

**Transportation Librarians Roundtable**  
**September 10, 2020**  
**Transcript**

I learned so much from them. They were about the same age as my children and so I said why are he or she doing this [indiscernible - low volume] anticipating a hiring freeze, my last intern was sworn in on January 19. Next slide. Okay, new building. Cambridge, Massachusetts. Among the highest real estate properties in the country. It is an proximity to MIT, Harvard is not far away, tech companies are there all over the place. You cannot go out for a month and not find a new building under construction. Tech companies such as Google and Microsoft, Arma surgical companies like Moe Derrida, I think they are one of the pharmaceutical companies working on the COVID vaccine. BioGen , lots of startups. It is a hopping place. They have farmers markets, film and theater. It's a hopping place. It is a little different with COVID. We are looking to open in early 2023. One of the things I needed to do. They don't want libraries. So we change it to the technical resource center. We will have some movable shelving. It will be lots of windows, etc. I want to tell you a couple of fun facts. The U.S. side, the FAA and Coast Guard are cosponsors of the work. They had an emergency locator transmitter that you would put in your boat or your plane. It was a search and rescue operation. Anyway from 1982 to 1986 there was a show called McIver that was on television. And I was sitting there one night and it was during that timeframe and MacGyver escapes the situation by logging into the star sat satellite. Then when I chaired the transportation division I volunteered because I knew it would be in Boston in 96. When you're the chair you are the acting chair and it is a two-year commitment. Guess what happened to me in 1995? I got pregnant with twins so I did not attend the MID meeting because I was in Cleveland that year but I did go to the SLA conference in 1995. I was pretty pregnant at the time. I was about four months pregnant with twins. [Captioners transitioning]

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Is going to have the corner office with the Windows on two sides. Very open for plan. I think it would be quite lovely. So, any questions?

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If anyone has anybody questions or comments, the chat function or by phone. I do want to note, there was a wonderful presentation, and the presentation will be great when it features images about Samantha. I was very welcomed. I did want to highlight a couple of things that showed up in the chat function during the presentation. One of them posted through the royalty and for the record John seconded Bob's. I did want to bring that to your attention. Hopefully you will appreciate that. You're talking about terrazzo. He noted the fact that he passed away recently. Just wanted to take mention of that.

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I saw that he was still coming to the library at that point.

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Oh, okay. May he rest in peace. Sounds like he did really good things.

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He was my special library professor. I was his student.

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's legacy does live on. I did want to bring to the attention on something that posted here. She says I used to have a library catalog using POS. I gather you no longer have that. I do still have a catalog. I share it with headquarters. I ended up merging my collection bears. I do have reports. When I'm downsizing when they're available. At NTIS. I can't save everything unfortunately. Okay. Bob is asking -- yeah, was the biggest change is seen in the terms of your administration in regards [ Indiscernible ] -- well, you mean the [ Indiscernible ] administration? I'm going to retire in May. They're really concerned about

what they're going to do. How can I say this? Mostly I have known them all for so long. I knew that one day we were not administrators and they were people that is were regular researchers. There's been a long relationship. I have scanned a lot of our local documents so they will be available for my successor. This is the anniversary that founded that. Other people can access them.

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I see that Sabina did post them. Thank you.

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I think moving on hand, I think Roberto is wishing best wishes. She visited you at the library in 2018 and she had a wonderful photo of you sitting in the chair surrounded by books. Not sure how to share with all of us here. Must be quite the image. You remember that?

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When your secretary of transportation, the department sits in the cabinet room. When he left, he got to keep the chair with him. It's got a cracked lever. You could tell it's had a long life people sitting into it.

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It was still already there. Did would also bring to your attention, since she could probably see anyway. Her time would show the guidance and ankle excellent example is so helpful to me starting my career. I wanted to bring that your attention. Some had a wonderful experience there.

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Yes. They both enjoyed each other's company.

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That's good, I'm glad it was a positive experience for you as well.

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In terms of any other questions or comments would you please let her know. They tried sneaking in a question of my own here. Maybe I will do that now. You're talking about the 50th anniversary or the arrangement plans for the 50th anniversary and how they say all past lead to the wrong I guess all led to the library with various requests for you in terms of those arrangements.

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Having gone through the arrangements for the Centennial in 2014, I think I have some appreciation for the wonderful things and for the headaches that come along with having to be the person that came up with the material or helped with various programs and initiatives. Having noted that, where's anything in particular that you particularly enjoyed our have started thinking about. It might have been a very old received [ Indiscernible ].

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Airline accident in 1988, and there is an explosion it lost the cost of the aircraft. That took a lot of hunting. Is a long time to find and it's just so satisfying when you find it.

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Very good. I do realize that, I wouldn't say was the hugest McIver fan. Think it's safe to say that he was a very resourceful individual. That was very good. Is a good 1990s reference. I did want to make mention of that. At the beginning of the presentation as of the I didn't realize. I am remembering it correctly now. That site was going to be the site of the space center during the JFK administration, but to then that site ended up down in Houston if I am rephrasing it correctly.

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Yes, that's what I've been told.

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Often with the federal government moves to a new location or they find the cheapest real estate. This is everything is been built up around it.

