

Minutes

Transportation Research Board

Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation

TRB Annual Meeting 2006

Monday, January 23, 2006

Hilton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Recorded and submitted by Committee Member Rita Evans

Committee Members in Attendance: Sandy Tucker (Chair), Jerry Baldwin, Matthew Barrett, Neldo Bravo, William Carr, Larry Decina, Rita Evans, Barbara Harder, Kathryn Harrington-Hughes, Marie Kenney, Joyce Koeneman, Wes Lum, Arlene Mathison, Dick McReynolds, Bonnie Osif, Chris Pringle, Roberto Sarmiento, Sue Sillick, Ann Sweeney, Laura Whayne

Friends of the Committee in Attendance: Bob Benke, Moy Biswas, Janet Bix, Cheryl Bodan, Jennifer Boteler, Patrick Casey, Bo Chen, Bob Cullen, Linda Cullen, Julia Daniel, Pat DeSalvo, Gary Frederick, Roger Garren, Maureen Hammer, Charlie Han, Michael Kleiber, Kim Linsenmeyer, Lynn Matis, Martha Norwood, Jim Olivetti, Tracy Schut

TRB Staff in Attendance: Tom Palmerlee, Barbara Post

1. Sandy Tucker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Committee members and friends briefly introduced themselves.
2. Minutes from the July 2005 LIST Committee meeting were discussed. The committee's letter regarding NTL and related issues to Eric Peterson, Deputy Administrator of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, will be added. Minutes were approved.
3. LIST will present two programs at the annual meeting: 702 – Future Strategy for Management of Transportation Information: Findings and Recommendations of TRB Policy Study and Steps for Implementation and 739 – Web Tools You Can Use: Blogs, Wikis, Rich Site Summary Feeds and More.
4. LIST Website – Sandy Tucker reported that the Committee's new site is up at <http://trblist.tamu.edu/>. It is being hosted at TTI which provided funding for its programming. LIST presentations, meeting minutes and the soon-to-be-issued TRB Special Report 284, *Transportation Knowledge Networks*, will be linked. Sub-committee work can also be linked. Content should be sent to Sandy Tucker.
5. *Online International Transport Sources* – Ann Sweeney, project chair, thanked everyone on the committee who participated in the project to update this resource. Contributors edited or deleted existing records as appropriate and made additional entries. The previous edition had about 1000 entries, and the current version has about 800 and

while updating is not complete, the database can be used at <http://trblist.tamu.edu/products/international/>.

6. Data Section Subcommittee on Metadata – Joyce Koeneman noted that library science, data management and semantic interoperability are coming together and there is a great need for stable metadata. Across the field of transportation, there is data from lots of sources but little help for those trying to use the data from various sources. Joyce said that it was encouraging that at the Data Section session on Sunday, three of the four speakers made specific reference to library science's expertise in dealing with data.

7. TRT Subcommittee – Sandy Tucker reported that a subcommittee with Sue Sillick, Seyem Petrites, Ken Winter, Andy Everett and Nelda Bravo has been formed to for the Transportation Research Thesaurus. They act as an oversight committee for the work being done under contract for the TRT. The web version of the thesaurus is up at <http://trt.trb.org/>. Users can download the entire thesaurus or part of it as an .xml file. The staff interface will be used by TRIS indexers and is fully integrated. An interface for allowing users to suggest terms is under consideration, but the process must be NISO compliant, and Barbara is concerned that users will not supply an adequate amount of information about suggested terms. She will rely on the committee to define appropriate requirements.

8. 2nd International Symposium on Transportation Technology Transfer (<http://www.t2symposium.org/>) – Nelda Bravo described the conference to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida, July 30-August 3, 2006. For the first conference in 2001, NTL was able to provide funding for international librarians to participate but that will not be the case this time. Many state DOTs, LTAPs and Tech Transfer programs will be participating. Nelda plans to have a workshop on the TRT and how transportation professionals who are not librarians can use it. She also described several other ideas for programs: as part of outreach, a workshop on how to manage small LTAP collections when there is no professional librarian; a session on sharing resources such as training videos and publications; a session on new technologies and methods for technology transfer.

9. TLib Meeting at UC Berkeley – Roberto Sarmiento reported on a meeting held at the University of California's Institute of Transportation Studies Library in October 2005 to discuss recommendations for improving TRIS and the TRT. Meeting attendees included representatives from TRB, UC Berkeley, Northwestern University, NTL, Penn State, and the Kentucky Transportation Center.

The group generated lists of things about TRIS that are working and things that present challenges. Four of the challenges were selected for in-depth discussion:

- More contributors and more coverage – mechanisms for identifying additional collections with materials that should be represented in TRIS
- New technologies – web-based system, federated search, RSS, wikis, interactive online training, direct access to electronic full-text

- TRB B0002 mandate and involvement – name change, strategic plan, partnering with committees besides LIST
- Marketing, education and communication – train the trainer, marketing brochures and materials, contacts with management, outreach to state DOTs

A full report of the meeting discussions and a summary report will be available on the LIST Committee's website within the next couple of weeks.

10. MTKN (Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network) – Janet Bix, Chair of MTKN, reported on the Knowledge & Library Connectivity Conference held in Kansas City in October 2005. This was MTKN's fifth annual meeting and provided an opportunity for MTKN and Library Pooled Fund Study Consortium members to hear about developments in transportation information management, share accomplishments, and identify needs and goals for the coming year. Presentations and minutes are on the MTKN site <http://www.mtkn.org/>. TLCat, sponsored by NTL, now has 25 libraries participating.

