

Library and Information Science for Transportation Committee
Monday, January 14, 2013, 8:00 AM -12:00 PM
Hilton, Columbia Hall
Roberto A. Sarmiento, Northwestern University
Library and Information Science for Transportation (ABG40)

Members present: Sandy Brady, Paul Burley, John Cherney, Bob Cullen, Susan Dresley, Rita Evans (Secretary), Kendra Levine, Arlene Mathison, Steve Pepin, Birgitta Sandstedt, Roberto Sarmiento (Chair), Sue Sillick, Ken Winter

Friends present: Ken Chambers, Leighton Christiansen, Derek Hyde, Laurie McGinnis, Bill Orleans, Alan Rindels, Gale Smith, Bob Sweet, Amanda Wilson

TRB present: Chris Hedges, Lisa Loyo, Bill McLeod

Welcome and member introductions (R. Sarmiento, All)

Lisa L. introduced Bill McLeod, the new database librarian at TRB.

Announcements (ALL)

Paul Burley – Northwestern began doing all cataloging in RDA, no more AACR2, as of January 1. As of April 1, all bibliographic records will be RDA. NU will upgrade records for transportation materials from other institutions as RDA when they encounter them. Ken asked Paul to provide a sample record to show difference from AACR2 record. Paul will show us an authority record at the January 24 Transportation Librarians Roundtable. Both Paul and Robert expressed concern about the amount of time involved in producing RDA records without perceivable benefit.

Action Items:

- Send sample RDA record to LIST, describing differences from AACR2 record - Paul

Approve March 2 and August 15 2012 Minutes. (R. Sarmiento)

Minutes approved.

Chair's update and future plans (R. Sarmiento)

There will be several vacancies on LIST and Roberto is looking for nominations for new members, particularly Young Members and international members; Friends may also be source of new committee members. Kendra asked if there are any YM we want to target for membership. She encouraged LIST to expand the pool of potential members.

Roberto is looking for ways to better engage our international members who cannot attend the annual meeting. There is considerable value in the different experiences of the international community.

LIST website and communications <http://trblist.org/> (All)

Roberto wants to improve communication from the chair to members. He will aim to have web-based meetings in late March/early April (discuss program ideas for 2014 meeting), summer, and fall. He will schedule these as soon as possible. He strongly encouraged everyone, Member

and Friends, to be actively involved in committee activities and he will be more proactive in directly recruiting volunteers.

Roberto acknowledged and thanked:

- Ken Winter for his leadership, vision and friendship as past chair
- Kendra Levine for her untiring work to make our website a better place
- Committee members and friends that made the annual meeting programs happen:
 - Paul Burley, Susan Dresley, Birgitta Sandstedt and Bob Cullen
 - Sandy Tucker, Mary Moulton and Amanda Wilson
 - Kendra Levine and Jennifer Boteler
- Subcommittee Work
 - Sandy Tucker and the TRT Team
 - Sue Sillick and David Jared, co-chairs of the Committee Research Coordinators
- Rita Evans for her great job as secretary.
- Jennifer Rosales for her guidance and patience.

Website – The site has new look and functionality and good content. An RSS feed and email alerts are available and posting is simple and easy. Roberto asked what other content should be available and how can we make better use of the site:

- Ken hopes to see more people posting. Are there usage statistics?
- Kendra will create an account for anyone, or you can create own account.
- Arlene – can we provide a collaborative work space? Ken and Kendra will work on this.
- Sandy T. – More news and announcements, such as the recent item on a project that scanned historic MUTCDs and this month's TRID interface changes. How about a Resources page? There is a page with links to papers that LIST has sponsored; it also links to the list of transportation glossaries which Matt Barrett began. Links to articles, presentations and other items of interest can enrich this content. It is OK to post news which may be of only marginal interest to most LIST members, such as news about cataloging, but include one or two sentences to indicate why someone in transportation should care about it.
- Sandy T. – information about data management which would resonate beyond the library community.
- Sue – will post materials for Research coordinators function.
- Paul encouraged using Twitter and will work with Kendra since she's the only one tweeting right now. Arlene said a quick guide on posting and tweeting would encourage participation.
- Kendra will set up a listserv today which will include all Members and Friends (the list currently being used has been put together by hand).