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Here across the river?

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Okay. I know I'm going into a family history. Is one of the foreman there for years. I guess I assumed they had to tear down the facility to make room for the library. My father will always comment on the big changes that have been made over the years. Any other questions or comments? This is a larger version of the question of the 50th anniversary. Preparations. Is anything in particular in terms of what the library has accomplished? You can look back and say that really did turn out well. You can cite something that was accomplished by libraries. Throughout the time that you would want to point out to everyone that there is a particular publication exhibit and some other initiative.

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The Bureau of transportation was created and they decided that they wanted to have an information line. That would respond to queries on transportation statistics. It was always in place, but about nine months into that, that's when we started see these websites. We would be getting questions via email or from the website asking questions of everything you can imagine. Not just the data. There was three librarians that work on the hotline.

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They did it for several years. At one point, the library and got a call from a reporter. He had called around to other government hotlines to get a sampling of the response time. He was blown away about what demanded. It was really fun to work on that. The variety, you can't imagine the questions we get.

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As opposed to sounding they didn't quite take that time.

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He wrote an article about it.

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That means that a good thing to recall and share. Thursday library that is what is highlighting something. Thank you for that. One of the inevitable questions that seem to get asked is where you see yourself in 10 years. I will rephrase that. Everyone is welcome to send it in. Where do you see yourself? Do you have any grand plans? You still be part of our community in terms of stopping in the conference or something like that?

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That's a good question. I will take the turnaround. I will probably spend the whole summer up there. Only coming down when I need to. I've been wanting to do that for 30 years. I would go up there on the weekends in a week or two, but it was at the same as being up there the whole time. I'm looking forward to doing that. I have to tell you that one of the things about working here is that I spend a lot of cutting and pasting, and have arthritis in my shoulder. My bicep hurts all the time. I am viewing it as not doing any more of the repetitive stuff. I can see the new library it and see what's going on.

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Okay. The best of luck there with any endeavors as they unfold. As they take or blossom. The best of luck with that. Wanted to mention, I did email a photo to Sam and me. Photo. Healthy that'll be okay for me to share with today's participants. Then they will charge for doing that I hope.

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I did want to highlight a couple of other things. The Roberto -- he had something here. I wanted to bring it to your attention to.

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I think May 31.

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Right at the end. Aileen has a question for you here. The reasoning behind these implementations is?

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There's a lot of changes. I was on a contract with two other full-time librarians. Downsized the staff to one. My position came a federal position. I think they wanted to downsize just because Peter felt that the government shouldn't be in the library business. I couldn't support or say is totally wrong. We had to act fast I guess. I think the lady reported at the time was afraid he was going to close down the library completely that's when we were fortunate to have a library. They didn't let me have an interest a couple of years because didn't want to raise any attention in that regard. They have the wrong agenda, and very often is to get stuff done as quickly as possible because they know they're not going to be in power forever. A lot of call data calls where they are calling for lots of information. Like how me of this or how many of that? They want it right away. It can be a very difficult time. I really think that they didn't want that big library there. There's other British traders who did not like the idea of the library either. Some of them were able to avoid any downsizing. Does that answer your question?

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All right. She's responding here. The meantime, I see Sarah was asking about the PowerPoint. Presentation should be available or posted at some point on the site soon.

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Okay great. We look forward to seeing it. Did confirm that her questions were addressed. Thank you for sharing.

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I can tell you that sometimes we get an email looking for subjects to go down to the factors lab because they need subjects. I took a ride in the car. They're trying to figure out how people react the acceleration. It moves a lot when you're sitting in it. Then you have the steering wheel with a screen in front of you. All of the setting of sudden acceleration and it makes you jump.

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Reading Canada by the way. I probably would've said that. Under the same focus was happening to me to. It was more like I can't believe how horrible I am.

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[ Laughter ]

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Anyway, Sam has a question here. Thing of the highlight the community, it seems that Sam has brought it even further. Bring in the library community as well.

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It's truly -- think they would say that. I think the very conference I went to was in Winnipeg everyone was so welcoming. And then here I know. B Mac one to gradually what a great career. Or minutes before the hour, unless one has any questions or comments. Great questions by the way throughout his time. Almost we have anything else additional you probably start to wrap it up. I did want to behalf on Sam and myself and hopefully everybody want to thank you for a presentation. I knew it was going to be informative and interesting. One of the big surprises for me was the perspective that you brought two presentations. Just the fact that you obviously had a very enjoyable and eventful career there. Are by no means at least for my vantage point you're not cheated or anything like that. Your perspective is as fresh as it has been.

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I want to thank you for that. So, again we learned a lot and gained a lot I think. Thanks to your presentation.

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Thank you for inviting me, it was fun.

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. A big thanks to all of you for being here today. The next TLR is going to be next month on October eight. Listing the speakers will have a tough act to follow. They are with us here today. And also Rachel.

They will be talking about the evolution and changes involving the transportation libraries landscape. Much like's presentation, a very timely topic. Please stay tuned for details about that.

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Mark your calendars in the meantime, and I hope all of you have a great rest of the day and a great rest of the week. Thank you again.

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