

Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study, TPF-5(105)

Transfer of Historical ASTM Standards, 1939-1999, from Washington State Library to FHWA Library at Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center Library Final Report

Prepared by

Kathy Szolomayer, Washington State Department of Transportation and Jennifer Boteler, MacroSys, LLC, Federal Highway Administration Research Library
Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

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Fifty-five boxes of historical ASTM standards covering an approximately 60 year time span were successfully transported across the country from the Washington State Library in Tumwater, WA to the Federal Highway Administration Research Library in McLean, VA, with the support of TPF-5(105) and its TKN Resource Sharing Project FedEx shipping account. The total cost was \$1994.39. Boxes and labor for packing the volumes were provided by librarians from the Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT). WSDOT is a pooled fund study partner. The transfer was completed in November 2009. Some additional volumes were also contributed by the Idaho Transportation Department, another pooled fund study partner. Unpacking, shelving, and inventorying of the volumes were done by the FHWA Research Library staff. From concept to completion, this project was a collaborative effort of pooled fund and TKN members that directly illustrates the power of networking.

As outlined in the original proposal (see Appendix I), access to historical ASTM standards is problematic due to limited availability of print copies, along with high cost, licensing restrictions and limited coverage in the online environment. The historical standards contain information critical to transportation practitioners, however, so they are a valuable resource. In addition, the FHWA cataloger has added detailed holdings in OCLC so borrowers can easily ascertain if needed standards are available.

By adopting these volumes that would have been discarded, the FHWA Research Library will insure that free access to this information is preserved, while also creating a “one stop shop” for a significant run of the standards, thus achieving the main objectives of this project. Completion of this project represents a very successful outcome that will benefit the transportation information and knowledge management community for many years to come. The Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study should be commended for supporting this very worthwhile effort.

The volumes made available through this project are listed in Appendix II.

Contacts

Kathy Szolomayer, Librarian
Washington State Dept. of Transportation
szolomk@wsdot.wa.gov
360-705-7751

Jennifer Boteler, Librarian
Federal Highway Administration Research Library
jennifer.boteler@fhwa.dot.gov
202-493-3071

Rebecca Christie, Librarian
WSDOT Materials Laboratory
chrisre@wsdot.wa.gov
360-709-5404

APPENDIX I

FFY 2009 Special Project Proposal Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study, TPF-5(105)

- I. **PROBLEM TITLE: Transfer of Historical ASTM Standards, 1939-1999 from Washington State Library to FHWA Library at Turner-Fairbank Research Center.**
- II. **BACKGROUND:** ASTM (originally American Society for Testing and Materials) standards are vital resources used by departments of transportation and other organizations in the transportation sector served by libraries and research centers. If the transportation information community loses ready access to the historical print ASTMs, access to the inactive, historical standards becomes problematic.

Some DOTs subscribe to ASTM standards online through the vendor IHS; others purchase print volumes. As is common in the licensing of online resources, libraries subscribing to IHS are precluded from using the online records for resource sharing. Even if that were not the case, the IHS subscription includes standards from prior to 1986 *only* if the standard is still active. In our collective experience, DOT staff request older standards for a variety of reasons (as do others in the transportation information sector, if an April 24, 2009 posting to TRANLIB seeking "Old ASTM Standard" is any indication). We predict that this need will continue.

To illustrate the ongoing value of historic standards, we offer this compelling evidence from Jennifer Boteler, Managing Librarian at the Federal Highway Administration Research Library:

In all of the special library jobs I have held, superseded standards have been requested in order for researchers or engineers to know how or why things were done or constructed in the past for maintenance, repair, or replacement issues, and for attorneys and risk managers for liability issues.

For instance, the FHWA Research Library helped supply information for the forensic investigation done on the I-35W Minneapolis bridge collapse for several federal offices (DOT OIG, FHWA TFHRC, Congressional Offices, etc.) including tracing the history of 13 ASTM standards and supplying copies of the historical and current standards (35+ standards).

The Washington State Library is planning to discard their run of ASTM standards (1939-1999). The Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) Library does not have the physical space to adopt the collection. The FHWA Research Library at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center has offered to assimilate the collection, but we need to transport the volumes from Tumwater, WA to McLean, VA.

A check of LVIS (Libraries Very Interested in Sharing) and LSTR (Libraries Sharing Transportation Resources) affiliations in WorldCat (for OCLC numbers 5918504, 5828986, 5828994, 5829001) shows ZERO transportation libraries with holdings. Most of the LVIS libraries have incomplete runs. There are no LSTR libraries with holdings. Granted, there may be records with title variations that we didn't check, but our overall sense is that these aren't easily available from reciprocal lenders, and many DOT libraries lack funding to borrow from libraries that charge interlibrary loan fees.