Action Items:

- Schedule LIST conference calls for late March/early April (discuss program ideas for 2014 meeting), summer, and fall asap - Roberto

- Post information to site after setting up account (Kendra will assist as needed) – Everyone
- Develop collaborative workspace on website – Kendra and Ken
- Post materials for Research coordinators function – Sue
- Listserv with all Members and Friends - Kendra

Transportation Data Citation: Current Practice and Future Opportunities – Update. (A. Everett, F. Harrison, M. Moulton)

Frances, Mary and Andy (remotely) will be presenting on this topic later today. The group started their work with data citation and they hope to identify or generate a standard format for data citations, as well as metrics on how often a set is cited. Today’s meeting will discuss whether we should pursue pilots, research, or other activities. Mary noted that there are many initiatives dealing with data management from federal agencies. It is anticipated that many federal agencies will have open access to data policies similar to that at NIH which makes open access to data created under their grants mandatory.

The white paper will address why this topic is of interest, and will identify a model for data citation, as well as possible repositories. It may be submitted to TRB. Ken volunteered to review and find other reviewers for the paper. He noted that data management is a large beast, so what are small, high priority action items we can pursue? Frances wants to recruit some additional members to their group. Mary will provide list of all the sources they’ve reviewed to date.

Kendra asked if any new mandate regarding data management would specify where datasets would be deposited. Due to the very fast pace of change, it is probably better to make information such as the white paper available as soon as possible, rather than waiting until things are “settled” since that may not happen.

Arlene suggested competencies for data management as a research needs topic.

Action items:

- If white paper submitted to TRB, review paper – Ken
- List of sources reviewed to date – Mary
- Recruit additional members for group - Frances

TRT Subcommittee Report (S. Tucker)

Subcommittee members are: Paul Burley, Bob Cullen, Beth Lawton (TRB), Mary Moulton, Bob Sweet, Nancy Choudry (TRB), Kendra Levine, Matt Barrett, Andy Everett, Sandy Tucker, Guy Rousseau, Lisa Loyo (TRB), Tamer El-Diraby, Amanda Wilson, Bill McLeod (TRB).

The subcommittee has been meeting four times per year and has approved preferred and lead-in terms. Beth Lawton, a TRB contactor, is researching terms. She will make an initial suggestion

on placement in the hierarchy and has provided training on her approach to indexing to other TRIS indexers.

Sandy T. thanked Mary for work on the August 2012 *Principles* document (linked to the Subcommittee page, <http://www.trblist.org/subcom>).

NHTSA quit using the term “accident” some time ago and whether the TRT should do the same was discussed. The subcommittee will review every term that includes “accident” and will work from a list Bob S. assembled of terms that include “accident,” “crash,” or “collision”.

Rita and Lisa reported that taxonomist Joseph Busch wrote a white paper, “Terminology and Categorization Standardization” as part of the NCHRP 20-90 project draft final report and it contains information which would be extremely valuable to the TRT Subcommittee. Andy Lemer from TRB suggested that Rita contact TRB about releasing the white paper as a separate consultant document for wider access.

Action items:

- Link Principles document to LIST website – Sandy T.
- Follow up on “accident” issue – Subcommittee
- Contact TRB re. releasing J. Busch’s categorization white paper - Rita

TRB announcements (J. Rosales)

The 2013 Annual Meeting has attracted a record number of attendees. All 2013 papers are online and attendees will receive a thumb drive with the papers. After 60 years in hotels, in 2015 the Annual Meeting will move to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Committee Research Coordinator Update (CRC) (S. Sillick)

Sue led a discussion which touched on a number of topics. In the Synthesis program, only a couple of dozen of several hundred proposals will be funded. From the previous day’s workshop on data, it was suggested that LIST should focus on quality, the biggest, most importance issues, in formulating research needs statements. Ken suggested that LIST could add real value in assessing environment, structuring work, considering implementation. Sue and Chris Hedges of TRB are valuable resources for knowing where within the types of studies (synthesis, etc.) a particular idea will fit.

