

**TRB Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation
June 14, 2008
2008 Summer Meeting, Seattle**

In attendance:

Jerry Baldwin, retired; Matt Barrett, LAMTA; Paul Burley, Northwestern University Transportation Library; John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT; Bob Cullen, AASHTO; Pat DeSalvo, Virginia DOT; Kimberly Edwards, National Transportation Library; Rita Evans, UC Berkeley, Institute of Transportation Studies Library (Recorder); Andy Everett, Washington State DOT; Joyce Koeneman, retired; Dawn van Landingham, FHWA; Kendra Levine, UC Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies Library ; Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT; Arlene Mathison, University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Study; Leni Oman, Washington State DOT; Tom Palmerlee, Transportation Research Board; Seyem Petrites, UC Berkeley, Institute of Transportation Studies Library (Recorder); Barbara Post, Transportation Research Board; Maggie Sacco, CTC Associates; Roberto Sarmiento, Northwestern University Transportation Library; Ann Sweeney, European Commission Delegation; Qin Tang, Minnesota DOT; Sandy Tucker, Texas A&M (Chair); Amanda Wilson, National Transportation Library

Welcome and Introductions- Sandy Tucker, LIST Chair

Sandy encouraged everyone to sign up for the LIST discussion list.

Approval of Minutes – Rita Evans, LIST Secretary

January 14, 2008 minutes approved with following corrections: spelling of Jennifer Boteler's name, and replacing "Librarian" with "Librarians" in "Transportation Librarians Roundtable."

**Report on TRB Activities – Barbara Post, TRB Information Services Manager
NCHRP 20-79**

NCHRP 20-79, Expansion of the Transportation Research Thesaurus, was proposed by LIST and selected by SCOR for funding in 2007. A panel formed in fall 2007 selected CDB Enterprises (David Batty, Gayle Batty, Jeanne Thomas and Michael Kleiber) as the contractor for the project.

TRIS User Survey

Initiated by Ken Winter of VDOT, the objective of the survey was to understand who uses TRIS Online and how they use it. TRB technical committee members, students attending the TRB annual meeting, RAC listserv members and the TranLib listserv members received the survey. One significant finding is that TRIS users are library users. 86% of respondents said TRIS is extremely or usually relevant. User want more – more citations, full text links, environmental impact statements, theses and dissertations, international coverage, etc. An eCircular will report the survey results and Barbara will use those results in developing the TRIS strategic plan.

National Transportation Library – Amanda Wilson

Recent activities at the NTL include the merging of the U.S.DOT Library with the NTL. A number of goals for the NTL were outlined, such as becoming more embedded in RITA, increasing digital content in the NTL, working with more innovative technologies, and creating a new vision for library services.

Additional NTL news reported by Amanda:

- A replacement for Joyce Koeneman is still being pursued.
- Documents from the ITS Joint Program Office (JPO) documents will be entered into the NTL.
- US DOT has asked that the NTL manage the Climate Change Clearinghouse.
- NTL will be expanding to include more non-text-based documents, such as video and images.
- A survey of TRIS Online will be conducted sometime around the next TRB Annual Meeting.
- NTL is working with libraries in South Africa and Tanzania to develop information policies for their respective countries.
- NTL is participating in the “Library as Place” working group which is looking at the future of space in federal government libraries
- NTL content, as well as TRIS Online records, may be going into OCLC.

LIST Subcommittee on the Transportation Research Thesaurus – Pat DeSalvo

NTL has taken over the administration and management of the TRT. Sixteen candidate terms were sent to the Subcommittee for review in March. The Subcommittee will also be reviewing the following topics: overall concept of the TRT, scope, warrant, specificity, and marginal areas. Three draft documents are currently being reviewed: 1) Principles for the Organization of the TRT; 2) Online form for the public to submit terms for the TRT; and, 3) Candidate term review form. Terms will be reviewed twice a year until final policies and documents are in place. Updates to the TRT will be sent to the Tranlib listserv.

NCHRP 20-75 – Leni Oman and Arlene Mathison

Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks (TKNs) is the focus of NCHRP 20-75. A draft business plan has been reviewed and revised, but not yet released. The outreach phase, focused on developing strategies to raise awareness of TKNs, is in progress. A draft overview presentation, as well a draft portal for transportation information, has been developed. A directory of libraries is a work in progress.

AASHTO RAC/TKN Task Force – Leni Oman

The Task Force was created in April and comprises representatives from the different regions of RAC. The Task Force will serve as an advocacy group for TKNs. A draft charter is awaiting revisions.

Pooled Fund Study (TPF-5(105), Transportation Library Connectivity – Maggie Sacco

The Pooled Fund Study has scheduled the following special projects:

- National Resource Sharing Network Pilot Project, scheduled for July 2008, which will focus on expanding interlibrary loans among transportation libraries.
- Marketing and Management Effectiveness, scheduled for October 2008, which will include two to five reports and a Webinar on these topics:
 - How to Increase Your Reach Through Smart Marketing Strategies
 - How to Effectively Engage with Key Stakeholders and Funders
- Facilitated Workshop on Strategic Planning and Return on Investment, scheduled for October 2008, which will focus on proven strategies, best practices, and action plans.

