

Results of a Survey of the Directors of Member Organizations of the Council of University Transportation Centers

Concerning These Issues:

What library services the university transportation centers provide
How the center directors obtain the information they need for research
What are appropriate roles for the National Transportation Library

Posted at http://tti.tamu.edu/shared_documents/tucker/

Survey Conducted by the Committee on Library and Information Science for
Transportation of the Transportation Research Board

December 2003

Library and Information Services – Survey of CUTC Directors

- 1. Name of your university transportation center, and**
- 2. Name of the person completing the survey**

Total Respondents 22
 Skipped this question 2

- 3. Which of the following does your University Transportation Center (UTC) provide in-house? Check all that apply. If "Neither," please skip to Question 7.**

	To Center Staff	To Others	Total Respondents
Collection of transportation materials	19	12	19
Librarian or para-professional library assistant	12	8	12
Neither	4	4	4

- 4. If there is a UTC/in-house library collection, how is it accessed?**

	Response Total	Response Percent
Online catalog	8	40%
Traditional card catalog	2	10%
Other (please specify)	10	50%

Other responses:

1. In lab under control of lab manager
2. Materials are placed there by faculty...used mostly by students
3. Open Honor System
4. Accessed directly; the collection is uncatalogued.
5. Excel file
6. We have a limited collection. The primary collections we access through online catalog systems are the University library collections and the collection at the Minnesota Department of Transportation.
7. Off line data base
8. In person
9. Procite
10. Online and cards at PTI library

Total Respondents 20
 Skipped this question 4

5. Please estimate your UTC/in-house library's staffing levels in terms of specific responsibilities.

	0 FTE	Less than 1.0 FTE	1.0 - 2.0 FTE	2.1 - 5.0 FTE	5.1 - 10 FTE	More than 10 FTE	Response Total
Librarian(s) with professional credentials	10	0	6	2	0	0	18
Paraprofessional library assistants	7	7	3	2	0	0	19
College student employees	5	9	3	2	0	0	19

Total Respondents 21
 Skipped this question 3

6. Please estimate your in-house library/information center's current annual acquisitions budget for books, technical reports, conference proceedings and journal subscriptions.

	Response Total	Response Percent
Less than \$5,000 per year	17	81%
\$5,001 - \$15,000 per year	2	9.5%
\$15,001 - \$30,000 per year	0	0%
\$30,001 - \$50,000 per year	0	0%
More than \$50,000 per year	2	9.5%

Total Respondents 21
 Skipped this question 3

7. Does your UTC contribute funds to the UNIVERSITY library (not your UTC/in-house library)?

	Response Total	Response Percent
Yes	6	25%
No	18	75%

Total Respondents 24
 Skipped this question 0

8. How do you (the UTC director) conduct literature searches? Check all that apply.

	Response Total	Response Percent
Personally search the Internet	21	87.5%
Personally search online university catalogs	16	66.7%
Assign task to graduate student	14	58.3%
Consult with librarian at University library	10	41.7%
Consult with librarian at UTC/in-house library	9	37.5%
Personally search commercial online databases and journals	9	37.5%
Consult with librarian at state DOT	5	20.8%
Consult with LTAP librarian	1	4.2%
Other (please specify)	6	25%

Total Respondents 24
 Skipped this question 0

9. How do you (the UTC director) obtain loans or photocopies of books, reports, journal articles or conference papers not available either in-house or at your university library? Check all that apply.

	Response Total	Response Percent
Download free-of-charge from the web when available	22	91.7%
University (not UTC) interlibrary loan services	18	75%
Personal networks (e.g., get a colleague to make a copy)	14	58.3%
UTC/in-house interlibrary loan services	7	29.2%
State DOT interlibrary loan services	6	25%
Commercial document delivery services	2	8.3%
Other (please specify)	3	12.5%

- Other responses:
1. Ask our librarian to get them for me.
 2. TRIS Online
 3. Ask author directly for copy

Total Respondents 24
 Skipped this question 0

10. How do you (the UTC director) access the Transportation Research Board's TRIS database? Check all that apply.

	Response Total	Response Percent
TRIS Online	20	83.3%
Ask a graduate student to do search	9	37.5%
Ask a librarian to do the search	8	33.3%
Transport (CD-ROM or Web)	3	12.5%
Dialog File 63	0	0%
Do not use	1	4.2%

Total Respondents 24
Skipped this question 0

11. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics' National Transportation Library offers web-based services. Which of them do you use? Check all that apply.