Grey literature – TRID contains records for a lot of grey literature; how does this fit into the overall content of the database? Just what is grey literature? LIST could really help transportation community with definitions and recommendations for how to access and preserve. Sandy advocated for putting the products of our research institutes into university repositories.

Data – Kendra suggested that we partner with one or more Data Committees to address access and preservation. Drop in on any of the data committees and see what they’re talking about and how we could help. State DOTs care about access, for example, so how can we help their

researchers identify and access that data? Leighton asked if we should we look at how data management/curation affects us, and identify a specific area we could work on rather than being overwhelmed by the scope of this problem.

Ken suggested that we identify the data that accompanies a DOT research report as a priority for a project for LIST; how do we make sure that not just the report but also the data behind it can be found and accessed through TRID records (similar to what Elsevier and other publishers are doing now)? He noted that state DOT reports are a known, valued entity and we've worked on issues related to them, and expanding this to include the data seems like a natural fit. Sandy T. said LIST should partner with another committee on such a project.

Alan asked if repositories are really an issue when so much data is being moved to cloud. Arlene suggested developing standards and competencies for data management since they do not appear to exist.

Literature searches and reviews – Sue sent an email that outlined the issues: “literature review,” “literature search,” and related terms are not defined. There is no specification for literature reviews/searches, leaving the question of whether the literature was properly reviewed or searched. There are questions of both the level of quality and quantification of what was done. Ken observed that if you take this project to five different libraries, you will get five different approaches and five different products. Bob S. noted that the “need” has to be defined by the researcher. In practice, this almost always means that a graduate student will be assigned the work, and the student will just do a Google search.

In conducting literature reviews, it is important to note that you will have very different access to resources if you are in an academic library versus a state DOT; academic libraries usually have access to much broader and deeper collections of journal and conference literature, and to more specialized indexes of that literature.

This is an issue for all DOT research managers and guidance would be a valuable addition to the RAC website. We need to capture best practices, avoid duplication, and preserve resources. Sandy T. mentioned the related issue of deficiencies in the Technical Report Documentation Page (TRDP) where the fields are not even defined. Could fields be populated automatically?

Action items:

- Work with another committee on data management issue - ?
- Develop standards and competencies for data management - ?

Program Ideas and Brainstorming Session for TRB Annual 2014 (S. Sillick)

Several ideas percolated from the discussion:

- Literature searches/reviews – Session or workshop potentially very useful but effective labeling and marketing will be needed to attract attendees.

- Grey literature – How to define, capture, manage. Include output from think tanks and not-for-profits, also audio and visual resources. Bonnie Osif did research in this area about 10 years ago.
- Open data/Open access – Session focused on these issues as they specifically apply to transportation. Look for another committee to partner with.
- Intellectual property – Considerations about copyright, Creative Commons, open access – DOTs need guidance. Ken knows expert who could address issues such as providing an agency's output to NTL.
- NCHRP 20-90, Improving Management of Information – Lisa and Rita agreed to either present results or discuss the process and lessons learned at LIST or another venue.

TRB Information Services Activities Update (L. Loyo)

TRB Publications Archives – In August 2012 Lisa was given 30 days to move the 15,000-volume archives. Two copies of each publication were retained for the TRB Library. TRB will digitize the publications archives and the full-text electronic documents will be accessible through TRID to everyone at no charge (!!!). The digitized versions will be done through the Internet Archive and will be copied to TRB servers and the output will be PDFs. Roberto and Rita asked whether the annual meeting preprints are included in this project; both Northwestern and Berkeley have collections of these preprints. Lisa will investigate.

NCHRP 20-90 Improving Management to Transportation Information – Contractor Cambridge Systematics brought taxonomist Joseph Busch on board and he wrote an excellent paper. The panel has struggled with the split between the GIS and library perspectives. Many compromises were involved in the RFP, beginning with the decision to combine two distinctly different research needs statements into one.

