



Transportation Library Pooled Fund Study

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Transportation Library Connectivity

Pooled Fund Study - TPF-5(105) Teleconference – May 2, 2007 - 10:30 to 12:30 CDT

Participants: Lisa Autio, Montana DOT (MDT); Jerry Baldwin, Minnesota DOT (Mn/DOT); Jason Bittner, Wisconsin Transportation Center (WTC); Cheryl Bodan, Pennsylvania DOT (PennDOT); John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT (WisDOT); Steve Cochran, Washington DOT (WsDOT); Ruth Letson Tennessee DOT (TDOT); Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT (KDOT); Caitlin McKee, Ohio DOT (OhDOT); Leni Oman, (WsDOT); Ann Pahnke, (WisDOT); Laura Wilt, Oregon DOT (ODOT); Christi Powers, Outreach/marketing services; Maggie Sacco, Technical services; CTC & Associates.

I. Check-in/updates from TAC members

MDT – Lisa Autio reported traveling to Washington, DC and visited U.S. DOT. The MDT Library continues to promote its services resulting in a noticeable increase in research requests and interlibrary loan activity. She has drafted library policies and continues to work with graphic software to upgrade their newsletter and other marketing tools.

OhDOT – Caitlin McKee has been handling library matters on behalf of Janet Bix who continues to be on medical leave. She reported that Janet hopes to return to work in June.

KDOT – Marie Manthe reported that she did not attend her local library conference as previously intended. However, she did hold a Library Week Open House on April 18. At least 50 people attended the event and many appeared to be genuinely interested in the collection. She continues to update the library catalogue and is finalizing a collection development policy to be implemented soon.

Mn/DOT – Jerry Baldwin said that a staffing study of the Mn/DOT Library had been completed and a decision was made to cut two positions. After union considerations are addressed he anticipates having to notify the two staff members in mid-May.

PennDOT – To further library visibility within the department, Cheryl Bodan has negotiated a contract with a graphic artist to produce a new library logo and other materials. Thus far she is pleased with the bold art deco theme and looks forward to sharing the final results with TAC members.

TDOT – Ruth Letson attended a state library conference in Chatanooga that focused on digitization featuring collaborative information on historic photo preservation projects. She is working on a library Web page and has added items to the collection from the TDOT materials and testing facility. Ruth also mentioned she had an opportunity to speak with Ken Winter at Virginia DOT about forming a southeastern transportation knowledge network (TKN) to incorporate ideas from existing models.

ODOT – Laura Wilt attended the Oregon Library Association conference in April and also had the opportunity to learn about Web-based digitization projects. She recently completed a data conversion that has also required updating serials modules. She will send the Web-based link of upgraded resources to TAC members.

WTC – Jason Bittner mentioned that the Wendt Engineering Library distributed marketing materials during National Library Week. He enjoyed attending the ribbon-cutting at WisDOT on April 16 and reported that plans are moving ahead for the TAC 2007 annual meeting in Madison.

WsDOT – The Washington DOT Library also celebrated National Library Week with a two-hour Open house event that attracted nearly 90 people; significantly more attendance than last year. Steve Cochran attributed the success of the event to Intranet notices and display tables on each floor featuring Library Week events. Also, training sessions for the Google meta-search engine -- created by WsDOT Librarian Michel Wendt – attracted widespread interest. Units are requesting individual training sessions to learn more about this and other library resources. Steve is updating existing folios, the most recent of which elaborates on the importance of knowledge management, library and research initiatives within the transportation sector.

Leni Oman added that Steve's last day at WsDOT is May 4. Leni extended her appreciation for the great accomplishments Steve has made during the last 18 months and also announced his replacement. Kathy Szolomayer, a librarian with more than 20 years of experience, will start June 1st and join the next TAC teleconference. Leni also mentioned WsDOT Secretary Doug MacDonald will retire in July, 2007 and a planning strategy is underway for a new administration.