11. Transportation Libraries Connectivity Pooled Fund Study (<http://www.pooledfund.org/projectdetails.asp?id=337&status=4>) – Sue Sillick reported that ten state DOTs are participating and the committee is meeting via quarterly conference calls, with one face-to-face meeting a year. Two RFPs, one for technical services and one for administrative and marketing tools, were issued and contractors were chosen. A website and marketing toolkit are being developed. On the technical services side, the contractor is evaluating participating states' collections and subscriptions, developing best practices, and is working on group rates for various subscriptions. New members are welcome.

12. James Shilstone, a materials consultant, spoke on behalf of AFH20, Management of Quality Assurance. He noted that quality assurance and quality control now are often handled by consultants who lack institutional memory. Speaking as an end-user, he said he wants access to older documents and has just found out this is something LIST may be involved in. He also observed that many people in transportation are unaware of what LIST is or does and they are unaware of TRIS.

13. EIS Reports – Roberto Sarmiento said that Northwestern University has records for 20,000 environmental impact reports and statements that can be input into a TRB database, perhaps as TLib records in TRIS.

14. TRIS – Barbara Post reported that 25,000 records were added in 2005, bringing the database total to 630,000. The new data entry system has been implemented and there are many additional fields in a relational database. Journal coverage is expanding with 500 titles now indexed. A major effort to remove duplicate records will be undertaken in 2006. Additional TLib participants will be the Los Angeles MTA Library and the Virginia Transportation Research Council Library. Barbara wants new collections to be unique and to complement the existing TRIS database, not duplicate it. RiP (Research in Progress) is receiving 58,000 hits/month, many through Google searches.

Two new products were introduced, the TRB Publications Index (<http://pubsindex.trb.org/>) and the web interface for the TRT (<http://trt.trb.org/>); the TRT project was completed under NCHRP 20.70. The new publications index covers 30,000 publications going back to 1923. It is connected to the production version of the index and is updated daily. Search results can be printed, downloaded or emailed and an alerting service is under development.

15. NTL Update – Nelda Bravo reported that NTL is funded through 2009 in the reauthorization legislation. Since the budget is rather small, they are focusing on creative activities that use intellectual capital rather than money. Nelda is hoping that some of the participants in the Pooled Fund program can use that money to pay for their TLCat participation so that NTL funds can be used to pay for new TLCat members. While any library can join, sponsorship money is not necessarily available.

16. TRIS Online – Joyce Koeneman of NTL presented a demonstration of the new search interface which is scheduled for release in mid-summer. Done at the request of B0002, the improvements allow users to search TRIS Online and TLCat with the same search interface and integrate the TRT with searches. The search capabilities are a huge improvement over the existing search interface and include broad keyword searches, multi-field searches, cleaner output, browsing, and the ability to download, print or save search results.

17. TRB Committee Liaisons – Sandy Tucker noted that one way to raise the LIST Committee's visibility is to partner with and participate on other committees. Other Committees in the Research and Education Section of TRB include Transportation Education and Training, Conduct of Research, History and Technology Transfer.

18. *Critical Issues in Transportation* – Research and Education Section Chair Wes Lum and Vice Chair Bill Carr and TRB Staff Representative Tom Palmerlee briefly addressed the *Critical Issues* report and noted that LIST's input was not included in the final document. A new TRB strategic plan will be formulated over the next 18-24 months and input for that is being sought. They are looking for cross-cutting approaches, so LIST's input would be a natural fit since everyone needs information. The over-commitment of earmarked research funds in the reauthorization legislation was identified as a challenge.

TRB strives for diversity on its committees and the LIST Committee has an unusually high percentage of women (60%) but few minorities (two) and no members under the age of 30.

19. Transportation Information Needs Assessment – All committees were asked to discuss key unmet information needs and the likely sources of this information. The discussion was fairly unstructured and the following points were raised:

- we should solicit input from our users
- our users want full-text material – how does TRIS fit in that scenario

- the Scoping Study for a *National Strategic Plan for Transportation Information Management* has already identified many needs
- aren't access and availability at least as important as identifying needs
- basic information infrastructure is lacking
- GIS and other non-bibliographic information – growing demand for types of information that we haven't embraced – we don't catalog or describe this type of information
- while we were asked to focus on information needs rather than data needs, we have some real data needs, e.g., freight data
- education, training and marketing are needed to raise visibility of those things we're already doing
- there's so much information – how can we better tailor or funnel it so it's less dispersed
- communication with other TRB committees is an information issue for LIST; could we raise LIST's visibility at the annual meetings with information summaries
- metadata standards could supplant our handling of cataloging
- lots of copies in many places is one way of handling digital preservation
- we should develop standards in other areas besides metadata
- while other committees are focused on data generation, this committee is not and our focus should be on access
- develop a data dictionary, perhaps starting with scope notes in the TRT
- effort to digitize documents, especially older ones
- national collection development policy and function
- state DOTs are moving to all-electronic publishing for bids, contracts, reports, etc. but there are no standards for publication, dissemination or preservation
- MTKN could generate a monthly list of the most frequently searched topics; NTL could generate a list of topics they are asked about most often
- copyright and access to information
- what about an active desire to hide information, prevent dissemination of reports because of fear of litigation or other action on part of the public

20. LIST Strategic Plan – Arlene Mathison and Sue Sillick have volunteered to assist Barbara Harder in updating the LIST strategic plan. Barbara would be happy to add one or two more volunteers to the group.

21. The meeting adjourned.