

Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund

Year Three Report—Fiscal Year 2008

LINK TO THE FUTURE

Transportation information services are developing at a rapid rate in the United States, with significant advances occurring almost every month. The Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study continues to support many of these initiatives and is dedicated to serving as a link to the future, when access to transportation information by practitioners and researchers will be rapid, reliable and institutionalized. Pooled

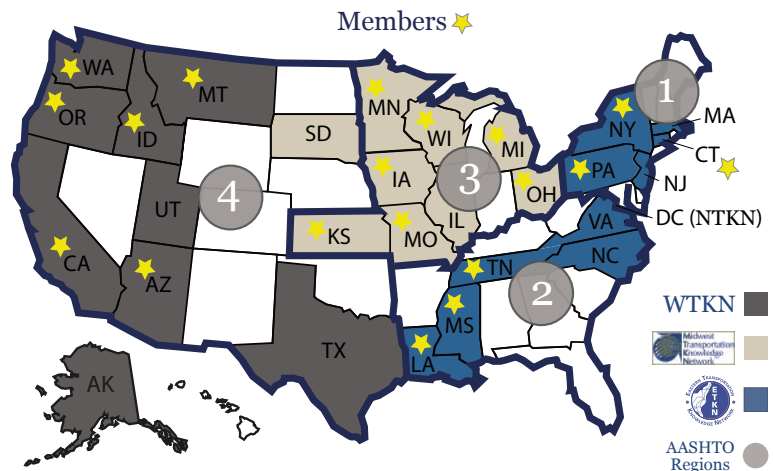
fund members are supporting the formation and growth of regional Transportation Knowledge Networks, the development of centralized direction and services through the National Transportation Library, and cooperation among diverse elements of the transportation information community. We have had a busy year since our last annual meeting in Madison, Wis., in September 2007.

A Year of Growth

We welcomed 11 new members in Fiscal Year 2008—doubling our membership to 22 study partners since we began our work in 2005. New members include Arizona DOT, California DOT, Connecticut DOT, Idaho DOT, Iowa DOT, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Michigan DOT, Mississippi DOT, Missouri DOT, New York State DOT and the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies. Expansion of the pooled fund connects libraries across the country in a network that is a link to the future National Transportation Knowledge Network.

Transportation Library Connectivity

Pooled Fund Study – TPF-5(105)



A Year of Transition

Four highly respected transportation librarians retired in FY 2008: Jerry Baldwin, Minnesota DOT; Janet Bix, Ohio DOT; Cheryl Bodan, Pennsylvania DOT; and Ruth Letson, Tennessee DOT. We wish them the very best in their retirements and thank them for sharing all of their accumulated knowledge and wisdom. All retirees are invited to continue to participate in our study as pooled fund emeritus members. Ohio DOT librarian Caitlin McKee and Missouri DOT librarian Danielle Pollock also left to pursue other opportunities. All of the departments in transition this year are committed to filling vacant positions with professional librarians.



Support for and Cooperation with Regional TKNs

Pooled fund members are all active in their regional Transportation Knowledge Networks and reinforce the link to our shared objective: improved access to transportation information. The formation of the Western and Eastern TKNs was an exciting development in FY 2008, extending coverage to all four AASHTO regions. The pooled fund consulting librarian participates in monthly Midwest TKN and Western TKN teleconferences, and attended the Midwest TKN seventh annual meeting in September 2008.

Ex Officio and Emeritus Members Broaden Our Reach

We have pursued closer relationships with key stakeholders through inclusion of ex officio and emeritus Technical Advisory Committee members as a link to the future NTKN. Retired Mn/DOT librarian Jerry Baldwin has continued with the study as an emeritus member. Amanda J. Wilson, NTL; Barbara Post, TRB; Bob Cullen, AASHTO; and Sandy Tucker, chair of the TRB Library and Information Science for Transportation Committee, have joined the TAC. Our study will continue to benefit from these partnerships.

