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TRB Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation
2007 Summer Conference
Chicago, Renaissance Hotel
July 8 and 9 2007

Present: Jerry Baldwin, Bob Cullen, Paul Burley, Rita Evans (Secretary), John Gallwey, Barbara Harder, Frances Harrison, Nikki Hatch, Joyce Koeneman, Arlene Mathison, Barbara Post, Christi Powers, Roberto Sarmiento, Sandy Tucker (Chair), Amanda Wilson

Part 1, July 8, 2007

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sandy Tucker, Committee Chair, welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves and say what they're particularly concerned about. The TRT, digital collections and long-term access, planning when retirements are imminent, RSS feeds, finding a library, TRIS's future on its 40th anniversary, technology transfer and access were all mentioned. You can sign up for LIST's email list at http://trblist.tamu.edu/email_list/.

2. Approval of minutes from January 22, 2007

Minutes were approved with the following corrections and addition: spelling of Tom Palmerlee's name; under 8, Joyce Koeneman asked that it be noted that Roberto's leave was funded by NTL; under 15, replace "Open Access" with "Open Archive Initiative."

3. TRB Information Services – Barbara Post

The *Transportation Research Records (TRRs)* are now available electronically with sponsors and US DOT receiving free subscriptions. Individual *TRRs* published since 1996 can now be purchased.

Of 121 requests for new projects submitted to NCHRP, 41 were approved including both that LIST submitted. NCHRP 20-79 is Expansion of the Transportation Research Thesaurus. The TRT will be enhanced with definitions. See <http://www.trb.org/TRBNet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=1639> for more information. NCHRP 20-75 is Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks. See <http://www.trb.org/TRBNet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=661> for more information.

The 40th anniversary of TRIS will be coming soon. Michael Kleiber is writing an article for *TR News* and is looking for comments for a sidebar. It is also time to consider what TRIS should be, with the database being evaluated and adapted to changing information technology. A survey of TRIS users will be done and Ken Winter is very involved in this effort.

On the publisher side, Taylor & Francis and Elsevier both have given permission to use their abstracts in TRIS records. Publishers are interested in enabling full-text access for institutions (such as universities) that have licensed online subscriptions.

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To facilitate finding material once a record is located in TRIS, TRB is looking into linking via WorldCat Open Access to identify a library that holds given item.

Northwestern University Transportation Library hosted a TLib meeting on July 7 attended by Roberto Sarmiento and Paul Burley (NUTL), Barbara Post (TRB), Rita Evans and John Gallwey (UC Berkeley) and Ken Winter (VTRC). TLib is a program to provide additional content to TRIS and NU and UCB have provided thousands of records under this program. NU will be sending records for its collection of 20,000 environmental impact reports this summer. Dissertations from both UCB and NUTL's collections also will be added. Ken Winter is working with Barbara to be a new TLib contributor and will provide historical material. The Transportation Association of Canada also will supply records, with about 200 test records provided to date.

The RiP (Research in Progress) database became the clearinghouse for University Transportation Center (UTC) research in January 2007. Improvements have been made to data entry and reporting. There is now a map with links to each state's DOT research (<http://rip.trb.org/browse/lmap.asp>) and a map with links to each state's UTC research (<http://rip.trb.org/browse/utcmap.asp>).

A Research Needs Statements database has been developed for TRB's committees and for the first time there is central place for to review these statements (<http://rns.trb.org/home.asp>). Every committee has an RNS editor (LIST's is Sandy Tucker) who can add items. This will allow researchers in universities and state DOTs to see what topics are considered a high priority.

Barbara found from talking to users that the term "Advanced Search" scares some users; they think you have to be an advanced searcher to use it so she is looking for alternative terminology.

4. National Transportation Library (NTL) – Joyce Koeneman and Amanda Wilson
Joyce reported that resolution of US DOT server problem will allow some projects to move from beta to production. The NTL workroom is used to feed data to the NTL catalog compliant with the Open Archive Initiative. A methodology is being created for using the interface to process particular collections. The NHTSA collection will be first, and users can search just that individual collection. This enhanced database provides bibliographic data beyond what previously has been captured and is now in test environment. NHSTA is pleased and the database should be available by fall. From the public's standpoint, NHSTA's Office of Behavioral Research reports will be digitally preserved. NTL also will be working on the much larger Highway Research collection which is very messy. Efforts are underway to make the records Z39.50 compliant so they can be used with TLCat. NTL wants to be able to ingest directly rather than having electronic documents sent to NTL and then uploaded.

