

Identifying & Inventorying Legacy Materials for Digitization at the National Transportation Library

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Abstract

As an all-digital repository of transportation knowledge, the National Transportation Library (NTL) has undertaken several digitization projects over the years to preserve legacy print materials and make them accessible to stakeholders, researchers, and the general public. In keeping with the library's collection development policy, NTL is particularly interested in publications and documents created by United States Department of Transportation agencies.

This poster details efforts to review NTL's past digitization practices and identify DOT materials that should be prioritized for future digitization projects due to their unique nature or at-risk status. We anticipate that this preliminary scoping and assessment work will help inform NTL's budget decisions for digitization, as well as reduce duplication of effort.

Internet Archive Projects

Recently, NTL partnered with Internet Archive to digitize two collections: FHWA reports and documents for the celebration of FTA's 50th Anniversary.

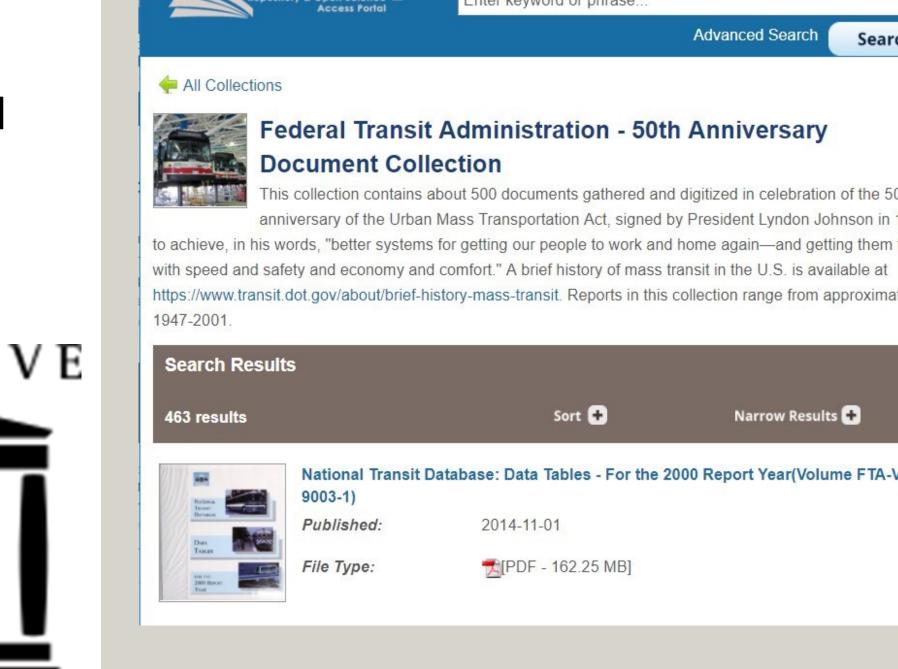
Documents were scanned 300 dpi or higher, OCR'd and made searchable, indexed by Google, and made 508-compliant for accessibility.

In addition to being ingested into

ROSA-P, NTL's online digital repository,
copies are hosted at www.archive.org.

NTL plans to continue with this
digitization model.





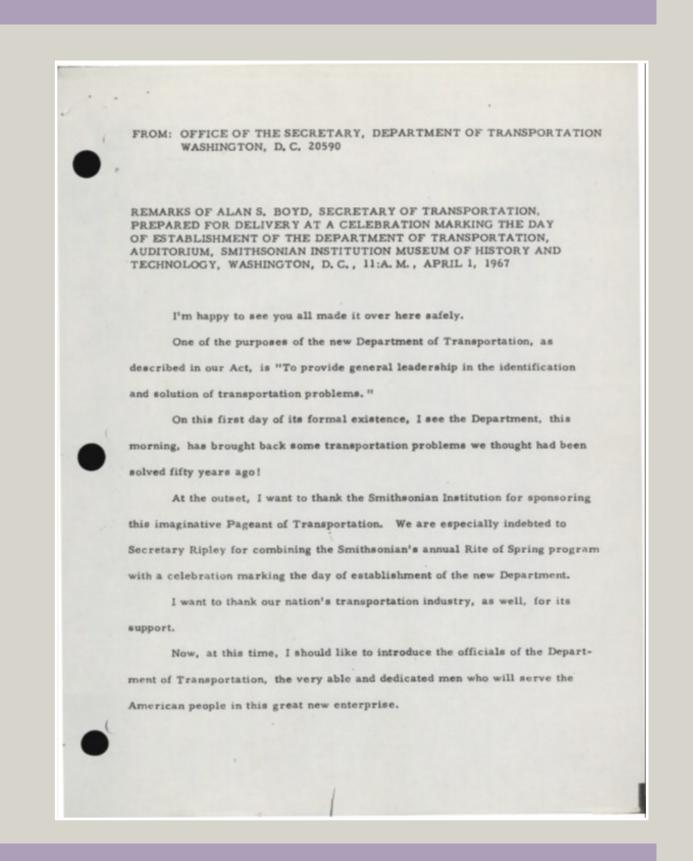
Zrosap All Collections

Secretaries' Speeches

This collection includes 4,282 items from the Dale Grinder Historian's Collection spanning the administrations of DOT Secretaries Alan Boyd through Rodney Slater. Processed by previous NTL/DOT Library interns and digitized by a vendor, but has not been made publically available yet.