Telling Our Story at TRB

The pooled fund has secured the sponsorship of the TRB LIST Committee for an exciting poster session at the 2009 TRB annual meeting to highlight the concept that partnering with libraries for research is the way of the future. The session, “Developments and Innovations in Transportation Libraries and Information Services,” will feature posters demonstrating that transportation libraries are forward-thinking and are employing leading-edge technologies. The following posters will be included:

- Federated Search for Transportation Research and Information Needs
- The Embedded Librarian: Exploratory Advanced Research Program
- Creating an Information Commons on a Budget at the Wisconsin DOT Library
- Unique and Innovative Information Sharing Initiatives in Pennsylvania
- Coming to Terms: Researchers Embrace the Transportation Research Thesaurus to Organize a Web Site
- Web 2.0 Tools
- Visualization—Many Eyes
- The Transportation Librarian’s Toolkit
- Transportation Knowledge Networks: Partnerships for the Future of Transportation

Collaboration with NTL

The pooled fund worked with the National Transportation Library on two initiatives: The pooled fund presented “Performance Measurements for Transportation Libraries” for the NTL Transportation Librarians Roundtable series, and the TKN WorldCat Resource Sharing Network pilot project was set up to extend WorldCat resources to non-OCLC libraries. The Marketing & Management Effectiveness webinar/report series with Outsell Inc. featured two webinars: “How to Increase Your Reach Through Smart Marketing Strategies” was presented as a roundtable, and “How to Effectively Engage with Key Stakeholders and Funders” was presented by the pooled fund and hosted by WisDOT.



Technical Support to Libraries Large and Small

Maggie Sacco traveled to Louisiana, Mississippi and California to conduct site visits of three new member libraries. She spent a full day talking with library staff, meeting division personnel, touring the libraries, and discussing needs and expectations. Site visit reports are available on our Web site at www.libraryconnectivity.org/membersandpartners.html. We also provided technical assistance for MARC cataloging to several members, Integrated Library System selection and Request for Proposals consultation for Mississippi DOT, and professional librarian position description and interviewing consultation to the Louisiana Transportation Research Center and Tennessee DOT.



RAC Task Force

The AASHTO Research Advisory Committee approved the creation of the Transportation Knowledge Network Task Force, which “...advocates and supports the rapid and efficient exchange of information resources among policymakers and practitioners, academia (researchers and educators), knowledge and research managers, transportation librarians and the public through development of strategies, technologies and improved use of resources.” The pooled fund supported formation of this task force by bringing stakeholders together on teleconferences and writing the draft charter. We thank RAC and pooled fund member Leni Oman of Washington State DOT, whose hard work on the initiative made it a reality.

Launch of Special Projects

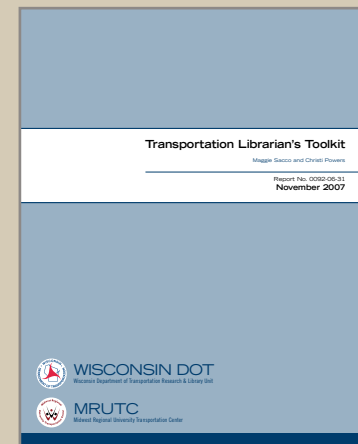
The pooled fund pursued special projects for the first time in FY 2008. We collaborated with NTL and Outsell Inc. to provide current and prospective members access to two Marketing & Management Effectiveness webinars, which were presented during the summer of 2008. “How to Increase Your Reach Through Smart Marketing Strategies” and “How to Effectively Engage with Key Stakeholders and Funders” were well-attended and well-received. The pooled fund annual meeting in October 2008 will feature a half-day on-site workshop from Outsell Inc. on strategic planning and return on investment for libraries and library networks.

Outreach to Research Directors

Outreach is a crucial link in our members’ vision of the future of TKNs. We have focused on the importance of libraries partnering with state DOT research directors. The pooled fund sponsored an exhibit at the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee national meeting in July 2008. A display was set up with a map illustrating the TKN and pooled fund membership, copies of the Transportation Librarian’s Toolkit, TRB Special Report 284, and brochures from all three TKNs and NTL.

Support for LA DOT Peer Exchange

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development hosted a peer exchange in 2008. Pooled fund chair Ann Pahnke and consulting librarian Maggie Sacco participated in a panel discussion on transportation libraries and knowledge networks. They were joined by Amanda J. Wilson of NTL and Ken Winter of Virginia DOT. The Louisiana Transportation Research Center hosted the peer exchange and included the session to spread the word among DOT research managers that the momentum toward vibrant and valuable library partnerships is growing.



