



Minutes

2007 Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Annual Meeting and Conference

September 18-20, 2007

Technical Advisory Committee participants

Lisa Autio, Montana DOT; Jerry Baldwin, Minnesota DOT; Jason Bittner, Wisconsin Transportation Center; Janet Bix, Ohio DOT; Cheryl Bodan, Pennsylvania DOT; Glynn Cavin, Louisiana Transportation Research Center, LTRC; John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT; Ruth Letson, Tennessee DOT; Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT; Arlene Mathison, Center for Transportation Studies; Scott Menter, LTRC; Ann Pahnke, chair - Wisconsin DOT; Danielle Pollock, Missouri DOT; Kathy Szolomayer, Washington DOT; Laura Wilt, Oregon DOT

Guests, presenters and staff

Wendy Brand, Wisconsin DOT; Pat Casey, CTC & Associates; Bob Garrett, Pennsylvania DOT; Frances Harrison, Spy Pond Partners; Nikki Hatch, Wisconsin DOT; Jon Anne Hobbs, Wisconsin DOT; Peg Lafky, Wisconsin DOT; Bob Sweet, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute; Amanda Wilson, National Transportation Library; Christi Powers, consultant; Maggie Sacco, consultant, CTC & Associates

Web presenters

Monique Evans, Ohio DOT; Gary McCone, National Agricultural Library; Doug Newcomb, Special Libraries Association; Leni Oman, Washington DOT; Bonnie Osif, Penn State Engineering Library; Peter Young, National Agricultural Library

Web participants

Barbara Adkins, Jim Byerly, Rita Evans, Jessica Fomalont, Inez Hopkins, Caitlin McKee, Stephanie Newton, Carol Paszamant, Barbara Post, Sue Sillick, Qin Tang, James Watkins

Annual Meeting September 18, 2007

I. Annual Meeting Kick Off - Round-Robin Updates

Ann Pahnke welcomed and thanked participants for attending the 2007 Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Annual Meeting and Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Pyle Center. She reviewed the agenda along with meeting logistics, materials and evening events. TAC members introduced themselves and provided updates:

Kansas DOT

Marie Manthe reported that she has served as librarian at KDOT for four years. Current projects include large scale scanning of reports, cataloging and adding holdings to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Scanned reports include older NCHRP Synthesis Reports, which are not available nationally in digital format. A discussion was held on whether these scanned reports could be made available for posting by NTL. Marie will check on their number and quality and notify Amanda. Research Director Dick McReynolds nominated Marie for membership on the AASHTO RAC Transportation Knowledge Network Task Group, which was approved earlier this summer by RAC officers.

Louisiana DOT/LTRC

Glynn Cavin presented a PowerPoint on the Louisiana Transportation Research Center, which has operated in conjunction with Louisiana DOT and the University of Louisiana since 1986. The new facility opened last year and falls under a Tier II University Transportation Center designation. Glynn oversees the Transportation

Training Education Center, which is a regional training center. See his presentation at:
<http://www.libraryconnectivity.org/2007annualmtg.html>

Scott Menter also attended and gave an overview of the high-tech audiovisual components and services at LTRC. He is responsible for installing, updating and maintaining the state-of-the-art technology and hardware that serves a variety of transportation practitioners.

Minnesota DOT

Jerry Baldwin indicated that budget cuts forced elimination of two library staff positions. He also announced that the library director position description was advertised this month and has now closed. Upon hiring and training of a replacement, he will retire with nearly 35 years of service at Minnesota DOT.

Missouri DOT

Danielle Pollock said she is pleased to join the study and that funding for her position has been approved for the next two years. In the last year, all transportation library operations were moved to the Missouri State Library in Jefferson City. This meant inheriting a variety of holdings and resources from various districts and departmental units and organizing them into a central system. Danielle was recently awarded a professional development grant from the American Library Association and has been a member of the Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network for several years.

Montana DOT

As a solo librarian, Lisa Autio said she has the opportunity to ‘wear many hats’ and is working on a variety of projects. As she strives to organize her serials and classify digital documents, Lisa continues to catalog a backlog of items. She promotes library resources and services through the department’s newsletter. In addition she is using desktop publishing tools to design other items.