Amanda reported that NTL wants its records and collection to be Z39.50 compliant; they also want the capability to search the NTL catalog, TRIS Online and TLCat with one search.

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Discussions will begin in July for the NTL and US DOT Library merger with the new entity to be known as NTL. The new RITA administrator, Paul Brubaker, will start in late July. Amanda will be attending her first National Digital Strategies Advisory Board as an official representative; the board aims to develop a national digital collection and preservation strategy. NTL is working with TRB to begin maintaining the TRT.

Amanda plans to coordinate a monthly web conference, Trans Libraries, on the first Thursday of each month beginning in September. It will provide a regular forum for addressing transportation library issues. Amanda is also working with Arlene Mathison of the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies to determine how transportation librarians might work better with University Transportation Centers.

5. NCHRP 20-75, Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks, Frances Harrison
The project is funded through October 2008 to implement recommendations. Products and services to be offered need to be identified, and roles and responsibilities need to be defined. The challenge is to orient this to consumers of information rather than providers – how it will make a researchers' efforts different? What is our vision and how does that vision differ from what we're doing today?

The project has two phases. The first phase will deliver a draft business plan by the end of the summer stating how outreach will be handled. The second phase will be the outreach itself. How to engage movers and shakers will be a priority in the next round of federal appropriations; while the committee has done good job of articulating the value of libraries, it has not really engaged the people who have influence and make decisions.

Frances noted that we can't continue to talk about the value of libraries and the strategy of focusing our business plan on "our libraries aren't supported, we need x, y,z," is a failure. She wants to focus on how people can find information and notes that we're behind other industries in how information is accessed.

6. Report on TALENT project and CUTC (Council of University Transportation Centers) survey, Arlene Mathison

At CUTC's meeting in June, a Library Partnership committee was formed to work with NTL and AASHTO. A survey will be done to gauge how CUTCs work with their libraries.

TALENT (Transportation Advocates for Library Enhancements, Networks and Technology) is a grassroots effort at getting support for TRB Special Report 284 (*Transportation Knowledge Networks*) and NTL. Arlene and Christi Powers are developing a one-page position paper (with assistance from Sandy Tucker, Bob Sweet, Matt Barrett, Marie Manthe, Roberto Sarmiento and Maggie Sacco) to promote support with legislators.

7. Report of TRIS User's Group – Ken Winter

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With the current tremendous competition for finding information, how can we support TRIS? We need to be responsive to user expectations, which are constantly changing and often very unrealistic.

A survey of TRIS users will attempt to identify who is using the database, what they are using it for. The simple, web-based survey is targeted for September or October so results can be compiled in time for the 2008 Annual Meeting. An E-Circular is planned. Designing an effective survey is very difficult and Barbara Post thanked Laura Whayne, Ken, Amanda Wilson and Roberto Sarmiento for their work on the survey.

8. Subcommittee on the TRT – Sandy Tucker

The subcommittee is looking at how work will be handled after consultant Michael Kleiber completes the current contract. A TRT enhancement project will be undertaken.

9. Report from Committee Chairs and meeting of Data and Information Systems Section – Sandy Tucker

Sandy distributed TRB's TAC Action Plan. Mark Norman, TRB Technical Activities Director, said the action items have been developed from TRB's Strategic Plan. LIST and other TRB committees are now on receiving end and TRB needs our help to accomplish them. Item 5, "Enhance publications" and Item 6, "Take advantage of new technology tools" are especially pertinent to LIST.

TRB has gotten enough paid subscribers for electronic *TRRs* to cover all the front-end costs of getting 11 years of *TRRs* on the web. TRB is concerned that very few university libraries have subscribed to the electronic *TRRs*. TRB papers appear in Publication Index and TRIS about one month before printed *TRRs* are issued.

Arlene asked about increased support for TRB's committees' web pages. Mark said templates will probably be developed, and server space may be available so websites can have some stability.

10. Review of LIST Scope and Goals, TRB Action Plan and program ideas – Barbara Harder

A. Committee Goals – Current Goals as numbered in the LIST strategic plan and actions in response.

5.1 – Update and educate transportation professionals on new information resources and tools.

Workshops on TRIS Online and other tools.

Barbara Post's reports at annual meetings.

5.2 – Support for NTL and other repositories.

With Special Report 284, sees much more solid working relationship among actors and raising profile has helped networking and communication. Sandy noted that we can't lobby but we can promote support.