	Response Total	Response Percent
TRIS Online	17	70.8%
Electronic documents	12	50%
Have a graduate student access services for me	9	37.5%
Have a librarian access services for me	7	29.2%
Online reference service ("Ask a Librarian")	1	4.2%
Do not use	3	12.5%

Total Respondents 24
Skipped this question 0

12. What role(s) would you like to see the National Transportation Library (NTL) or other national transportation library fulfill? Check all that apply.

	Response Total	Response Percent
National coordination of providers of transportation information collections and services	17	70.8%
Permanent storage of electronic documents	15	62.5%
Permanent collection of materials not held by other U.S. libraries, for example, certain European research reports	13	54.2%
Development of information standards that will promote information sharing and communication	12	50%
Training and education for users of transportation information	12	50%
Grants to libraries to build collections and provide regional services	10	41.7%
Development of specialized information resources such as those provided by the National Library of Medicine	9	37.5%
No opinion	4	16.7%
Other (please specify)	4	16.7%

Other responses

1. Comprehensive set of links to databases and data sources
2. Develop a national transportation libraries network. Help develop a national collection development policy. Organize and develop conferences. Serve as archival repository to transportation electronic documents and websites.
3. Sponsor of regional networks of information providers--state DOT and university libraries, LTAP centers, and research offices.
4. TRIS on-line is the most critical service. Maintain this at all costs. Since most current documents are electronic, it is critical to have assured, permanent storage. TRB is good about access. US DOT is not so good. A storage system that uses current resources makes most sense. Because of electronic documents, regional collections are less necessary.

Total Respondents 24

Skipped this question 0

13. Of the resources and services listed below, which are important to you in doing transportation research? Check all that apply.

	Response Total	Response Percent
Web-based resources	22	91.7%
Online catalog	16	66.7%
Delivery of articles, reports, etc. not available locally	14	58.3%
Book purchases by a library in response to specific requests	12	50%
Reference from librarian	10	41.7%
Subscription purchases by a library in response to specific requests	10	41.7%
Commercial online databases	8	33.3%
Other (please specify)	3	12.5%

Other responses:

1. Trade Journals
2. Large serials collection
3. TRIS is the most common source of information

Total Respondents 24
Skipped this question 0

14. If you do not use library services or resources, how do you obtain the information you need for research?

1. Web searches, trade journals, professional organizations, relevant research centers (government, private, universities)
2. Almost all searches are by my grad students, who mostly use web-based resources, but occasionally use campus library resources.
3. NA

Total Respondents 3
Skipped this question 21

15. Please provide any other comments you have regarding transportation collections or information services (for example, you may want to list existing services or resources that you particularly value, or services or resources that may not be available but that you would like to see developed or improved).

1. We do not have a library as part of our research center. But the university library provides high-quality on-line subscriptions to most journals. We also subscribe to TRIS and several other on-line search engines. They are very helpful. One thing that the NTL could do is to provide links to as many on-line copies of papers as possible
2. Newsletters, annual reports
3. Value: Historical preservation of transportation materials. Want: Preservation of "borne electronic" documents and websites. Want: A national transportation information plan and network.
4. The items listed in #12 (*What role(s) would you like to see the National Transportation Library (NTL) or other national transportation library fulfill?*) above need to be addressed. National leadership and federal resources are needed to improve our transportation information and accessibility to it. Investment in transportation information resources is woefully inadequate when compared to investments in the national library of medicine, national agricultural library, and related services.
5. The network of LTAP libraries, mostly video tapes, is an important resource for tech transfer. In my experience, most researchers now use the web and nothing else. If it is not downloadable, it is not in circulation. Only for very large projects do researchers do interlibrary loads, etc. As I said above, TRIS on-line is a godsend. We have 20 year's worth of TRB reports in the office, but without TRIS on-line the reports and Records are useless because no other index exists.
6. Better electronic access to completed MS theses in transportation topics as well as PhD dissertations. With all of the University work done, very little of it is available for other researchers to access. We end up repeating the same literature searches, synthesis reports, and summaries over and over again.
7. We need a International program to make all past publications available via the Internet. Any publications that are no longer under copyright protection should be available at no charge.

Total Respondents 7

Skipped this question 17