

DRAFT

TRB Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation

January 22, 2007

1:30-5:30pm

1. Meeting called to order by Sandy Tucker, Committee Chair at 1:30.
2. Introductions from committee Members and Friends.
3. Approval of minutes from August 1, 2006 LIST Committee meeting
Approved with addition of missing last names from list of attendees.
4. LIST Workshops and Sessions at 2007 TRB
 - Transportation Information Revolution (total of five programs)
 - Agile Data Standards Development
 - LIST Committee meeting
5. LIST has submitted three problem statements in past year (NCHRP)
 - Identifying Transportation libraries and info centers
 - Expansion of TRT using AASHTO Thesaurus (not yet published)
 - Best Practices Metadata Application

TRB has created a database for tracking research problem statements for Division A committees which could foster collaboration. The database will be part of RiP but will have different interface.

6. Ken Winter – Upcoming meeting of TRIS Users Group

At a meeting with Barbara Post last year, concern was expressed about the long-term viability and support for TRIS. Ken suggested holding a TRIS users meeting similar to ones held in the 70s. Topics could include content, interface, responsibility for contributions, maintenance any other concerns. While the meeting will involve a fairly small group, comments will be solicited from all interested users via a survey. The intent is to produce a document for TRB.

7. NTL

Joyce Koeneman reviewed 2006. There were several NTL staff changes. Jane Watson, who worked effectively behind the scene, passed away but worked until end. Nelda Bravo left for FHWA to become a Program Manager. Amanda Wilson, previously with Ohio State, was hired on Dec 11 as Library Head.

NTL produced a written response to Special Report 284 for RITA (Research, Innovation and Technology Administration). They rolled out integrated search which was released at AASHTO/RAC in July. They participated in the International Symposium on Tech Transfer.

Amanda addressed the group and said she wants to make NTL an integral part of RITA and feels there is a sense of good support from RITA for NTL. The new Director of BTS, Steven Dillingham, is from the Justice Department. NTL is working on enhancements to their website FAQs. Amanda has met with representatives from TRB and will meet with AASHTO, OECD and the DOT Library (which she wants to bring back into fold since they only serve DOT right now). She is interested in demonstrating the importance of NTL and library services and information.

Joyce distributed a table showing TLCat members and statistics about holdings. She described the NTL Workroom which is under development and will be a back-end to NTL Digital Repository to will UTCs to directly input records. The workroom will allow users to enter a document, put in some information (title at a minimum) and the system will assign a URL. While just that amount of effort could be involved it is hoped that people will input additional information. NTL knows that users will be in different classes with different levels of input required.

8. MTKN – Bob Sweet

Bob observed that when MTKN started, Roberto Sarmiento took 10-month leave of absence to get the network going. With little ongoing funding, however, there have not been notable achievements for MTKN as whole during past year. If MTKN is seen as a model, how come it doesn't have any resources or support? Viability as a knowledge network is very much open to question. Bob said it seems essential that there be a funded, full-time director for MTKN that would allow the network to resume the sort of work it did when Roberto was directing it full-time. Bob noted that within his own institution, UMTRI's director is very jazzed by involvement and prospects for improving and building national transportation information infrastructure.

MTKN is looking for performance measures for library services. Jerry Baldwin is working on a history of MTKN. An MTKN meeting is planned for September in Madison.

9. Wes Lum

Since SAFETEA-LU is so full of earmarks, transportation research through TRB is under severe financial constraints with every TRB committee and sub-committee being reviewed. There is a heavy emphasis on setting priorities and diversity which includes younger members and international members.

The 2008 meeting theme, "Partnerships for Progress in Transportation," is supposed to be discussed by each committee. "Knowledge management" might be a more effective term, or perhaps "communicating the value of research" – we need to choose terminology that will resonate with a particular audience. Wes encouraged the committee to think about changing its name (note that "Education and Training" may change to "Outreach and Education").

10. Pooled Fund Project TPF-5 (105) Transportation Library Connectivity – Christi Powers and Maggie Sacco

Christi said that they hope to expand the scope and extent of pooled fund study. They hope to facilitate a Western Transportation Regional Knowledge Network which Steve Cochran from WSDOT is spearheading. Maggie Sacco said subscriptions for TLCat are being paid and she has made site visits and is doing surveys. They are looking into group rates for database subscriptions and developing a blueprint for starting or revitalizing a DOT library. The pooled fund website is at www.libraryconnectivity.org.