Next Steps: Clean up existing metadata, ingest into ROSA-P, and create online collection

Right: Remarks by Alan S. Boyd prepared for delivery at a celebration marking the day of establishment of DOT, April 1, 1967



Online Digital Special Collections

This collection contains 74,587 records which are currently hosted externally. The majority are historic CAB/DOT orders. It also contains reports of railroad accidents and aircraft accidents, which are very popular with the public.

Next Steps

. Review content

. Create preservation strategy

. Perform additional cataloging work as needed

DOT Library Serials

Assessment

This collection contains print serials, newsletters, and press releases that were produced by various DOT agencies, including OST, FHWA, NHTSA, FRA, FTA, and MARAD. Some materials date back to the 1940s.

Notable examples include *The News in Public Roads* and *Public Roads*, a bimonthly magazine published by FHWA, dating back to 1918.

Complete print collections of *Public Roads* are available at the FHWA Research Library and DOT Library.

This summer, the DOT library serials were assessed and a high-level inventory of titles, formats, date ranges, and availability in the NTL repository and WorldCat was created. Some serials are missing issues; others have multiple copies of the same issues.

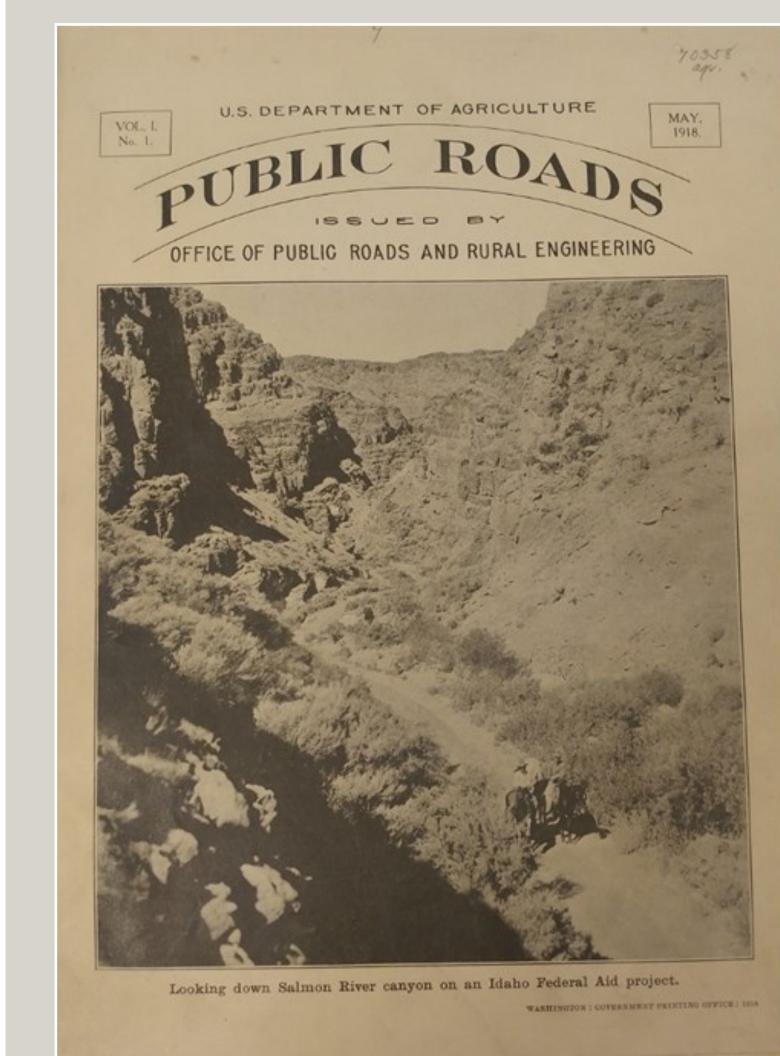
As a result of this project, the Federal Highway Administration Library collated a complete run of *Public Roads*, created an item-level inventory, and processed materials for digitization.

Next Steps

Digitize and ingest files into repositoryCatalog online collection

Make collection available in 2018 for the 100th anniversary of publication





DOT Library Reports

This collection contains an estimated 11,000 reports that were deaccessioned from the DOT Library, the bulk of which is located in off-site storage, with three dozen boxes stored onsite.

Currently, inventory and findability are serious issues. The reports are inaccessible to staff and patrons and are in danger of being lost. The NTL must consider storage costs and the use of physical space.

Next Steps

- Inventory reports using legacy Eos catalog and database of barcodes
- Check for existing digital versions in NTL repository, Worldcat/HathiTrust, NTIS, GPODigitize and ingest files into repository

Conclusions

The work discussed here is preliminary, though projects like the ingestion of the Secretaries' Speeches and ODSC can be accomplished relatively quickly.

Implementation of a more comprehensive digitization strategy requires both financial resources and staffing.

Future considerations should be made for other non-print formats that NTL and the DOT would be interested in digitizing, including maps, audiovisual materials, etc.