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5.3 – Improving transportation professionals’ access to international information.

We have posted list of series indexed by ITRD which dovetails into cooperative collection development; perhaps we could divide up burden of subscribing to different series. European safety citations are increasing in importance. Barbara Post noted that fees charged by ITRD and other information providers is a big barrier to access.

5.4 – Institutional partnerships and alliances.

UC Berkeley’s collaboration with Northwestern University in cataloging NTIS reports and transportation dissertations.

5.5 – Effective information handling as part of improved business process.

No action items; should we address this or drop it?

5.6 – Identify information science research applicable to transportation.

We’ve been successful in putting our proposals out there, but the committee as a whole needs to be more responsive in reading the library and information science literature and looking for where it is applicable. Barbara Harder asked what’s going to be hot in 3-5 yrs and how can we address it. Joyce Koeneman noted that user behavior and metadata transmission structuring are probably two of the most likely for us to pursue; noted that trying to tie it to transportation is not necessarily relevant since these advances will be applicable in many disciplines, not exclusively transportation. Barbara Post said that digital preservation of text and images of great interest to transportation community. Should LIST form subcommittee to address this?

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:15.

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Part 2, July 9, 2007

12. Continuation of Discussion of LIST Scope and Goals

A. Current Goals as numbered in the LIST strategic plan and actions in response, continued

5.5 – Effective information handling as part of improved business process.

Joyce asked for clarification about what was meant by “effective information handling” as a means to “an improved business process;” should this be “effective information management.”

5.6 – Identify information science research applicable to transportation.

Sandy asked if anyone would be interested in serving on a subcommittee to look into how developments in information science could be applied to transportation, for example, what NTL is doing with data standards. This may be a commitment to follow developments in the literature. Information seeking behavior in transportation is different than information seeking behavior in other disciplines and the user community could probably use some guidance in this area; an RNS is a natural place for a research subcommittee’s suggestions. Also, consider adding a possible new goal (from C.1 in the plan) of defining critical research issues related to information science and dissemination of transportation research information.

B. Identify planned (up to 2 years) activities to achieve stated goals.

Most of what is in the existing plan is still applicable.

5.4.4 – Work with AASHTO’s Research Advisory Committee (RAC) to promote development of libraries within state DOTs

There’s been work on this. Joyce observed that transportation people pursue the practical course – what will work – regardless of what an engineer might say.

C. Identify possible new goals and strategies

D. Identify envisioned (3-5 years) activities to achieve stated goals

Barbara Harder asked if there’s an area that we’re not addressing that should be – not at this time.

C.2 (Articulate criteria for developing liaison relationships with other TRB committees) and D.4 (Develop formal liaison relationships with several TRB committees)

Develop these as strategies for A.5.4 (Identify and develop institutional partnerships and alliances with groups that share mutual concerns).

C.2.c (Concentration on international research results access and availability) is very similar to A.5.3 (Improve transportation professionals’ access to international information)

Are these redundant?

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C.2.d (Focus on a topic area that would promote committee members' skills in identifying and accessing information) could be a strategy for achieving A.5.1 (Work with leaders in AASHTO and CUTC on projects of interest to them).

13. Discussion of projects for carrying out strategic plan

What's on the horizon – what do we need to be prepared for? We need to develop and improve networks for sharing and capturing digital communications. Is there a place for a preservation environment in a non-static medium of communication – is this even possible? Could a LIST research subcommittee pursue this?

Amanda Wilson mentioned a number of areas including a meta-thesaurus or semantic web with potential for communicating more broadly. Barbara Harder said that since we're a tool for people to use, we need to focus on our role within transportation. Sandy Tucker suggested sending short bibliography on semantic web to bring people up to speed before we attempt to have a further discussion on this. Amanda and Joyce agreed to produce one. Web 2.0/mashups could have a lot of interest beyond LIST. There are different approaches to capturing information in a dynamic environment. Arlene suggested a program on designing web sites, a topic on which Sandy Tucker has done work.