National Transportation Library

Amanda Wilson said that the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) is still considering whether to host a Western Transportation Knowledge Network meeting in Irvine. Next month the NTL will begin hosting a monthly teleconference roundtable that will feature presentations on different aspects of library science. NTL is also taking over the maintenance of the Transportation Research Thesaurus (TRT) and helping to spearhead the formation of an Eastern Transportation Knowledge Network. The first ETKN meeting will take place in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in November.

Ohio DOT

Janet Bix presented a new PowerPoint developed by staff member Caitlin McKee. She also distributed handouts of new ODOT holdings. To view the presentation visit:

http://www.libraryconnectivity.org/pdf/Janet_Bix_Caitlin_McKee.ppt

Oregon DOT

Laura Wilt reported their library system is now Web based and has all modules implemented. She continues to promote library resources and services to ODOT staff through e-mail updates. ODOT will build new headquarters and she is actively involved in space planning for the library. She has been nominated to serve as a co-chair for the Western Transportation Knowledge Network, which began earlier this year.

Pennsylvania DOT

Cheryl Bodan announced that after more than seven years as PennDOT’s librarian, she will retire at the end of 2007. There are no plans to hire a replacement at this time although PennDOT’s Bob Garrett, who attended the annual meeting, may play a role in the library in the future. Cheryl is sorting and consolidating items within the library that encompasses two office cubes with a total of five high-density shelves. Cheryl is overseeing the redesign of the library Web page and deciding how to catalog many old reports before her departure. TAC members offered suggestions on preserving rather than discarding these items.

Tennessee DOT

Ruth Letson indicated the Sydney Plus system is operable and ready for a batch load of holdings into OCLC. She has been named membership chair for the SLA Transportation Division and is helping to form an Eastern Transportation Knowledge Network that will include AASHTO Regions One and Two. She spends approximately two days per month at TDOT's Material & Test Library.

Washington DOT

Kathy Szolomayer introduced herself as the library director at WSDOT since June 1, 2007. Challenges may be ahead since some library advocates and supporters are retiring. Plans to possibly remodel the research unit might mean increased space for the library. WSDOT Library's efforts to partner with the government relations office has resulted in a toolkit in anticipation of reauthorization in 2009. Current projects include reducing the cataloging backlog and promoting the TRT.

Wisconsin DOT

Ann Pahnke announced that she and John Cherney have been appointed AASHTO Research Advisory Committee members along with WisDOT Research Administrator Nikki Hatch. Their involvement in RAC will help the study remain current with state DOT research managers and their goals. Also, plans are underway for a new WisDOT headquarters building that will feature expanded space for the iCommons. With senior level support, WisDOT's Research and Library Unit has been able to expand scope and services.

Wisconsin Transportation Center

Jason Bittner said the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center will officially end its regional designation this month. The new regional transportation center will be housed at Purdue. He mentioned that MRUTC was instrumental in 2002 toward initial discussions on library connectivity and transportation knowledge networks. WTC formed the National Center for Freight Infrastructure Research & Education (CFIRE) that serves to advance technology and expertise in the planning, design and construction of sustainable freight infrastructure and operations. Their office, along with consortium members, will provide training, develop coursework, and sponsor research projects on sustainable freight systems and related multimodal transportation.

II. Interim Report & Transportation Librarian's Toolkit

TAC members briefly reviewed and discussed the Interim Report of the pooled fund project and the companion Transportation Librarian's Toolkit, which was very favorably received as a resource for current and new librarians and also an educational tool for management. The Toolkit will be a frequently updated "living" document both in print and on the Web. The Toolkit reflects the collective input of TAC members on critical library resources and services for transportation libraries. Plans also include developing portions of the Toolkit to present in workshops and at conferences. A suggestion was made to include an expanded discussion of collection development and options for handling older reports and documents. TAC members were asked to get their edits, comments and feedback on both documents to Ann Pahnke, Christi Powers and Maggie Sacco by the week of October 8, 2007.

