The TRIS strategic plan has been a big project, with a user survey, four focus groups, and a white paper written by a consultant. The draft strategic plan will be presented by Steve Godwin at B0002 meeting tomorrow.

TRIS – 32,000 records were added in 2008. Of the 720,000 total records in TRIS, 45,000 have full-text links. There are many more theses records, especially from Northwestern University, and additional international content. The project to link TRIS records to OCLC was completed. New broad subject categories have been introduced, and they will be usable in searches.

TRB released its Climate Change website with dynamic searches of TRB resources including TRIS, RNS, RiP. TRISWorld, a new version of TRIS for sponsors only while debut at this conference. It has a user interface with more options than TRIS Online. Content includes TRIS and ITRD's English-language records. It will be available by IP about the end of February or early March. ITRD generally is more selective in choice of items to cover; for Elsevier journals, for example, ITRD does not do cover-to-cover, but TRIS does.

6. Wes Lum of Caltrans announced the 2010 Annual Meeting theme – BE BOLD! TAC (Technical Activities Committee) has adopted a strategic plan and is working on action items:

- How to help new attendees (TRB 101) at meetings and in navigating TRB structure
- Review communications options – with meeting attendance restricted, how can technology enable participation by those who can't travel
- Looking for “practice ready” ideas from committees
- Standard format for committee websites

Tom Palmerlee said that he hears more frequently from people who say that LIST has recognized experts in using information technology. In these tight budget times, NCHRP has released a document on communicating the value of transportation research. He encouraged all of us to use the document as a tool for communicating with management by just substituting the word “library” for “research.” TRB's website has a page on TRB funding (also available as a brochure) to help people champion problem statements so they receive funding.

7. Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks – Frances Harrison

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Frances reviewed work done on NCHRP 20-75A, Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks. She reviewed the project's objectives, scope and products. This project follows TRB Special Report 284, *Transportation Knowledge Networks: a Management Strategy for the 21st Century*. The project will deliver a business plan for implementation of TKNs that will make the case for sustained commitment of resources to TKNs. Frances also reported:

Task 1, initial outreach, involved interviews with stakeholders and identified products and services they want, among them one-stop information sources, digital resources, value-added products, long-term access to and preservation of resources, and peer-to-peer sharing of best practices. For the business plan, the recommended approach is a mix of technology, coordination/collaboration, and program elements since no single element will be effective:

- Emphasize role of national coordinating function for TKNs
- Focus on hot topics and innovation
- Highlight efficiencies – greater use of existing investment in research
- Incorporate centralized and decentralized approaches

Task 3, Product and Strategy Concepts, outlines a Transportation Information Portal with coordination from a National TKN that ties into information resources and tools.

Task 4/7/8 Outreach

The outreach plan is based on the projects findings that there is a recognized need for resource sharing and general support for concept of TKNs. The arguments for TKNs that resonated with our stakeholders included (*get these from Frances*):

- Providing critical information in time-sensitive situations
- Providing efficiencies and
- Addressing loss of institutional knowledge

There are differences in the degree of enthusiasm and likely commitment; some stakeholders are interested but not ready to argue for funding. Key questions and concerns:

- TKNs are a hard sell and are hard to justify when they are seen as extending existing initiatives
- Are we adding just one more information source? Loudly expressed need for one-stop shopping with NTL in a unique position to coordinate and host a transportation information portal
- If a portal is developed, how to keep information fresh, comprehensive and unbiased?
- Funding would be provided for information specialists in each topic who would work with team of advisors to keep information current. Grants would be made to individual TKNs and their member agencies to compensate for contributions to the portal. Accountability would be through a grants administrator at NTL. Funding would provide incentives to share information and expertise even when no direct benefit to contributors.

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- Initiative is very broad, and some felt more focus needed, but the breadth was deliberate. Advisory board could develop priorities for specific focus areas.
- While some see a need for greater specificity behind the estimates of funding requirements, there was a desire to leave room for flexibility.