Toolkit Webinar

The Transportation Librarian’s Toolkit was adapted for a webinar in the summer of 2008. John Cherney and Maggie Sacco moderated the discussion of key topic areas in the toolkit. The webinar was well-attended and appreciated by the participants.

Collaboration with SLA

In FY 2008, the pooled fund members were more active than ever in the Special Libraries Association Transportation Division. It was a record year for DOT librarians at the 2008 SLA Annual Meeting & Conference—18 state DOT librarians attended the conference, 12 of whom were pooled fund members. The pooled fund was able to send several librarians to the Seattle conference through the travel benefit their pooled fund membership provides. Pooled fund librarians were prominent on the division meeting agenda, making presentations and giving updates on their libraries. Three articles were published in the division newsletter, “The Kaleidoscope.” Closer relationships are being formed through the Transportation Division between state DOT, university, corporate and nonprofit transportation librarians.

Plans for 2009

In the fourth year of the pooled fund study, we will set our objectives along the lines of the 10-point format first employed in 2008, with even more intense collaboration between the pooled fund, NTL, the TKNs, TRB, AASHTO RAC, and other individuals and organizations in the transportation information community. We will continue to provide individualized library technical support, site visits, teleconferences, meetings and offerings to our members. The detailed 2009 work plan accompanies this report.

Support for Members in OCLC

We continued to make it easier for members to afford and manage their Online Computer Library Center subscriptions by providing cost offsets and subscription management services, including initiation of services through payment of invoices. Our members value this service as a top benefit of pooled fund membership. All pooled fund members have access to a set of OCLC subscriptions considered essential to effective resource sharing and quality cataloging by participating in the biggest bibliographic catalog in the world. This gives our librarians unprecedented access to information to serve their customers.



Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund TPF-5(105)

Technical Advisory Committee

This study was proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation as the lead state for the Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study, TPF-5(105). The work was guided by the Technical Advisory Committee chaired by Ann Pahnke, Wisconsin DOT. Other members of the TAC were Dale Steele, Arizona DOT; Susan Haake, California DOT; Betty Ambler, Connecticut DOT; Inez Hopkins, Idaho Transportation Department; Hank Zaletel, Iowa DOT; Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT; Matthew Barrett, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Sandra Brady and Glynn Cavin, Louisiana Transportation Research Center; Alexandra Briseno, Michigan DOT; Jason Bittner, Midwest Regional University Transportation Center at UW-Madison; Sheila Hatchell, Minnesota DOT; Arlene Mathison, University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies; James Watkins, Mississippi DOT; Danielle Pollock, Missouri DOT; Lisa Autio, Montana DOT; Jane Minotti, New York State DOT; Caitlin McKee, Ohio DOT; Laura Wilt, Oregon DOT; Bonnie Fields, Pennsylvania DOT; Ruth Letson, Tennessee DOT; Kathy Szolomayer, Washington State DOT; and John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT.

Consulting Librarian

The consulting librarian for the Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund is Maggie Sacco of CTC & Associates LLC.

Research Managers and Others

The research managers, administrators and others who assisted in the administrative oversight of this study included Nikki Hatch, research administrator, Wisconsin DOT; Frank Darmiento, Arizona DOT; Christine Azevedo, California DOT; Jim Sime, Connecticut DOT; Ned Parrish, Idaho Transportation Department; Carol Culver, Iowa DOT; Dick McReynolds, Kansas DOT; Monica Del Toro, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Skip Paul and Glynn Cavin, Louisiana Transportation Research Center; Calvin Roberts, Michigan DOT; Sue Lodahl and Deb Fick, Minnesota DOT; Randy Battey, Mississippi DOT; Mara Campbell, Missouri DOT; Sue Sillick, Montana DOT; Gary Frederick, New York State DOT; Karen Pannell, Ohio DOT; Bernie Jones, Oregon DOT; Elizabeth Bieryla, Pennsylvania DOT; Sandi Hoff, Tennessee DOT; Bob Johns, University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies; Leni Oman, Washington State DOT; Teresa Adams, Wisconsin Transportation Center at UW-Madison; and ex officio members Amanda J. Wilson, National Transportation Library; Barbara Post, Transportation Research Board; Bob Cullen, AASHTO; and Sandy Tucker, Texas A&M University and chair of the TRB LIST Committee.