

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

I. Selector contact information

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II. Overview of the Collection

The Transportation Library was established in 1956 as part of the newly formed Transportation Center. In 1959, the Library's transportation collection was merged with the Traffic Institute's much older traffic engineering and law enforcement collections. Finally, in 1973 the Library became part of the Northwestern University Library ([NUL](#)) system.

This collection development policy covers only the transportation collection of the Transportation Library. The law enforcement collection of the Library is covered by its own collection development policy.

The main body of the transportation collection is located on the fifth floor, north tower (5N) of the Main Library building. Significant parts of the collection are also located in the Lower Level Storage and the Compact Storage areas of the Main Library and in the Library Temporary Storage facility located at 2122 Sheridan Road.

The collection's objective is to support the research and teaching needs of Northwestern University faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and staff. This multi-disciplinary collection is utilized by the following NU centers and departments: the [Transportation Center](#), the [Center for Public Safety](#), the [Infrastructure Technology Institute](#), [Civil and Environmental](#) Engineering, [Mechanical](#) Engineering, [Industrial](#) Engineering and Management Science, the [Law](#) School, the Feinberg [Medical](#) School, the Department of [Economics](#), the Department of [Political Science](#), the Department of [Sociology](#), the Department of [History](#), the [Kellogg](#) Graduate School of Management and to a lesser extent other NU faculty and students in need of transportation information. It directly supports students enrolled in the Civil and Environmental Engineering transportation minor, masters and PhD programs and masters programs in the Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Thanks to the collection's size, breadth and depth, it also actively supports the research needs of national and international transportation researchers.

III. Description of Materials Collected

The Northwestern University transportation collection is one of the largest transportation collections in the world. The collection emphasizes current transportation socioeconomic aspects such as management, operations, finance, planning, regulations, and safety. All transportation modes - air, rail, highway, water and pipeline - are represented. Other aspects, such as technology and history, are also covered and emphasized.

Two other sub-collections of distinction within the transportation collection are: 1) the Annual Reports collection, which is a collection of over 18,000 transportation-related annual reports from the early 1830's to the present, covering national and international companies on all modes of transportation, but particularly strong on 19th century US railroads and 2) the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) collection, largest hard-copy (paper) collection of federally produced environmental impact statements in the country, with a coverage starting in 1969 and encompassing all federal agencies.

The following types of materials are included into our collection: books, serials, EIS', conference proceedings, reports, government publications (federal, state, county, city), dissertations, company annual reports, pamphlets, maps and rare books.

The following types of materials are excluded from our collection: patents, tariffs, US senate and/or congress documents.

The number of digital format materials for books and serials continue to be on the rise and this trend is expected for the foreseeable future. Materials in dual formats - paper and electronic – are not acquired; however, electronic copy is preferred. Microfiche publications are acquired, but their numbers are steadily decreasing. Duplicate copies for items already held within the collection are not acquired, except for exceptional cases.

The collection emphasizes English-language materials. However, materials in Italian, German, Spanish, French, Japanese, Chinese and other languages are acquired selectively.

The collection's selector receives periodic notifications of newly published transportation-specific materials from four vendors covering the US/England, Germany, Italy/Spain, and

India. An approval plan for US and British published books and conference proceeding is maintained with a major US vendor. Blanket orders are not maintained. Most serials subscriptions are managed through one vendor.

The collection's geographical emphasis is for US-based materials. However, Chicago-area and regional transportation aspects are emphasized and collected comprehensively. Materials from US states or geographically-specific areas are selectively collected. Non-US materials of international scope or importance are acquired. In recent years the collections has emphasized the acquisition of all modes of current Asian transportation materials and the acquisition of historical and current US inland waters materials.

Collection levels

The development of a research collection such as the transportation collection cannot - and should not - remain static for long periods of time. The comings and goings of faculty, research interests, budget gyrations, technology developments, socio-economic changes, etc, forces selectors to continuously alter the collection's scope, depth, emphasis, etc, either through incremental changes taking years to accomplish or dramatic ones from one year to the next. Subject fields within the collection that were collected at a research or comprehensive level five years ago may now be collected at a minimum level, forcing the overall level of the collection to be downgrade to an adjusted current instructional level.

Although not exhaustive, the following is a list of subject areas within transportation for which we currently select materials.

The following descriptive terms are used to describe the current collecting levels:

- Minimal level**
- Basic information level**
- Instructional level**
- Research level**
- Comprehensive level**

<u>Subject Areas</u>	<u>Level</u>
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- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Transportation economics - R | |
| Land use - I | |
| Labor- I | |
| Freight - R | |
| Passenger traffic - R | |
| Urban transport - R | |
| Traffic engineering - R | |

Water transportation - I
Railroad transportation - R
Automotive transportation -R
Transportation companies annual reports - C
City planning - I
Urban development - I
Accident reconstruction - R
Transportation safety and security - R
Transportation technology - R
Canals and inland navigation - R
Environmental protection (EIS) - C
Highway engineering - C
Highway design - C
Materials for road making - R
Pavements and paved roads - R
Streets - R
Pedestrian facilities - I
Railway construction - R
Railway operations and management - R
Local and light railways - R
Bridge engineering - R
Alternative fuels - I
Navigation - B
Pipelines - B

IV. Related Collections and Consortial Activity

The Transportation Library benefits from NUL's consortial agreements with the [Center for Research Libraries](#) (CRL) and the [Committee for Institutional Cooperation](#) (CIC). These agreements provide access to journals and electronic resources, partnership for development of preservation projects, interlibrary loan agreements, digitization projects, shared digital repository, etc.

At the regional level the collection is a member of [ILLINET](#) for receiving and providing free of charge interlibrary loans (ILL) to/from Illinois libraries; the North Suburban Library System ([NSLS](#)) for ILL delivery; the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois ([CARLI](#)) for digitization projects and staff training.

Transportation specific consortial agreements include: membership in the Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network ([MTKN](#)), for providing and receiving free ILL, training and networking opportunities; the Transportation Research Board ([TRB](#)) for journal subscriptions, publications, and other benefits.

Of significance are also our ad-hoc agreements with the University of California – Berkeley, Institute of Transportation Studies [Harmer E. Davies](#) Transportation Library for the cataloguing of materials, negotiating of contracts with vendors, acquisition of expensive items and development of ILL groups.

V. Other Collection Information

The acquisition - by outright purchase - of materials published within the last three years is emphasized. Gift materials are accepted regardless of publication date. Historical materials are acquired selectively and mostly, as part of gifts. However, a relatively small number of historical items per year are acquired by outright purchases. See also gift policy below.

Currently, the Library has four endowment funds representing a total of 10.6% of its total budget. The funds are restricted to the acquisition of materials related to: general transportation/aviation, aviation, railroads and travel behavior analysis. In addition, the Library has a grant fund representing a total of 6.5% of its budget and restricted to the selection of highway-related materials.

Since the mid-1990 the Transportation Library has been designated as a depository library of the US Department of Transportation contracted research reports distributed through the National Technical Information Services (NTIS).

Due to the transportation collection multi-disciplinary nature and Northwestern's approach to research, extreme care is necessary when selecting titles that may fall within two or more University Library collections. Coordination with other disciplinary selectors is maintained to determine who will purchase the item in order to avoid duplication. Duplication between the transportation collection and other NUL collection is kept to very few books a year.

The Transportation Library encourages the donation of gift books and other materials to enhance its collections without duplicating current holdings. Potential donors are requested to contact the Transportation Library head to determine the viability of donations before sending any materials to the Library. For additional information visit the Northwestern University Library [Gift Policy](#) or the [Gift Guidelines](#) web pages.

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