Recommended next steps:

- Continue broad outreach
- Continue to expand communication toolkit
- NHCRRP 20-75A, updated, expanded directory of transportation libraries and information centers
 - Design and data specification
 - Initial development and population – transfer data from SLA Transportation Division’s existing directory and populate organization data
 - NTL, TKNs and Transportation Division to promote directory and encourage members to update and expand library information
 - Project to identify and obtain contact information for other transportation information centers/sources such as state DOTs, MPOs, transit agencies, LTAPs, and associations. Will use LIST’s list of about 700 libraries.

8. RAC/TKN Task Force, Leni Oman

The RAC/TKN Task Force was created in March 2008 with members from each RAC region and liaisons from LIST, TRB, NTL, and each of three regional TKNs. Four objectives were developed:

- Support the formation of the transportation knowledge network to address business needs.
- Advocate for an effective TKN and supporting information infrastructure.
- Enhance knowledge exchange within the transportation community.
- Develop strategies to actively monitor, support, and encourage methods for effective creation, capture, synthesis, transfer, application, and preservation of transportation knowledge.

A briefing paper advocating funding of \$13.5 million per year for the NTL and TKNs is under review; it matches well with the business plan for NCHRP 20-75.

The first task identified by the task force was a portal with state climate change information (<http://climate.dot.gov/>) contributed through regional TKNs. A portal for transportation finance is also needed but resources are not available. Leni wants to identify tasks where the TKNs can collaborate with other entities such as LIST or the SLA Transportation Division.

9. Using Flickr to Collaborate with Visual Resources, Matt Barrett

LACMTA has a large collection of historic photos and wanted to make them more accessible to the public. The photos were scanned (manageable file sizes, no Tiffs) and are now available using Flickr. Flickr was chosen because it is a free image bank, is easy to use, is well known, and it incorporates Creative Commons for copyright issues.

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Other transportation agencies, including Washington State DOT and Oregon DOT, are also using Flickr. A project called Highways and Freeways of America will allow users to contribute additional information about photos.

Matt has created a Transportation Libraries and Archives Group Site on Flickr which gives us control over bibliographic information. Flickr can be used to collaborate by creating collections and sets. There are easy and inexpensive back-up options available. It's easy to get detailed activity information, and LACMTA has had 76,000 views of 3000 images in just three months. Widgets have been created with API to embed images on site.

By indexing with TRT terms, there is a great opportunity to expand usage and awareness of the TRT into 2.0 web resources.

To get started, get a Yahoo account, upload images, email Matt to join the Transportation Libraries and Archives group, and, in Matt's words, "Watch your notoriety, respect, admiration, usage, reach and value grow beyond the confines of your library space. Positive public regard cannot be underestimated when it comes time to ask for MORE."

10. LIST Triennial Self Evaluation and LIST Strategic Plan, Ken Winter

Ken is looking for ideas about what the LIST Committee should be doing, especially in light of the many initiatives regarding libraries and information services within transportation. How does LIST fit with the SLA Transportation Division, TKNs, etc.?

The group examined and discussed the committee's scope note:

"This committee serves as a forum for transportation librarians and the transportation research community on developments in information science and their applicability to transportation. The committee facilitates diffusion of national library and information science innovations throughout the transportation community by monitoring the use of new resources and tools in the transportation arena, defining critical research and training issues relating to their implementation, and promoting the benefits of these capabilities."

Points from the discussion:

- Ken noted Roberto Sarmiento's observation that we can't do everything – be selective. We need to be LIST's eyes and ears with other committees by making local and national connections.
- We need to reach out to, and work with, the many data committees and subcommittees.
- Leni suggested that the language in our scope may be a turnoff to those outside of libraries – why not talk about information or information professionals instead of libraries and librarians?

