

**Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study
TRB Annual Meeting, January 10-14, 2010
Session Summary and Value**

Attendee: Maggie Sacco

Date/time: 1/13/10 2:30PM-4:00PM

Session title/number: 686 Information Analytics: New Opportunities for Improving Information for Transportation Decision Makers

Presiding Officer: Amanda J. Wilson, Research and Innovative Technology Administration

Information Professionals as Intelligence Analysts: Making the Transition (P10-0476) – Edna Reid - Clarion University/delivered by Amanda J. Wilson, RITA

Congressional Research Service: Research and Analysis on Current and Emerging Issues of National Policy (P10-0481) – Julius Jefferson - Library of Congress

Archival Resources at WisDOT – John Cherney - Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Transportation Synthesis Reports: Quick-Turnaround Reports at Wisconsin DOT to Synthesize and Analyze Recent Research and Best Practices on Requested Transportation Topics – Patrick Casey - CTC and Associates, LLC

Key points from this session.

- What is the middle ground between analysts and librarians? Librarians discover and determine what information is relevant, check key assumptions, check quality of information, identify indicators and signposts of change. Using visualization software to present information in timelines, geographically, charts, etc. is valuable analysis. Question: What are your competencies? Librarians can monitor events and trends, dissect a problem into parts to determine relationships, make judgments about information quality and timeliness.
- Access to archival material helps answer questions and enhances institutional memory. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority, Iowa DOT and VDOT are examples where librarians can do Knowledge Management as part of process. Knowledge is an organizational asset, and managing it effectively is crucial to retaining institutional memory. Question: What do we know, who is currently knowledgeable, what problems did the information we captured solve?
- Research synthesis bibliographies are value-added products that result from information and research requests for staff that do not have time to do these activities themselves. They are highly targeted to specific information needs. Structure of the RSB begins with a 2-3 line title case convention, synthesis (very short, personal interviews, citations, unbiased), citations from targeted searches of peer reviewed sources, thoughtfully organized consistently displayed and de-duped. Involving libraries and archives in the process produces high quality sources for synthesis. RefWorks citation management tool is an affordable mini cloud-based application that allows you to quickly harvest from databases, de-dupe and format, without re-keying. Question: Who should do this type of work? Answer: Who do you have? Librarians and subject matter experts are best as joint effort is highly effective.

Information or PowerPoint presentation to be shared with TAC members.

- NCHRP Synthesis 365 Preserving and Using Institutional Memory Through Knowledge Management Practices http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_syn_365.pdf This TRB Synthesis Report documents practices regarding the preservation and use of institutional memory through knowledge management (KM) practices of the 50 U.S. state transportation agencies (STAs) and the Canadian provincial transportation agencies.
- VDOT's RSBs can be found at <http://vtrc.virginia-dot.org/DynamicPage.aspx?PageId=48>

Information that may help shape the National or Regional TKNs.

- Highlight the role of librarians as analysts and the products and services they provide.
- Explore relationships with archival staff and how libraries and archives can work cooperatively.

Attach relevant handouts from session.

Information that may be included or referenced in the pooled fund study final report.

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Name and contact information of presenters that should be contacted for further information.

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Attach relevant handouts from session.