



Transportation Librarians Roundtables: A Look Back at Their Effectiveness and a Topical Analysis

Presented by Bob Cullen,
The American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials
at the GTRIC Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
June 12, 2011

The Transportation Librarians Roundtable

- The TLR is a monthly hour-long web conference series providing transportation librarians with opportunities to learn more about issues of mutual concern and interest; it also allows a means of regular communication among members of that community.
- Held the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Eastern.
- An initiative co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Transportation Library, AASHTO, the Transportation Research Board, and SLA's Transportation Division.
- Originated in 2007 as a means of further breaking down the "silos" in the transportation libraries community.
- The first TLR, Amanda J. Wilson's presentation "Engineering a Transportation Infrastructure: The Landscape of Information Activities," took place on October 11, 2007.



The Transportation Librarians Roundtable

- Since October 2007, a total of 42 TLR sessions have taken place (every month except for February 2010, when snowstorm conditions and resultant office closures in the Washington, D.C., area forced its cancellation).
- Average Number of TLR Participants Each Month: 30
- Average Number of TLR Survey Respondents Each Month: 10



The Transportation Librarians Roundtable

- The TLR is a monthly hour-long web conference series providing transportation librarians with opportunities to learn more about issues of mutual concern and interest; it also allows a means of regular communication among members of that community.
- Held the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Eastern.
- An initiative co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Transportation Library, AASHTO, the Transportation Research Board, and SLA's Transportation Division.
- Originated in 2007 as a means of further breaking down the "silos" in the transportation libraries community.
- The first TLR, Amanda J. Wilson's presentation "Engineering a Transportation Infrastructure: The Landscape of Information Activities," took place on October 11, 2007.



TLR – Participant Feedback

- Information exchange
- Networking
- Further improving our communications with each other and therefore our overall impact
- The informality
- Training without leaving the office
- Cost-effectiveness



TLR - Participant Feedback

“On a more general note I’m really glad the TLR was developed. I’ve attended most of the sessions, and most of those have been very interesting, helpful, and informative . . . [T]he TLR is open to ALL of us, no matter where we live or what our parent organizations are, ‘at no extra charge.’ I hope it continues for years to come.”



TLR – Room for Improvement

- Technical challenges
- Notification lapses
- Problems with the survey
- Some topics more relevant than others to one's work, needs, and interests



TLR Topics and Themes

“Roundtables serve several purposes. They share information about library services such as cataloging, electronic resources, and special collections. They also allow librarians to share best practices about marketing, management, performance measures and advisory committees. They inform the transportation library community about new technologies . . . And, they address some of the pressing issues facing all transportation libraries.”

Lisa Haakon Pogue

“Building a Transportation Library Infrastructure”

Change: Managing It, Surviving It and Thriving on It, Best Practices for Government Libraries - 2009

Information Sources

Electronic Resources in Transportation	May 8, 2008	Bonnie Osif, Pennsylvania State University
Sources of Transportation Statistics	October 8, 2009	Rosalyn Alleman, U.S. Department of Transportation
RITA's Research, Development, & Technology Management System	March 10, 2011	Alasdair Cain, U.S. Department of Transportation

Creative Approaches to Outreach

Wis DOT iCommons: Creating User-Friendly Spaces on a Budget	November 8, 2007	John Cherney, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Building Value Through User Advisory Committees	August 14, 2008	Kathy Szolomayer, Leni Oman and Nancy Boyd, Washington State Department of Transportation
Raise Your Library Profile for Free (or Cheaply)	April 9, 2009	Kendra Levine, Institute of Transportation Libraries at the University of California, Berkeley

International Priorities and Programs

Transportation Networks Down Under: Tranzinfo	October 9, 2008	Andrew Meier, Tranzinfo Network (AUSTRALIA)
VTI Library: Update and New Initiatives	November 12, 2009	Birgitta Sandstedt, Swedish National Road and Transport Research (SWEDEN)
Transportation Association of Canada Library Services	April 14, 2011	Glenn Cole, Transportation Association of Canada (CANADA)

What External Organizations Can Teach Us

How to Ensure Your Resources Are 508 Compliant	May 14, 2009	Natalie Collier and Jessica Chaiken, National Rehabilitation Information Center
Expanding Our Reach: Librarians as Research Partners in the Emerging Digital Data Framework	September 9, 2010	Jake Carlson, Purdue University Libraries
Leveraging Technical Expertise via Boeing Library Services	October 14, 2010	Diane Brenes, Boeing Library & Learning Center Services

Open Forums

The Challenges Ahead: Actions for Tough Economic Times	December 11, 2008	The entire group
Bullhorns, Bridges and Bookmarks: How to Make This Year's National Library Week the Best Ever	March 12, 2009	The entire group
Open Discussion Session: What Do You Want to Talk About?	July 8, 2010	The entire group

Librarians' Roles and Vantage Points

<p>Perspectives from New Transportation Library Professionals</p>	<p>February 12, 2009</p>	<p>Eileen Boswell, Community Transportation Association of America</p> <p>Kendra Levine, Institute of Transportation Libraries at the University of California, Berkeley</p> <p>Karen Perrin, Illinois Department of Transportation</p>
<p>Informationist or Embedded Librarian? A Case in Point</p>	<p>November 18, 2010</p>	<p>Eileen Boswell, Community Association of America</p>

Paul Burley!

- January 2008: "Special Collections in Transportation: Northwestern University Airline Menu Collection"
- January 2009: "Cataloging 2009: Resources, Issues, Challenges"
- January 2010: "Digitization 2010: Brave New World, Brave New World"
- January 2011: "Ten Things to Know About RDA"



TLR – Past and Future Trends

- General Themes
 - Information Sources
 - “Best Practices” for Transportation Librarians
- What should be future TLR topics?
- How can we keep the TLR fresh and focused?





Questions? Comments?

bobc@aaashto.org

AASHTO

444 North Capitol Street, N.W.

Suite 249

Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-8918

www.transportation.org