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- Knowledge management – where does KM happen within TRB? Metadata and KM are broad-based, cross-cutting issues very appropriate for TRB’s 2010 theme – BE BOLD!
- LIST has initiated a number of projects within NCHRP and has an excellent track record for getting funding. LIST should continue efforts to better deal with GIS and visualization. There are opportunities for data repositories and persistence: lots of agencies generate data and want access to other agencies, and everyone wants to maintain own access, but could LIST could promote wider access. There are opportunities for best practices in handling data repositories, which now are handled on very ad hoc basis, and for educating users about standards for data access and preservation.
- Data repositories – We may have more knowledge and ability to do things with information and data repositories than we may realize. It might not be the best product imaginable, but it might be best tool your organization is going to get hold of.
- Consider limitations of our presentation and publishing model when people are doing very sophisticated visualizations that they have to somehow cram into existing report structure. Is this an entirely new format we should be concerned with preserving and accessing? Data sets present similar problem. The Urban Data Committee will produce a TRB Special Report as a website rather than as printed publication.
- Intellectual property issues should be explored. We need to educate the public on the concept of Creative Commons, i.e., if an agency has paid for a research project, make sure that they also retain rights and access to all data generated as part of the project.
- LIST’s scope supports the library community. We should be reaching out and doing better job of making it clear what our members do. Make commitments to speak at transportation conferences, not library conferences.
- Drive-by BI (bibliographic instruction) – send a message to every TRB committee chair and offer to come and talk about TRIS Online for 10 minutes at the annual committee meetings. LIST would need to recruit volunteers and contact chairs.
- LIST was the only group which did not have to submit papers prior to a poster session, and we should thank Tom Palmerlee for facilitating our poster session. We had a great cross-section of people viewing our posters and had a terrific location to attract foot traffic. Poster presentations will be posted on the LIST website and presentations from Sunday’s international resources session will also be available there.
- Michael Manore of the Data and Information Systems Section would like to have a brainstorming session with LIST on visualization at the TRB summer meeting in Seattle.

11. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Evans
LIST Secretary

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TRB Annual Meeting
LIST Committee Meeting
January 12, 2009

Attendees

Jerry Baldwin, retired
Laura Barhydt, USDOT/PHMSA
Matthew Barrett, Los Angeles County MTA
Jennifer Boteler, FHWA
Sandy Brady, Louisiana Transportation Research Center
Nelda Bravo, FHWA
Paul Burley, Northwestern University
John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT
Bob Cullen, AASHTO
Rita Evans, University of California, Berkeley (recorder)
Connie Field, PCA
Jessica Fomalont, TRB
Frances Harrison, Spy Pond Partners
Sheila Hatchell, Minnesota DOT
Kendra Levine, University of California, Berkeley
Michael Manore, Consultant
Arlene Mathison, University of Minnesota
Lynn Matis, Massachusetts DOT
Andrew Meier, ARRB Group
Leni Oman, Washington State DOT
Thomas Palmerlee, TRB
Lisa Pogue
Barbara Post, TRB
Chris Pringle, Elsevier
Maggie Sacco, Transportation Pooled Fund Study
Birgitta Sandstedt, VTI
Roberto Sarmiento, Northwestern
Bob Sweet, UMTRI
Sandra Tucker, Texas A&M University (chair)
Dawn Vanlandingham, FHWA
Laura Whayne, University of Kentucky
Amanda Wilson, USDOT, NTL
Ken Winter, Virginia DOT

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Agenda

TRB Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation ABG40

TRB 88th Annual Meeting, Washington DC

Monday, January 12, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Hilton State

7:30 – Welcome and Introductions, Sandy Tucker

7:45 – National Transportation Library Update, Amanda Wilson

8:05 – TRB Update, Barbara Post

8:10 – Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks (NCHRP 20-75),
Frances Harrison

8:30 – AASHTO Research Advisory Committee Transportation Knowledge
Network Task Force, Leni Oman

8:35 – LA Metro Library and Archive's Photostream, Matt Barrett

8:45 – Break

8:55 – LIST Triennial Self Evaluation and LIST Strategic Plan, Ken Winter

9:30 – Adjourn

Sandy Tucker

Chair, TRB Committee on Library and Information Science for
Transportation

Head of Science and Engineering Services

Associate Professor

University Libraries

Texas A&M University

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