

Date: 26 October 2009
Site: Connecticut Department of Transportation Department Library
Staff: Betty Ambler, Librarian
James M. Sime, Manager of Research
Dionysia Oliviera, Transportation Engineer 3, Research

Site Visit Summary

History & Overview

Although the history is not documented, it is known that the Connecticut Department of Transportation had a library approximately 50 years ago. At some point it was dismantled and the collection was disbursed as department employees took the resources they needed for personal use. Only a small percentage of the original collection has been recovered. In 1985 the library was reestablished and librarian Betty Ambler rebuilt it from scratch. Over the years, Betty has recovered resources by asking that retiring employees return materials to the library.

Staff

The ConnDOT Library is under the direction of the librarian, Betty Ambler. Betty is a solo librarian and manages the daily operations of the ConnDOT Library without any support staff.

Physical Space

The Library's physical space has increased steadily since it was reestablished in 1985, beginning with a 200 ft² space in the building where the Division of Research is still located. When the current building was constructed, the Library was moved into a highly visible 2100 ft² space located on the ground level, also known as the Activity Level of the ConnDOT headquarters, where the cafeteria, fitness center and a retail space are located.



Library entrance, on the Activity Level of the ConnDOT headquarters



ConnDOT Library patron work area



Betty Ambler, M.L.S.

Collection & Services

The collection is mainly comprised of ConnDOT reports, AASHTO, TRB, and NCHRP reports. There is a large section of exam materials that has grown in popularity since the state started administering exams for advancement for all Connecticut employees and engineers. There is a significant personal development collection that supported wellness and other programs no longer funded by ConnDOT. Betty provides the department's employees with examination information from the National Council of Examiners (<http://www.ncees.org>) for guidance on study materials and examination requirements. The site provides some fee downloads to assist with test preparation. The computer training manuals in the collection are also very popular.

The ConnDOT Library collection consists of approximately:

10,150 total cataloged items

2000 monographs

150 journal titles, which have recently been cut due to a spending freeze

7500 technical reports, plans, manuals and standards

500 audiovisual resources (CDs and video)

There are nearly 1800 items in circulation at this time, most of which are training and exam books.

Betty has developed a local classification scheme by observing the information seeking habits of her patrons. For example, there is a section for Connecticut highways that is arranged by highway or route number. For example the second report on Interstate 84 from 1987 is filed located in its own section, thus:

I-84 1987-2 c.1

The rest of the collection is by agency, series title or topic and accession number. For example, this 1971 Transportation Research Report would be filed this way:

TRR 1971 c.1

The ConnDOT Library does not have an integrated library system. As OCLC members, they have elected to use the new [WorldCat Local "quick start"](#) discovery layer that integrates WorldCat.org, WorldCat Local, WorldCat, FirstSearch databases, NetLibrary and other OCLC services through a single URL for member libraries. Access is through IP recognition and is included in existing OCLC subscriptions. This discovery layer is new as of August 2009. Betty is cataloging directly into OCLC and using OCLC TechPro to save time on cataloging new items.

Connecticut Transportation Department's Goals for the Pooled Fund Study

Betty sees the travel and networking opportunities as greatest benefit of the pooled fund for her. Attending the annual meeting, Webinars and workshops all provide valuable and rare opportunities for DOT librarians to exchange best practices and network with colleagues. She

would like to see the pooled fund continue on past FFY 2010 either through extension or a new study, as she feels there are great benefits for patrons and management patrons when librarians work together to innovate and improve library and information services. Betty feels the quarterly topic-oriented technical advisory committee teleconferences have been very good, and the LIBCON-L listserv has increased communication among the TAC. She especially appreciates the monthly updates that follow the regional transportation knowledge network teleconferences that we began posting to the listserv this past fall. Betty feels more connected to other professionals and enjoys the sharing of information and expertise with her colleagues. She would also like to see regional TKN support with next pooled fund and fully supports the idea of mini peer exchanges for on the ground workflow issues.

ConnDOT Research Director Jim Sime would like a better understanding of 508 Compliance for digital documents, both born digital and scanned older reports. ConnDOT is retrospectively digitizing everything they have access to but don't feel they really know if they are doing it thoroughly and adequately. Jim would like to see this issue addressed with pooled fund assistance, if there is support among the other study partners.

More about ConnDOT:



About ConnDOT

<http://ConnDOT.Connecticut.gov/AboutCONNDOT/About.htm>

ConnDOT Leadership, Mission & Goals

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1380&q=259880>

ConnDOT Bureaus

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/browse.asp?a=1399&C=19260&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&PM=1&dotNav=|&dotPNavCtr=|#43197>

ConnDOT Publications

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=3609&q=305506>

ConnDOT Major Project Updates

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=3529&q=435342>

ConnDOT Division of Research

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1387&q=259624>

For more information about the ConnDOT Library, please contact:

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