TRID – TRID now has more than 1,000,000 records. Bill McLeod is expediting the entry of more records into the database. TRID will soon receive 800 records from China with titles and abstracts in English. Lisa is working with a group in Japan for content from that country. TRIS and RiP integration is proceeding with programmers Derek Hyde and Andy Strassburg handling the coding and integration which were rolled out this month. The two systems were integrated into one. Most of the work is not visible to the public. Changes to the TRIS databases (RNS, RiP, PRP, PubsIndex and TRID) interfaces such as searching for “first name, initial” are results that are visible to the public.

TRB Access to International Information Conference, September 2012 – The conference scope was broadened to include access globally, not just through TRID. Current best practices in US, such as importing metadata from publishers, was presented as were current best international practices. There is a portal from EU which builds on TRKC, now TRIP, and there are many technical issues with platform being used. TRB wants to build sustainable models with organizations to receive records on a regular basis.

TRB - Access to International Transportation Research Information Conference Update (L. Loyo, K. Winters, R. Sarmiento)

Ken said it was eye-opening to realize the huge amounts of organized information that we are unaware of and do not use: vast quantities of research, and regardless of the source, everything seems to have titles, abstracts, etc. in English so we can tap into this rich lode of research. Roberto found break-out sessions on how to acquire non-US information really useful, also the identification of information needs in international community. Birgitta urged more of a “we” perspective, not “us” and “them”. Laurie suggested the attendees could be source for new international LIST members. A report from conference will be published this spring.

NTL Updates (A. Wilson)

NTL let three contractors go earlier this year but they have recruited a federal FTE who should be on board by February. NTL is managing the BTS website redesign, after a migration to the Drupal platform. The BTS Deputy Director is pushing an aggressive timeline and wants to include a lot more data besides the huge datasets which are currently available. In current legislation, RITA is being moved to the Office of the Secretary as a new unit under a new Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology within USDOT. Congressional action to pass a federal budget or other legislation is needed to make this move final.

NTL is working with the DOT Research Hub; the partnership helps NTL comprehensively gather the research output of the Department from 2009 forward. They are engaged with LC on a digitization project of USDOT publications contained in the library’s physical collections. FAA may be closing its library at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City and NTL is looking at how the FAA collections are being handled and how the remaining libraries in USDOT can better work together to leverage resources; NTL may ingest a collection of digitized FAA reports.

An NTKN meeting was held in July, with the regional TKN chairs and LIST and DTRN chairs developing a guidance document for a new NTKN Coordinating Committee. This document will be released in February 2013.

TRB - Better Safety Results through Information Sharing: A Workshop Update (K. Levine and A. Wilson)

The original concept was to get more people outside of library arena involved in the TKN effort but it morphed into a focus on information sharing as it relates to safety. Researchers said discovery and access are their biggest problems. There also is a quality issue – just because information is out there, is it good enough to be used? Open access as a concept is embraced by many, but in practice, some researchers are extremely reluctant to share anything. There are challenges to practitioners from the technology transfer side. Communication is a skill that needs to be developed. The California Office of Traffic Safety, for example, just wants one sentence to use as a message. We need to bridge the gap between two cultures, domain/subject experts and information experts. This ties back to the issues of grey literature and problems with TRDPs mentioned earlier in today’s meeting. Too many “one-stop shops” have been developed which often are not maintained.

Things to do:

- How to search tutorial

- Tutorial on how to make an organization's own information available
- List of terms/controlled vocabulary for safety
- Develop an RNS for grey literature access

Implementing these action items in 2013 is a task that will be overseen by the NTKN Coordinating Committee.

Other Business

Roberto noted the passing of our colleagues Mary Ellen Tucker and Dan Krummes, both of whom were very active in the transportation library community.

Roberto presented Certificates of Thanks to former chair Ken Winter and Secretary Rita Evans.

Meeting adjourned.