WisDOT – John Cherney noted the WisDOT iCommons ribbon cutting on April 16 was a huge success. Both Secretary Frank Busalacchi and Deputy Secretary Ruben Anthony attended the well-publicized multi-media event. The new lobby-level facility is twice the size of the 8th floor library and offers meeting rooms and more computer terminals. Photos and information of the event will be posted to the TPF-5(105) blog and also in the next issue of the SLANT newsletter (Wisconsin chapter of SLA).

Ann Pahnke noted that plans are in the works for a new state transportation building and the iCommons will be a focal point in the new design. The department has been very supportive of the library and research unit's efforts and is growing awareness through the addition of a Research & Library Advisory Council.

WTKN Update – Steve Cochran reported that some 15 people participated in the third Western Transportation Knowledge Network on April 11, 2007. Articles of incorporation, bylaws and a library loan policy were drafted and posted on the blog and open to public comment. With Steve's departure, future leadership has been discussed and possibilities include Dale Steele (Arizona DOT) and Matt Barrett (Los Angeles Metropolitan Library). Leni will coordinate the next teleconference scheduled for June 13, 2007.

Amanda Wilson, director of the NTL, announced during the WTKN teleconference that RITA is willing to subsidize a face-to-face WTKN meeting in Irvine, California. The event would be co-organized with TRB to take place in October, 2007 at the Beckmann Center.

II. Housekeeping

Minutes – Minor changes will be made to the March 21, 2007 minutes before finalizing and posting on the Web site.

FHWA Quarterly Report – Maggie Sacco and Christi Powers submitted the Q-1 FHWA quarterly report which will be posted to the TPF Web site by Ann Pahnke.

III. Administrative/outreach services update

2007 Annual Meeting - Christi drafted and submitted a proposed agenda for the 2007 annual meeting of which Ann Pahnke made some changes. Janice LaChance, SLA director, was contacted about being a keynote speaker but since she will be in Europe, Doug Newcomb, chief policy officer, has agreed to attend.

Discussion ensued about a panel presentation which might include librarians from the academic, medical and agricultural sectors. Christi made preliminary inquiries on proposed panelists. Lisa Autio mentioned the possibility of having a librarian from the National Park Service.

The importance of networking was also discussed. Ann Pahnke mentioned it would be interesting to have different perspectives on how these librarians network, what type of services they deliver, and the unique aspects of their core collections. More revisions will be made to the agenda. Any programming or panelist suggestions should be forwarded to Christi.

Advocacy issues – Christi reported that a third teleconference was held with AASHTO officials to investigate the possibility of a library special task group. A draft charter has been drafted, discussed and modified and will be presented to RAC officers on June 14 for their input. Also, Arlene Mathison is reviving the T.A.L.E.N.T. committee which is looking at grassroots initiatives such as drafting position papers in advance of reauthorization cycles.

Final report – Christi is working on a draft final report that will provide an overview of the first two years of the project. She will have a draft ready for TAC review in late June or early July with final publication in advance of the annual meeting in September.

IV. Technical services update

Library Toolkit - Maggie Sacco reported that in conjunction with the publication of the final report, she is working on a Library Toolkit which will be based on the 7 Keys of a Robust Research program theme. The Library Toolkit will contain the collective wisdom of the pooled fund study and will focus on elements of a well-equipped transportation library that optimally meets user needs. Maggie will send a draft to TAC members for input.

OCLC subscriptions – Maggie reported that some TAC members either have or will receive annual OCLC subscription invoices which will be handled through WiLS via the pooled fund study. Subscription cycles run from June to July each calendar year and although a four percent annual subscription increase has occurred, access fees have not increased.

V. Pooled fund study extension

Ann Pahnke presented a draft of services for the next phase of the project. She asked TAC members to review the draft of services and deliverables that are delineated by sections. Ann asked for TAC members to specifically state their needs and priorities She also explained the solicitation process and TPF timeline and asked TAC members to approach their research managers about formal commitments. Discussion also ensued on strategies to recruit other states and tiered participation rates plus emphasis on TKN-related services. TAC members were asked for their reaction to and input on the proposal by May 11th. Leni invited Ann to participate in the next RAC officer's conference call to explain new pooled fund goals and to gain research manager support.

VI. Close

The next TAC teleconference will be scheduled in June and Christi will notify TAC members of the exact date after checking availability.