

Minutes
Transportation Research Board
Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation (ABG40)
2005 Summer Meeting, Boston Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center
Boston, Massachusetts, July 11, 2005

Committee Members in attendance: Jerry Baldwin, Matthew Barrett (recorder), Nelda Bravo, William Carr, Susan Dressley, Barbara Harder, Marci Kenney, Joyce Koeneman, Arlene Mathison, Nina McLawhorn, Bonnie Osif, Sandy Tucker (chair), and Ken Winter.

Friends of the Committee in attendance: Tom Bolle, Wes Lum, Lynn Matis, Lynn Murray, Eric Peterson, and Christi Powers.

TRB staff in attendance: Mark Norman, Tom Palmerlee and Barbara Post.

1. Sandy Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.
2. Committee members, friends and teleconference participants introduced themselves.
3. Ken Winter presented “Leveraging OCLC Group Services and Resource Sharing” and also a TLCat holdings/usage analysis of TLCat’s participating libraries to the committee. The presentation included information on OCLC, resource sharing, interlibrary loans, reference services, user contributed content, and auto alerting.
3. Nina McLawhorn reported on the Pooled Fund Study on Library Connectivity; Wisconsin is the lead state. They are seeking commitments of \$15-\$20,000 per year from each partner. Would like to expand beyond DOTs. Discussing regional transportation knowledge networks. Looking to provide technical support to catalog holdings into the OCLC/TLCat, to finance travel and training opportunities at national seminars and conferences, and to provide staffing for a technical advisory committee that will establish the work plan and future directions of the pooled fund study. So far, two year total commitments of \$305,000. RFPs going out soon. Bill Carr commented that small states should be considered in scaling of services.
4. Mark Norman of TRB discussed a year-long task force on the future of the TRR and its peer review process. Currently has a 30% acceptance rate for papers. Need to address the academic peer review process, increase distribution, and improve indexing. TRB is providing records via web back to 1996.
5. Nelda Bravo reported on preliminary plans for a Summer 2006 International Transportation Technology Transfer Conference, “Accessing Transportation Information Resources Worldwide,” sponsored by FHWA, to be held in St. Petersburg Florida. Tentative themes include where we are headed, networking with partners in Canada and Europe, getting to know Asia (China and Japan), and national policies for transportation information.
6. Barbara Post provided an update on TRIS, which currently has 610,000 records. Looking for more journals as well as more intermodal and freight movement records. TRIS now has a new

data-entry system and has been converted to an SQL database, web-based, with new fields for OCLC numbers, author email addresses, link fields for ordering, corporate urls, etc. Continuing to make refinements. Looking at additional sources TRIS can include.

Research in Progress (RiP) is separate now, would like to integrate links with TRIS. RiP has 8200 records, 38 states contributing and 31,000 users. Google now indexes RiP.

There have been some improvements to the Transportation Research Thesaurus (TRT); TRB plans to issue a policy for TRT use. Currently, TRB has a maintenance contract in place; there is an issue of how to manage the TRT for the future.

7. Bonnie Osif presented an update on the TRB policy study “Future Strategy for Transportation Information Management.” Held third meeting in August. Looking at organizational models, structures and funding. Hope to have report out by Fall/Winter. It has been a very deliberative process, looking at all possibilities. Want solution that will work after many years of discussion. Frank Francois (Chair) and Nan Humphries have had discussions with Eric Peterson. Study should be out in time for the Annual Meeting in January.

8. Each attendee provided a 2-minute presentation on a current information project at his/her place of employment. Jerry Baldwin – MinnDot support to and partnerships with local transportation agencies, contractors, the Center for Transportation Studies at U.Minn, local road research board and the Minnesota Library Network. Joyce Koeneman – NTL metadata standards. Nelda Bravo – NTL now has 16,000 full text documents, added Turner Fairbanks and Volpe, working on creating environment that increases access to information, contributes to tech transfer. Presentations to continue after the break and after open discussion with Eric Peterson.

9. Committee recessed at 8:45am for a 10-minute break and resumed business at 8:55am.

10. Eric Peterson, Deputy Administrator Deputy Administrator for the Research and Innovative Technology Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation addressed the committee. He stated that he was impressed with the activities of members within the resources available, that he would like to make more resources available, and that there has been too little appreciation for librarians work. He has been able to discuss the status of the NTL with Nelda and Joyce. He has talked with representatives of the Study committee and staff of the U.S. DOT library. He is trying to carve out significant funding for NTL, requested \$2.7 million, looking for \$5 million annually. Challenge is to market services and understand the time value to customers. Without knowledge base, we are doing a disservice to taxpayers. Optimistic about moving endeavors along, communicating on our behalf, and marshalling supporting resources, but it won't be without its challenges. We have an important relationship to tech transfer and the evaluation of transportation systems.

Eric Peterson was asked about his thoughts on the NTL and policy. He stated that he asked for consideration of public/private partnership model in the TRB Study. He also stated that it may make sense to move the NTL to TRB with support from DOT, it's a national resource; it doesn't just serve the Federal government. Committee members commented that the NTL serves a diverse group of professionals; it should serve as a standards and policymaking body for

resources generated at the local level. Private sector and other transportation libraries have been closing; they don't understand that they are part of a larger network. Mr. Peterson concluded that we ought to pursue strategies for a definite outcome and that this was a very enlightening discussion.

11. Continued with attendees providing a 2-minute presentation on a current information project at his/her employer. Bill Carr – NE region of AASHTO, his director holds a leadership position. Susan Dressley – Volpe, new director supportive of library, positive step. Matt Barrett – Los Angeles Metro Trans Authority, now reporting to CEO, providing summaries of board-adopted policies and supporting board relations work. Nina McLawhorn – WisDOT, international development, tech transfer, and workforce development; AASHTO wants to be number one in advanced technology.

12. Programs for the Annual Meeting: Marci Kenny asked if Frank Francois will do a presentation on the Study; Barbara Post stated he might anchor the session. Other programming will include web technologies you can use, such as RSS feeds, blogs, podcasting and wikipedia. Nina MacLawhorn suggested a session on how networked information is changing academic research. Initiatives like open archives, Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) and how things will change at the meta level are important, and we should communicate why participants as non-library users should attend. It may work as a complement to discussion of the Policy study. These informal avenues of sharing knowledge, changing policies and changing scholarship are justification for supporting the Policy study. It is important to wrap our arms around why the Policy study should be implemented.

Members also commented that future employees, the cut and paste generation, will believe it is their right to engage new technologies, important to look at how new web tools in the work environment fit into the policy study.

Wes Lum informed the committee that the annual meeting's co-theme will be the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System, along with workforce development, organizational structure of transportation agencies and collaboration on decision making within our industry.