No additional funds are requested. The submitters propose using some of the unused funds set up for TKN Resource Sharing Pilot Project to cover relocation costs for the ASTM historical collection. While an exact cost is not known until the materials are boxed and weighed, a preliminary ballpark estimate is about 74 boxes and 2,890 pounds. If funding can be secured for a shipper to provide boxes, pack, and transport the volumes, that would be our first choice. Our second choice is to secure funding to cover the shipping and WSDOT would provide boxes and labor. Estimates:

Per US postal service website on 4/24/2009, for **library rate**: \$1084.84
(1 box weighing 39 lbs would cost \$14.66 x 74 boxes)
WSDOT can hire two packers at \$120.00/hour: \$720.00
(Estimated packing time is 6 hours)
Total = \$1805 MINIMUM

FedEx ground: Pickup and delivery: \$2532.00, 5-7 business days
(74 boxes weighing 39 lbs, how with a value of about \$200/box)
WSDOT providing boxes and labor to pack

III. OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase the availability of historical ASTM standards to transportation libraries by rescuing a long run of historical standards from disposal and making them a part of the permanent collection at the FHWA Library.

2. Contribute to the goals of increased access of the TKN Resource Sharing project currently underway.

IV. SPECIFIC RESULTS, FINDINGS, TOOLS, ETC. (DELIVERABLES)

1. Preservation of this valuable collection of ASTM standards.
2. Making the historical ASTMs freely available, as they are of tremendous benefit to the transportation information community, as well as a key element in the development of transportation information infrastructure.
3. Increase efficiency in locating needed standards. Currently the ASTMs are listed in WorldCat under multiple titles and local holdings information is sparse. Adding this historical run to the holdings of the “master record” would save librarians and researchers a great deal of time and effort to have a single, known repository to turn to when an older ASTM standard is needed.

- V. HOW WILL THE RESULTS BE USED? Current and future transportation professionals will have assured access to a valuable historical information resource for research into past practices. Whether it’s used for rehabilitating old structures, improving on old designs, examining the structural challenges presented in a particular project, or maintaining existing infrastructure, this type of information will continue to provide critical guidance for transportation practitioners.

VI. SUBMITTED BY:

Kathy Szolomayer, Librarian
Washington State Dept. of Transportation
szolomk@wsdot.wa.gov
360-705-7751

Jennifer Boteler, Librarian
Federal Highway Administration Research Library
jennifer.boteler@fhwa.dot.gov
202-493-3071

Rebecca Christie, Librarian
WSDOT Materials Laboratory
chrisre@wsdot.wa.gov
360-709-5404

**ASTM Standards Inventory -
Washington State Library holdings March 2009**

Title	Year	Missing Parts	Duplicate Parts
Book of A.S.T.M. standards including tentative standards	1939		1, 2
	1940		
	1941		
	1942		1, 2
	1943		
Book of ASTM standards including tentatives	1946		
	1949		3
	1952	5	
	1955	4-7	
	1958		
Book of ASTM standards including tentatives	1961		
Book of A.S.T.M. standards including tentative standards	1964		
	1965	8, 14	
	1966	1-7, 9-32	
	1967		
	1968	All but index	
	1969		
Annual book of ASTM Standards	1971		
	1973		
	1975	31	
	1976	2, 4-48	
	1977		
	1979	7-8	31
	1982		
	1983	All but v. 04.08	
	1984		
	1985	All but v. 00.01 & 01.04	
	1986	v. 15.02	
	1988		
	1989	All but v. 04.02	

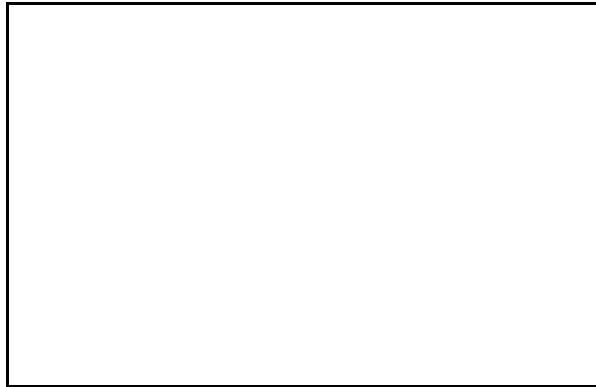
**ASTM Standards Inventory -
Washington State Library holdings March 2009**

	1990		
	1992		
	1993	v. 04.06 & 08.01	00.01
	1995		
	1996	v. 04.09	00.01
	1997		01.01, 15.07
	1998	v. 01.06, 04.02, 04.04	00.01
	1999	v. 01.01	
	2000	All but v. 04.02 & 04.03	
Annual book of ASTM Standards	2002	All but v. 04.03	

**ASTM Standards Inventory -
Washington State Library holdings March 2009**

Notes
OCLC 5918504 (1938-1944)
OCLC 5828986 (1946-1958)
OCLC 5828994 (1961)
OCLC 5829001 (1964-1969)
OCLC 2187052 (1970-2001)

**ASTM Standards Inventory -
Washington State Library holdings March 2009**



OCLC 52526499 (2002-)