A brief discussion also took place regarding the potential for pursuing a fourth year to the Pooled Fund Study.

MTKN – John Cherney

Recent activities at the MTKN have focused on developing performance measures, including identifying data collection methods data and standardized statistics. The annual meeting in September is being planned. The Portland Cement Association and Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., have joined the MTKN as new members.

ETKN – Bob Cullen reporting for Ken Winter

ETKN held its first meeting in November 2007. The mission of ETKN is focused on resource sharing, knowledge enhancement, and collaborative sharing. ETKN has a multi-tiered (full, affiliated, and friend) membership, and currently there are 17 members. Recent projects are focused on digital collaboration and increasing access to high-use documents.

WTKN – Laura Wilt

WTKN is open to all information providers, not just librarians. The AASHTO RAC/TKN Task Force may provide some guidance for WTKN. An ILL project sponsored by the Transportation Connectivity Pooled Fund Study is under discussion. The group wants an improved web presence. A list of serials held by WTKN members was discussed. Not-for-profit status is being investigated for the purpose of pursuing grants. Laura thanked MTKN for its documents which provided a model for WTKN organization and NTL for its support in getting the group started.

Reports from LIST Liaisons:

TRB Data and Information Systems Section Retreat – Matt Barrett

This marked the first time any TRB Section has held a retreat. This section has a very academic slant, unlike most TRB entities. LIST used to be in this section but is now in Research and Education Section. The group worked on a strategic plan for the section including a definition of its scope. Data needs to be exposed and managed as an asset and organizations need to understand that data is not IT's asset, it is an asset of the entire organization. The group proposed a "20 Questions" data brochure which would focus on the top 20 things we don't know. A research road map was suggested. Two initiatives have been identified:

- Annual Data and Info Section Critical Issues

- Data Report Card – self-assessment tool for agencies to rate use of own data

Ann Sweeney

Ann Sweeney is candidate for Division Cabinet Chair Elect. She said that SLA is better equipped to respond to things such as transportation reauthorization legislation than it used to be (e.g., actions to oppose EPA library closures) and Doug Newcomb is SLA's point person for public policy. There was a brief discussion of whether SLA's Transportation Division can support reauthorization. Ann reported that Dow Jones paid \$250,000 for a full-page ad for SLA that appeared in June 13 *Wall Street Journal*.

Review of LIST Scope and Goals – Sandy Tucker:

Goal 5.3 – Improve the exchange/flow of international information.

Sandy has signed LIST up to participate in a workshop on access to international information to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Barbara expects to hear whether the workshop has been approved next week. Barbara also is advocating use of existing tools such as TRIS and RiP and she hopes to establish better access to ITRD's information.

Goal 5.4 – Identify and develop institutional partnerships and alliances.

Conduct of Research has requested a LIST liaison. Leni volunteered.

Discussion of Program Ideas for January 2009 TRB Annual Meeting

Proposed topic: Second Life

Should this topic be broadened to encompass social networking in general (NOAA doing very interesting things)? Leni advocated holding a poster session because those sessions encourage interactivity. Information visualization tools would be interesting. Related ideas include Eileen Boswick as speaker on wikis, Zotero, Facebook, YouTube, Slide Share and Flickr. Joyce volunteered to take the lead.

Proposed topic: Climate Change

60 Slides in 60 Minutes on Climate Change with an international scope was suggested. There was an objection in that too much content would have to be covered, but many felt it could be an effective presentation if it was joined with a web portal on climate change. Spotlighting some of best resources would be helpful to everyone and there already are a lot of good resources available. If NTL's new climate change portal is available by January, perhaps the session could be developed around it and AASHTO's environment site. It was suggested that we focus on some of the best resources and check with the new TRB Task Force on Climate Change. Sandy volunteered to take the lead for this program idea.

Proposed topic: Findability and Accessibility

Presentation could address legal issues related to accessibility and 508 compliance. Much scanning is done into graphic formats, but findability would be greatly enhanced by scanning into text format (OCR compliance). It was noted that "findability" would

include discovery in legal matters, such as how to retrieve information from emails, documents, etc.

Proposed topic: How to be a Good Information Consumer

Arlene said that with the I-35 bridge collapse in Minnesota, it appears that engineers should have heard about a similar problem in Ohio, but were not aware of it. Rita noted that we have a tool for use in searching, the TRT, but in some cases, it uses terminology that a user never would, such as “aircraft pilotage.” Joyce suggested a session called “Save It, Search It, Find It” where all of these issues could be addressed in the context of someone going through those steps. Data is an asset so “Save It.” Perhaps expand concept to “Define It, Save It, Search It, Find It.” Jerry observed that if we want something to be findable, we have to have a hand in its creation.

Discussion of Goal 5.2, Promote and Provide Support to the NTL

This agenda item was not discussed due to time constraints.

Discussion of Research Needs – New Problem Statements?

Leni distributed a Problem Statement, AASHTO’s “Mapping a Transportation Research Network” and asked if LIST would be interested.

Google Custom Search on research needs. Leni has asked to have unfunded projects indexed by Google, but hasn’t happened yet. Only about one in five proposals are funded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Evans and Seyem Petrites