III. Year Three Goals, Deliverables and Work Plan

Consultant contracting with CTC & Associates LLC has been approved for the next year: Christi Powers (part-time) and Maggie Sacco (full-time). TAC members reviewed the Synthesis of Collective Priorities, which was generated in April 2005 and served as an initial basis for goals and deliverables. The Synthesis addressed five areas: access, technical services, best practice/policy, marketing, and networking/information-sharing. A second document of draft deliverables was generated in April 2007 and commented on by the TAC in May. Both documents were reviewed as input for a one-year work plan discussion with proposed deliverables through 2008. TAC members were asked to review and rank the items. A subsequent survey may be developed and distributed to further refine goals. Other potential year three tasks discussed were:

- Investigate whether emerging TKNs have staffing needs that the pooled fund study could help support
- Co-organize and co-sponsor TKN annual meetings
- Refine and promote the Toolkit

- Develop and distribute needs statements and advocacy tools related to reauthorization in conjunction with the RAC TKN Task Group
- Organize and present workshops at national and regional transportation/engineering conferences
- Work with the NTL on mutually defined projects
- Provide technical services such as contract cataloging for individual states

A final one-year work plan for 2008 will be proposed in the next 30 days. Pooled fund members were asked to send any additional comments or suggestions to Ann Pahnke by the week of October 8, 2007.

Ann Pahnke indicated a new supporting member level had been added at \$5,000 for base services with the following breakdown of benefits:

Supporting members, at \$5,000 per year:

- Participate in bi-monthly TAC teleconferences
- Be included in all e-mail, Web based and written communications
- Have travel paid by the pooled fund to its annual meetings
- Suggest research and technology transfer projects on library and information service topics

Full members, at \$15,000-\$20,000 per year:

- Receive the same benefits as supporting members, PLUS
- Eligible for travel to be paid by the pooled fund to qualifying meetings
- Pooled fund contribution can be applied to OCLC membership
- Eligible for site visits from technical librarian consultant and/or communications consultant
- Eligible as host site for pooled fund workshops
- Suggest, and vote on, research and technology transfer projects

Annual Meeting September 19, 2007

The agenda and presentations can be found at <http://www.libraryconnectivity.org/2007annualmtg.html>. Several of the presentations were made via Web conferences.

For the opening session of the conference Wisconsin DOT prepared a video greeting from Deputy Secretary Ruben Anthony, who is a big supporter of library services. WisDOT Research Administrator Nikki Hatch also welcomed the group and reported that new successes and a wide variety of goals and plans were being generated through the department's Research and Library Advisory Committee. This group is comprised of senior level managers to provide guidance and insight on research and library programs and services.

Session I "Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together: Library, Research & Transportation Information Management Initiatives"

This program featured a variety of panelists providing an overall outlook on transportation library and research initiatives. Participants learned about the NCHRP 20-75 business plan due at the end of the month, advocacy efforts, federal and research funding considerations, plus insight on the newly forming AASHTO RAC TKN Task Group. A preliminary teleconference on the RAC Task Group will be held on October 18. Panelists discussed how these strategic initiatives are aligning with the National Transportation Library to help build a better transportation information infrastructure.

Session II "Synergy Within the Library Landscape"

Presenters from the academic, federal, and state transportation sectors discussed how their libraries are meeting customer demands in the Information Age. This was an overview on how a federal library, the NTL and an academic library are focused on the importance of networking, resource-sharing, improved methods and how to communicate library resources and services effectively throughout organizational hierarchies.

After these sessions, TAC members traveled to Hill Farms State Transportation Building for a look at the new iCommons at WisDOT. The tour was conducted by Head Librarian John Cherney.

Annual Meeting September 20, 2007

Session III “*Connecting the D.O.T.s – Forming Regional Transportation Knowledge Networks: How to Support, Sustain & Fund*”

As libraries, research units, and other information providers strive to deliver services with limited budgets, TKNs are also seeking funding solutions to support their goals and activities. This session provided updates and discussion on the regional TKNs: the Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network (incoming chair John Cherney), the Western Transportation Knowledge Network (newly elected chair Kathy Szolomayer), and the newly forming Eastern Transportation Knowledge Network (meeting scheduled for November 9). Regional TKN leaders brainstormed and compared funding solutions, and evaluated the benefits and disadvantages of those options.

Session IV “*An SLA Outlook on the Library Profession*”

This address outlined the sweeping changes affecting the information profession as a result of technological innovation. It examined the implications of these changes across all industries and offered practical strategies. TAC members and Web participants were challenged to become agents of change in the workplace and to enhance their value and stature inside the companies, organizations, and institutions they serve.

Next Meeting

The 2007 meeting was adjourned with the TAC agreeing to hold the 2008 Annual Meeting and Conference in New Orleans. A joint luncheon was held with MTKN members who conducted their annual meeting through Friday, September 21. The proceedings from the MTKN annual meeting can be found at: <http://www.mtkn.org/>.