

Transportation Library Connectivity & Development  
Pooled Fund Study TPF-5(237)  
TAC Meeting – 3/19/15 – Minutes

Technical Advisory Committee:

Arizona DOT, Dale Steele  
California DOT, Bob Buendia,  
Karen Kasuba, Shubhangi Kelekar  
Connecticut DOT, Betty Ambler  
Idaho TD, Inez Hopkins  
Illinois DOT, Karen Perrin  
Iowa DOT, Leighton Christiansen  
Kansas DOT, Marie Manthe  
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Michigan DOT, Alexandra Briseno

Minnesota DOT, Sheila Hatchell  
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Ohio DOT, Zona Kahkonen Keppler  
Oregon DOT, Laura Wilt

Pennsylvania DOT, Kenita  
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UMN CTS, Arlene Mathison,  
Marilee Tuite  
Washington State DOT, Kathy  
Szolomayer  
Wisconsin DOT, John Cherney

*Ex Officio:* Steve Wagner, UW-Madison TRC; Sue Sillick, Montana DOT; Matt Barrett, LACMTA; Amanda Wilson, NTL; Bob Cullen, AASHTO; FHWA; Bill McLeod, TRB; Roberto Sarmiento, Northwestern University Transportation Library; Emeritus, Jerry Baldwin

*HS InFocus:* Maggie Sacco, Kirsten Seeber

Agenda:

**TOPIC: Library transformation: strategies for laying out a path forward, Richard Huffine, Librarian and Information Industry Executive, previously with USGS, GSA and Proquest.**

1. Richard's presentation can be found at <http://www.slideshare.net/richardhuffine/transportation-librarians-2015>.
2. The tools that librarians use have changed but what librarians do for their customers hasn't changed that much. The questions are more complex.
3. Organizational leadership isn't necessarily ignoring the libraries, but have other priorities. It's the librarian's job to change the language they use when talking about the library with their leadership and their customers.
4. Richard worked for the EPA. The EPA had budget changes that led to changes in their libraries. There was perceived duplication. Each library taught their customers how to come to each individual library. The funding decisions related to the libraries were made at the local levels, not the national level where Richard worked.
  - The library was part of overhead and competing with fleet, the health club, etc.
  - The EPA had shared electronic resources/subscriptions across the agency. This led to the question of what else could be shared.
  - The different managers had different experiences related to libraries and thus treated their libraries in different ways.
  - The budget was cut by \$2.5M from \$8M for 28 libraries.
    - Local management made decisions based on budget cuts. Three regional libraries closed and two HQ libraries closed. Subscriptions in the two main research libraries were cut in half. The two libraries shared their subscriptions to cover what was lost.

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- Library advocates and science community began asking questions and contacted legislators. Congress put money back into the library budget.
  - ≈ Questions were asked about why this would happen because it hurts the scientific research. The three regional libraries were reopened.
  - ≈ The EPA established clear guidelines for the libraries and created service centers to cover centralized functions.
- 5. Richard went to the US Geological Service. The agency values libraries differently than the EPA.
  - The entire Bureau reorganized around mission areas in 2010. A process began to centralize libraries to align their activities with the national program.
- 6. When you are talking to your organization about the role of the library, look for ways to cooperate.
  - Work together
  - Stay informed about what is going on in the org and its goals.
  - Know your strengths.
  - Leverage your collective knowledge.
  - Increase your buying power.
- 7. Consolidation
  - Create co-dependencies.
  - Sacrifice control to have access to more. It's better than being eliminated altogether.
  - Be willing to be smaller than before but potentially improving your overall value.
- 8. Collaboration
  - A hybrid of the previous two consolidation and cooperation.
  - You can contain control over your own destiny.
- 9. Considerations
  - Factors to consider individually:
    - Is there a need for the library at all? How is the library used? (research, history, policy, etc.)
    - What is your scope and focus?
    - How current do your materials need to be? How much historical information do your customers use?
    - Use these questions to focus in on what you need to do to support your customers.
- 10. Questions to ask yourself?
  - Does the whole equal more than the sum of the parts?
  - Do some libraries provide support corporately for all?
  - Are there things you rarely do that someone else could be doing better?
  - Can you get more and better resources together than you do alone? The answer may be no.
- 11. The ultimate goal is service to your users.
- 12. Questions:
  - Maggie – Did you seek SLA support for the EPA situation? Yes. What did SLA offer you in terms of support? He needed the regional libraries to collaborate but the powers that be weren't willing to direct funds to the regions. SLA and ALA worked together to get Congress and other advocates to ask questions about what was happening. When Congress asks questions, there are often different results than when the public asks them.
  - Richard – The budget cuts in the transportation agencies are trickling down to the transportation libraries. He thinks that the organizations should be asking what the proper funding model for the libraries is. Should group subscriptions becoming from the national library and share them collectively across all 50 states? Should there be a standard on sharing

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information across the states? He feels it's better to start these conversations now, before cuts happen, instead of when threatened by budget cuts.

- Richard – There are transportation issues that come up (distracted driving, rail safety, etc.) that the state DOT libraries can be proactive about and address now.
- Maggie – Embedded librarianship a key idea. Richard – Make sure the embedded librarians are tied back to the central library as well so that no department “owns” a librarian. You want them to be equally embedded with the topic area and the library.

### **Business meeting**

#### **News**

##### 1. SLA/Annual Meeting

- Renee – Because this is the last year of the current study, we are watching the budget closely. SLA is a large expense. For this year, we want to be able to fund as many people attending SLA as possible. We want to propose having a phone/WebEx annual meeting instead of an in-person meeting. Since we are winding down the project, we would wrapping up the project and not presenting a new work plans or new projects. We would still offer a professional development opportunity for everyone at the annual meeting.
  - Carol/Dale/Marie – Fine with this.
  - Joseph – Is this the same annual meeting like we had in Michigan last year? Yes, but only via phone this year because of the wrapping up of the study and not looking forward. A new study could have an in-person kick-off meeting.
  - If there are any objections, please let Renee know by the end of the day. If she doesn't hear any, we will go with this plan.
  - Dale – How much will we have left over in the project at the end of the year? Renee – Our goal is to spend it all so we don't have to figure out how much each partner would get back and transfer the funds back. We don't have a clear idea of how much money we would have leftover because of the variable costs remaining in the study.

##### 2. Outreach and Marketing: Next TLR in the spring series is April 9, Research Report Documentation and Access Project.

- The RAC TKN Task Force will be attending this meeting.
- Maggie will also be providing the final report so folks are familiar with the project before the meeting.

##### 3. National Library Week, April 12-18, 2015, "Unlimited possibilities @ your library®"

- [Promotional materials for purchase](#)
- We have \$500 budgeted for promotional materials. Kathy – They aren't impressed with the graphics this year.
- Maggie – **She will send out the options to the group and get feedback.** We don't want to spend money if no one is excited to use them.

#### **Updates**

##### 1. KM Calendar

- Maggie – The KM Calendar has run into some roadblocks in making changes to code related to the drop-down menus. We are going to go with what we have now. Maggie is hoping to invite

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the beta testers next week. The Calendar will be moved to its permanent home on the WTKN website.

2. Transportation Library Connectivity brochures
  - Kirsten sent them, along with a couple of creative commons licensing brochures, on Tuesday.
3. The TAC met without the HS InFocus folks to discuss the next pooled fund study.

**Next meeting:** June 18, 2015 @ 10:30am PDT / 11:30am MDT / 12:30pm CDT / 1:30 EDT