

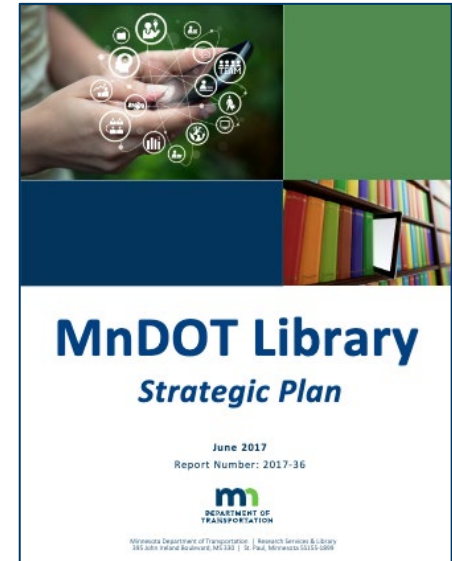
MnDOT Digital Library Pre-Launch, Post-Launch, and Lessons Learned

Presented to Transportation Librarians Roundtable
November 14, 2024

Situation leading to digital library

Before 2020

- MnDOT born-digital publications stored in many environments
- Many older publications were print-only
- 2017 Library Strategic Plan identified “Digitization: Expand availability of digital materials” as a strategic goal



Since March 2020

Library staff have digitized processes and materials to meet needs



Photo by Chris Montgomery on Unsplash

Vendor for digital library

PALS

- MnDOT's catalog service provider for decades
- Started providing digital library service around 2010
- Islandora platform based on Drupal

<https://www.mnpals.org/services/islandora/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the MnDOT Digital Library. At the top, the logo for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is displayed, along with the text "DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION" and "MnDOT Digital Library". Below the logo, there are navigation links for "Home", "About", and "Advanced Search". A search bar is located on the right side of the page, with a dropdown menu for "Contains all of these words" and a "Search" button. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a "Welcome!" section with a brief description of the library's purpose. Below this is a "Browse by" section with a list of filters: "Creator", "Keyword", "Collection", "Series", "Date", and "Format". The right side of the page features a grid of 12 featured publications, each with a cover image and a title. The publications include: "Annual and Biennial Reports", "Department History", "Research Reports", "Minnesota Highway History", "Environmental Publications", "Maps", "MN Legislature Mandated Reports", "Photos", "Standards, Manuals, and Regulations", "State Aid Publications", "Financial Reports", and "Miscellaneous Publications".

Homepage of MnDOT Digital Library – mdl.mndot.gov

MnDOT support for digital library

- Library Director support
- Upper mgmt approval
- IT assistance
- Dedicated library staff
- Research & Innovation marketing assistance

About

[Home](#) / [About](#)

Scope and Vision

The MnDOT Digital Library is a public repository that provides persistent access to born-digital and digitized publications produced by MnDOT and the former Minnesota Department of Highways. Collections include research reports, annual reports, employee newsletters, and publications related to the history of the Department and Minnesota highways and bridges.

Established in 2023, this digital library is a collaborative endeavor by MnDOT Library staff, whose mission is to advance knowledge with timely, direct, and cost-effective connections to the information needed to provide the highest quality transportation systems.

About page of MnDOT Digital Library – mdl.mndot.gov/about

Lessons learned

- It is tough to go first on a platform's new version.
- Expect quirks.
- Build in extra time for signatures.
- Process documentation is key.

And another important lesson...



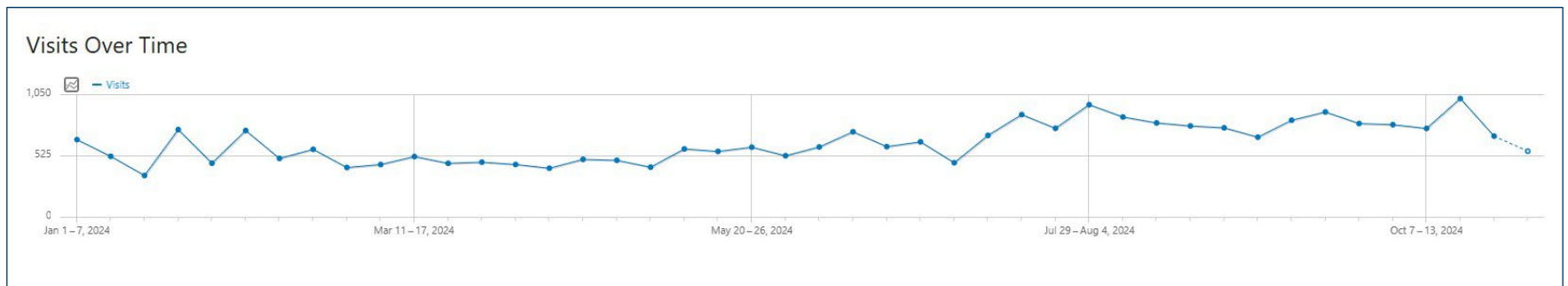
Created at
imgflip.com/memegenerator/Take-A-Seat-Cat

“If you build it, they will come.”

2023: 21,900 unique pageviews

2024: 41,476 unique pageviews by end of October

Approximately 5,000 items available



Graph from Matomo Analytics showing visits by week to MnDOT Digital Library from January to October 2024

Demo

MnDOT Digital Library
<https://mdl.mndot.gov/>

Any questions?

Maddie Kuncio, Madeline.Kuncio@state.mn.us

Marilee Tuite, tuite003@umn.edu

MnDOT Library, library.dot@state.mn.us

Thank you!