Barbara Harder then asked for volunteers to act as liaisons to other TRB Committees. Tom Palmerlee suggested that Sandy notify the various committee chairs that a LIST member is joining or becoming a friend in a liaison capacity:

Sandy Tucker –Data Section

Joyce Koeneman – member of Metadata subcommittee of the Data Section

Bonnie Osif – Conduct of Research

Anne Sweeney – International

Amanda Wilson – GIS

Rita Evans – Technology Transfer

14. Preliminary Report Cooperative Acquisition and Collection Development – Roberto Sarmiento, Northwestern University Transportation Library

Roberto reported on an update to a research needs statement on “Cooperative Acquisition and Collection Development on Regional and National Level.” Roberto conducted a literature review of efforts in Australia and New Zealand and by the Big 10 Schools (CIC) in the US in order to determine how we can apply what has been learned to transportation; specifically, how to do something in support of TRB Special Report 284, *Transportation Knowledge Networks: A Management Strategy for the 21st Century*.

Some common issues have emerged from the literature review. Consortia may have strong or weak management, formal or informal structure, paid staff or volunteers, designated funding sources or little funding, narrow or broad objectives, regional or national/international scope. Some welcome all libraries willing to share what they can, while other are selective and libraries are invited to participate based on collection

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strengths. Some divide collecting responsibilities by geographic area, others by language expertise, and others by topic (e.g., pavements, modes, technologies, etc.)

Roberto then raised other points to consider. Forming partnerships is a priority within TRB. Preservation of a “last copy” is an important issue. Researchers and practitioners want better access to European and other international information. Cooperative storage is a problem not just with physical space but also in terms of long-term digital storage.

An effective cooperative effort will need an administrative structure and funding. While it can be done with volunteers, Roberto doesn't believe this is the right way to proceed. For example, give libraries incentives to participate, such as funding for net lenders. For administrative structure, look at examples such as NTL, MTKN and the Pooled Fund and tap into what they've learned and what's already been done. We may need to develop new and reestablish partnerships with other libraries, with UTCs (University Transportation Centers), corporate libraries or Local Technical Assistance Programs.

Every participating library needs to have a collection development policy that guides the selection of material. Each library needs to produce a conspectus that describes the level on which the library collects for different subject areas. This information could be compiled in a database so that every transportation library could see what every other transportation library is collecting.

Strong, viable, international interlibrary loan agreements are a critical part of this entire process and must include trust, reliability, speed, and a willingness to provide the same level of service to everyone in consortium as you do for own users. MTKN (Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network) has created a conspectus and also has developed a strong ILL policy.

Roberto would like to present these issues to LIST at a future annual meeting where they could be discussed. A lot of additional time and work will be needed to move this forward, but some current activities are moving in the right direction. Northwestern and UC Berkeley, for example, are discussing collaboration on cataloging technical reports and acquiring dissertations.

15. Continued discussion of projects for carrying out LIST strategic plan; program ideas

The group discussed program ideas for future TRB Annual Meetings and other meetings. Sandy noted that LIST can program 2.3 sessions at the 2008 TRB Annual Meeting.

a. Arlene – Will take lead on program dealing with Web with potentials topics including Web design using TRT to drive topical organization; Mash-ups; TRT; Open Archives; ISO standards; Ontologies.

b2. Data Committee – What information is needed after a disaster? LIST could co-sponsor and Sandy Tucker will follow up with Data Committee Chair.

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c. Knowledge management/ Capturing legacy info – Bob Cullen will follow up with ABJ10 (National Data Requirements and Programs). History Committee may also be interested and may have a program in mind as well.

d. Christi Powers – Decision-making, Leveraging Information; potential speaker is Ruben Anthony, Deputy Secretary from WisDOT. Wants to identify end-user who can provide example of significant cost-saving. Barbara Harder asked if Strategic Management Committee might be source of speaker (Chief Engineer, CEO; VA and Kansas DOT heads mentioned) who could give example of good ROI. Data Committee is potential co-sponsor.

e. Doing Good Literature Search in Transportation – Nelda Bravo. Bob Cullen said this idea captures his proposed program idea, and Findability of Transportation Information would fit right in.

f. Sandy Tucker has asked Jerry Baldwin to develop an RNS (Research Needs Statement) on how information seeking in transportation differs from information seeking in other disciplines; could develop into an NCHRP problem statement. Are there other RNSs the committee should develop, e.g. Modern Practices?

g. Roberto Sarmiento and EIS Digitization – Report for 2009 meeting on Google digitization project at Northwestern University Transportation Library which will include 20,000 environmental impact reports and statements. Records for these documents will be added to TRIS.

Sandy noted that the LIST committee has been unusually effective in getting statements accepted for project funding. One technique has been lobbying through state reps. Barbara Harder noted that SCOR is much more likely to approve funding for a project when multiple states have put it forward and LIST could leverage that.

16. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Evans, Secretary