



## Transportation Library Pooled Fund Study

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# Transportation Library Connectivity

Pooled Fund Study - TPF-5(105) Teleconference – June 20, 2006 - 10:30 to 12:30 CST

Participants: Lisa Autio, Montana DOT (MDT); Jerry Baldwin, Minnesota DOT (MnDOT); Cheryl Bodan (PennDOT); Janet Bix, Ohio DOT (OhDOT); John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT (WisDOT); Steve Cochran (WsDOT); Ruth Letson (TDOT); Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT (KDOT); Ann Pahnke, WisDOT; Susan Sillick, MDT; Laura Wilt, Oregon DOT (ODOT); Christi Powers, Administrative/outreach services; Maggie Sacco, Technical services

## I. Check-in: Updates and news from TAC members

Special Libraries Association Meeting Updates – Several TAC members attended the [Special Library Association](#) conference in Baltimore, Maryland, June 11 – 14, 2006. Janet Bix reported there was significant interest in the TRIS online integration and benefits of TLCat. Lisa Autio said she enjoyed the WorldCat demonstration and OCLC information on collection analysis tools. Cheryl Bodan conducted a presentation on a knowledge management pilot project in progress at PennDOT. There were lots of exhibits, particularly focusing on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Highway Interstate System. A total of 11 departments of transportation were represented at the GTRIC meeting.

WisDOT – John Cherney announced that the library move is about to take place from eighth to first floor. While there will be higher visibility in this location, there is less space. Prior to planning the move, he surveyed seven different libraries to determine strategies and best practices.

KDOT – Marie Manthe indicated that operations are status quo.

TDOT – Ruth Letson indicated her unit is still implementing SydneyPlus, which includes integrating the labeling system. Discussions are underway toward digitizing all non-copyrighted items.

OhDOT – Janet Bix commented that findings from the SLA conference emphasized that “Digitization is not preservation.” Although scanning documents into digital images is way to save space, archival copies should be kept in the event of a server crash or technological complications.

## II. Housekeeping

Minutes – A broken hyperlink was noted in the April 19, 2006 teleconference minutes. Christi will notify the Web master to update the site. Also, the pooled fund study contact list reflects changes requested by Montana and Washington states (e-mail addresses and missing information, respectively).

MOUS and second-year TPF commitments – After reviewing FHWA procedures, the FMIS (Federal Management Information System) report and changes to TPF commitments, Ann Pahnke will send Memorandums of Understanding to clarify and secure second-year commitments from participating states.

September 2006 annual meeting – A subcommittee was formed (Lisa Autio, Jerry Baldwin, Janet Bix, Steve Cochran, Christi Powers and Maggie Sacco) to plan the library pooled fund study annual meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, from September 19 to 21, 2006 at the [Best Western Kelly Inn](#). The subcommittee will discuss speakers, panel and presentation options and report back at the next teleconference.

### **III. Phase II technical services activities**

Maggie reviewed a list of technical tasks and [deliverables](#) that were generated and ranked by TAC members. Maggie clarified the scope of her services and reminded TAC members to generate outreach/networking ideas/needs to Christi Powers.

A majority of members expressed interest in learning more about acquiring collection management tools. OCLC has such a product and it is likely that Maggie can arrange a demonstration at the annual meeting by Andy Bush. Exact pricing information has not yet been obtained although it could cost approximately \$1,000/annually for a small library. It was agreed that collection analysis would not only identify gaps in solo libraries but could provide benchmarking and comparisons for member states.

In continuing to establish a baseline of OCLC listings (Task 2), Maggie will need access to PennDOT and TDOT's data. In completing a list of subscription information from each participating library, there is benefit to identifying who has what, where gaps exist, and the possibility for group subscription rates. Discussion ensued about whether there is a complete list of online databases accessible on the Web. Jerry Baldwin commented that MnDOT accesses databases in a number of ways. This includes direct subscription, membership in MINITEX, membership in MnPALS, subscription to FirstSearch, and through the Electronic Library of Minnesota. The databases available through each overlap but don't constitute a complete list. He cited that [Gale's Directory of Online, Portable, and Internet Databases](#) is quite comprehensive.

