

LIST Subcommittee for the Transportation Research Thesaurus (TRT)
November 10, 2005
Afternoon Discussion

Present: Nelda Bravo, National Transportation Library ; Susan Dresley, Volpe Transportation Systems Center; Andy Everett, Washington State Department of Transportation; Seyem Petrites, Institute of Transportation Studies Library, UC Berkeley; Barbara Post, Transportation Research Board; Sandy Tucker, Texas Transportation Institute; Ken Winter, Virginia Transportation Research Council

Following the morning presentations by consultant Michael Kleiber and Paine Communications Consultants Derek Hyde and Andy Strassburg, the subcommittee met to follow through with discussions focusing on four specific areas: I) Plans for TRT interfaces; II) Approaches for a process for maintaining the TRT; III) Approaches for marketing and training; and, IV) TRB subject areas and possible consolidation

I. TRT interfaces

Four interfaces will be associated with TRB's TRT database: Public, Indexer, Maintenance, and Download. The subcommittee agreed that a review of the different interfaces would be needed before the official release of the TRT. Of the four interfaces, the most critical ones for review were identified as being the indexer and maintenance interfaces. The subcommittee also agreed that Derek would be asked to follow the NISO standard for display as closely as possible, as well as review other available thesauri. Barbara related that it is critical that the interface design mesh with the new TRIS data entry system.

II. Approaches for a process for maintaining the TRT

Overall management of the TRT contract would be assigned to the TRT Manager at TRB (Barbara Post). Lexicographical management would be handled by the designated lexicographer (Michael Kleiber) with support from a group of TRT users (the LIST subcommittee) and, as needed, subject specialists. The lexicographer would maintain a list of proposed terms and actions taken that he would provide periodically to the LIST subcommittee for review. If a subcommittee member disagreed with the action on a particular term, the term would be discussed by the group. The TRT database would include an audit trail or history notes concerning actions taken on any term.

III. Approaches for marketing and training

Subcommittee members will explore the possibility of offering ½hour training workshops at upcoming conferences. At the workshops, users would be instructed on how to use the TRT to search TRIS Online and index materials. A potential workshop might involve Barbara Post beginning with an overview of the TRT, followed by Sandy Tucker

demonstrating searching with the TRT, and Rita Evans serving as an indexing instructor. Barbara will look into developing handouts and brochures as well as having “user profile” articles prepared for TR News.

IV. TRB subject areas and possible consolidation

Barbara Post led the subcommittee in a brief discussion looking at the subject areas that are currently used in TRIS indexing. Questions regarding their continued use and potential consolidation into a smaller number of terms were posed. Since the subject areas are not included in TRIS Online records, their continued use is questionable.