11. Paul Burley – Northwestern University

The Transportation Library has two full-time catalogers on staff now. Paul is working with the name authority system at LC (Main Authority Cooperative Organization) and hopes for more participation from other transportation libraries. While LC no longer is doing series authority records, Northwestern will continue providing them. NU's TranWeb used local transportation subject headings used in past but is now using LC Subject Headings. A holdings matching project with OCLC increased the library's holdings by 60,000 records. A special project is underway to de-acidify and digitize the library's special collection of airline menus. As the collection of 300 donated menus is becoming better known, more menus are being contributed. Northwestern will be hosting a TLib users meeting in conjunction with TRB's summer meeting

12. LIST Committee TRT Subcommittee

Sandy reported that this group was initially to support an NCHRP project and the TRT is now available on web. Maintenance issues were discussed at a meeting earlier in the day and Barbara Post will be asked to provide quarterly reports showing new scope notes, lead-in vocabulary, and new related (associative) terms to committee members. For new terms, the committee will receive a list on a quarterly basis, review it and determine if Candidate Terms should become Index Terms. For Uncontrolled Terms the subcommittee wants to be able to review them as Candidate Terms and not lose these as suggestions for new terms before the lexicographer overwrites them with existing TRT terms.

13. TRB Information Activities – Barbara Post

TRB now provides electronic access to TRRs based on IP addresses.

Barbara and Nelda Bravo are staff liaisons for NCHRP 20-75, Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks.

Research Needs Statements Database – technical committees will use this to highlight high priority needs and it should be up June or July 2007.

TRB papers from 2006 have been indexed and put into TRIS. If a paper is later published in the TRR, the TRIS record will be updated.

Additional Canadian records have been added to RiP.

TRIS – New fields include summary URLs and author email addresses.

Transport – Barbara is trying to have it made available via Dialog in the hope of increasing use.

NCHRP 20-70 – TRT is now on the web and integrated with TRIS. Lexicographer Michael Kleiber is cleaning up many records.

RiP – will be clearinghouse for UTC research projects. It will be checked for duplicates in case a state DOT has also put in particular project. The database had 1.2 million visitors in 2006.

14. TRB Strategic Plan Update – Tom Parmalee

The plan should be issued by end of year and they want input from committees. Some of the technical committees will address about half of the action items and there will be a brief period for comment in February.

15. LIST Committee plans and goals – Sandy Tucker

Sandy led a discussion to brainstorm on committee activities, programs and initiatives.

Getting more European reports into ITRD will improve access to international information.

Identify more transportation libraries and try to capture the loss of human resources and institutional memory as retirements happen. This is a possible wiki application and could start with transportation libraries, perhaps in conjunction with the History Committee. NTL is looking at wiki software and may be able to host at some point.

There is a great need for long-term depository of born-digital documents. Joyce Koeneman noted that the Open Archive Initiative (for document ingestion in addition to metadata ingestion) is all about partnering and fits perfectly with TRB's theme for next year. Joyce volunteered to work on something related to Open Access.

Roberto has proposed developing transportation-specific guidelines and or requirements for cooperative acquisition program, perhaps leading to the creation of cooperative regional/national acquisition program. This would involve comparative collection analysis and UCB is very interested in this effort. This could result in better alignment of collection development to support research both within our own organizations and throughout TRB. We need to have a national "last copy" policy and perhaps a formal dark archives or clearinghouse as a last resort. Right now, there is no procedure in place to ensure that transportation documents are digitized and archived; technology isn't issue, a coordinated plan is.

What are options for digital preservation? Can we impose requirements regarding the last copy? OCLC retains records for items where last copy in system has been deaccessioned so that evidence of the publication doesn't also disappear.

Perhaps a session could look at differences in issuing organizations – publications from federal government sources, state agencies, commercial publishers, NGOs, etc. It could look at the difference between what the law or policies require and what actually happens. Consider, for example, the requirement for distribution of research reports, or depositing of research reports; if it doesn't happen according to requirements, is there ever any penalty?

Don't focus entirely on research – remember that information besides research is needed, e.g., standards – many state DOTs have a practical focus and need this type of information.

Sandy wants to establish a list of libraries and/or librarians that support the UTCs and have LIST committee members contact those librarians to let them know centers exist and they may want to address the reports that the UTCs are publishing.

Tom mentioned the Advanced Research Needs Related to GIS project that was just announced as possible partnering opportunity for LIST.

Records management and libraries with digitization projects may present lots of duplication of effort. Can we find ways to coordinate those activities; consider, e.g., different controlled vocabularies for cataloging items and indexing records. The Kansas DOT is adopting a system used for records management because it assures long-term storage, it conforms to the organization's standards, and the organization is therefore willing to pay for it.

AASHTO doesn't have a library/information committee or subcommittee – shouldn't there be one to complement what LIST does in the research environment?

Several years ago Bonnie Osif compiled a lengthy list of international publications (serials) that show up in OCLC but aren't held by any US libraries. The idea was to prompt some coordinated effort to have at least one library in US subscribe. Could that effort be revived?

Barbara wants to emphasize the need to improve and make TRIS relevant. She would like to see LIST develop an E-Circular on this topic.

Three Program Ideas:

- Open Access
- Collaboration on Collection Development
- Modern Practices for Managing Documents and Information

16. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Evans
LIST Secretary