### **IV. Review and approve phase II marketing activities**

The TAC committee reviewed a [phase II marketing plan](#) and list of outreach activities for 2007. There was agreement that a primary networking and outreach target should be CEOs and higher-level transportation officials. One effort will include distributing library pooled fund flyers and information at the [State DOT CEO Leadership Forum](#), sponsored by [AASHTO](#) and hosted by the [Center for Transportation Studies](#) in September. Additionally, Christi Powers will approach some federal officials at the upcoming [AASHTO RAC 2006](#) conference in Columbus, Ohio, as to their interest in speaking at the annual meeting. Last, members of the TRB LIST committee will be asked about sponsoring a panel presentation at the TRB annual meeting in 2007. The idea is to assemble a group of panelists – a CEO, a librarian, a research manager and a state engineer to talk about the need for further investment in transportation information and knowledge networks.

A second strategy is to recruit new study participants. Christi Powers and Maggie Sacco have teleconferenced with Louise Rosenzweig of Texas DOT and Judie Triplehorn, Alaska DOT. Both expressed interest in the library connectivity pooled fund study activities.

Another marketing service has been to redesign and update the library pooled fund study [Web site](#) which allows for more integration with the TPF-105(5) blog. In addition, some 75 flyers will be distributed at SLA and AASHTO RAC this summer. In further discussion of marketing and outreach priorities, TAC members are asked to generate their list of priorities to Christi Powers by June 29, 2006. Tasks will be ranked and discussed at the next teleconference.

Last, Jerry Baldwin mentioned that there are a number of grant possibilities that could be pursued. Christi has made initial inquiries into the Institute of Museum & Library Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison's Grant Library, U.S. DOT, edu.gov or grants.gov. These opportunities could be pursued within the scope of marketing and outreach services provided that TAC members approve this within the current part-time administrative/marketing contract (20-hours per week). MTKN is looking into additional funding since it has obtained its 501(c)3 status. Members also discussed the benefit of in-kind contributions and the need for match-dollars among University Transportation Centers.

Sue Sillick inquired about the possibility of making MTKN into an adjunct pooled fund study. Her suggestion was to look into the possibility of forming and funding regional networks through the TPF

program. Sue encouraged the concept of partnering to find a sustained and stable method of funding as grants are cyclical and unpredictable.

#### **V. Performance Measures**

Jerry Baldwin, John Cherney, Maggie Sacco and Christi Powers teleconferenced on May 11 and May 25, 2006 to discuss performance measures. There are two sets of measures that can be compiled: one for collection statistics, benchmarks, outputs and comparisons of library pooled fund member activities and services. Another set would be on the library connectivity study itself. Extensive discussion ensued on the meaning and interpretation of certain definitions on the proposed spreadsheet. Laura Wilt mentioned that it's difficult to assess the extent to which customers actually use the information provided by reference questions or literature searches. Janet Bix pointed out that member states need to agree on the same type of measure and what to count. Marie Manthe asked for clarification as to whether literature searches count as reference questions.

Steve Cochran provided a spreadsheet and reference list for consideration. He also mentioned that WsDOT is developing a Web-based tool used in conjunction with their help desk software. He will share more information with the TAC when the system has been updated and finalized. It was agreed that the spreadsheet provided by MnDOT was easier to use but the WsDOT tool elicits more in-depth information.

TAC members decided to hold a subsequent teleconference for more discussion. In the interim, Maggie will establish a place on the blog for pooled fund study success stories. TAC members are encouraged to post customer testimonials or other anecdotal information that communicates the value of library and information services.

#### **VI. Close**

In the event that PennDOT declares a mandatory furlough for state workers, Cheryl Bodan may be out of the office in early July. TAC members decided to schedule the next teleconference for Monday, July 24, 2006 from 10:30 to 12:30 CDT. It was also decided that a subsequent performance measure teleconference would be scheduled for June 28, 2006 at 10 a.m. Christi will make the arrangements and notify interested members.