TPF-5(442) Research and Connectivity Pooled Fund Study Update

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Current list of partners

- Oklahoma (lead)
- Arizona
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Missouri
- Montana
- North Carolina
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- New York
- Northwestern University Transportation Library
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Original objectives

- Create and expand library resource guides on topics pertinent to current trends in transportation research.
- Continue support for Section 508 for members including updating the Pooled Fund 508 Resource Guide, providing training, and remediating documents for members
- Conduct a peer exchange among transportation libraries to learn best practices from each other and support eventual creation of a librarian exchange program
- Create a white paper document on the feasibility of cataloging materials for agencies without a library and support recommendations from the document
- Continue a cooperative digitization project among members wishing to convert copies of their materials to digital formats

LibGuides

- https://guides.ou.edu/c.php?g=1452726&p=10822227
- Current list of LibGuides
  - Artificial Intelligence in the Transportation Field
  - Electric Vehicles
  - Access to Transportation Systems
  - Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology and Applications
  - Internet of Things in Transportation
  - Literature Searches and Literature Reviews
  - Managing Research Data for Public Access
  - Research Implementation Toolbox
- LibgGuide compendium
  - LibGuide Compendium - Google Sheets

Synthesis Reports

- Transportation Libraries and Information Centers Current Practices and Future Directions Synthesis of Practice - 2022
- Transportation Libraries and Information Centers: Library Collections, Technical Services and Other Library Practices - 2026

Synthesis Report on Transportation Libraries and Information Centers: Library Collections, Technical Services and Other Library Practices

- What is the state transportation agency library's status — open, closed, downsized, reconfigured, reopened, never existed — and what are the circumstances surrounding status changes?
  - Which libraries have closed that have collections and need services?
  - If a library has reopened after being closed, what circumstances played a role in bringing it back?
  - How are collections managed in transportation agencies that never had a librarian?
- How do the resources used differ in agencies with and without libraries?
- How are transportation agencies with no librarians or a solo librarian addressing needs?
- What are the other types of assistance most often needed by transportation libraries (with and without librarians, with and without print and/or digital collections)?
- Which integrated library system is used? What are its features and functions?
- What is the extent of the practice of copy and original cataloging within transportation libraries? What resources are available to assist libraries without librarians?
- How do state publication mandates that require provision of all public materials to a state library impact the cataloging work completed by transportation libraries? How are agencies collaborating?
- How are transportation libraries proving their value, particularly as administrations change?

Synthesis Report Continued

Focus on Practice: WisDOT Library's Transition From Print to Digital

In 2018, the Wisconsin DOT (WisDOT) Library lost its large physical library presence when the transportation agency moved from its long-term headquarters to a new building erected on the same campus. At that time, administration priorities did not include a physical library. Dismantling of the library space and moving the print collection to off-site storage marked the beginning of the first phase of WisDOT Library's reorganization.

After completing the storage process, work began to digitize WisDOT and Wisconsin transportation items still in print. Following the digitization of print items, a second phase of the reconfiguration of the agency's now solely electronic library was devoted to enhancing the digital collection through the creation of a web-based library portal to highlight the presence and awareness of the collection. Though both phases of the library's reconfiguration have been deemed a success, the WisDOT librarian noted there is always room for improvement.

Focus on Practice: A New Library for West Virginia DOT

With a new Research Section Lead at the helm since December 2025, West Virginia DOT is relaunching its Research Section after a period of relative dormancy. As the program relaunch continues, the agency is considering developing a new library to serve agency users and the section's research needs. Currently, some agency sections maintain area-specific libraries, but these libraries do not collaborate to provide information and services across the agency.

Spurring discussion to open West Virginia DOT's first comprehensive library is the recognition that effective implementation of new policies and practices requires current, authoritative research and other relevant resources. As West Virginia DOT's Research Section Lead noted, "the most logical way" to source and distribute research, data and related information is through the research section and the library supporting it.

There is no timeline for development of the new library, but discussions continue. While hiring a librarian for the newly launched library is not anticipated in the near term, there is interest in bringing a librarian on board as the library's collections and services develop.

Synthesis Report Continued

Table 4. Closed Libraries: Background on Closure and Collections Remaining

State	Closure Date	Circumstances Leading to Closure	Collections Remaining
Arizona	2016	Retirement of librarian; the position was removed rather than backfilled See the **Focus on Practice** on page 12 for a more detailed discussion of the library's closure.	Some collections remain as described below: • As a member agency with AASHTO, the research program receives and stores digital publications for use by agency employees. • When physical copies are provided, the agency primarily distributes them to groups who need them; any remaining copies are kept on a shelf in the Research Center's office area. • The digital library is fully closed. Digital versions of agency research are retained in Arizona State Library Archives in the Arizona State Government Publications collection. • The physical library was reduced to just a few prioritized volumes kept on Research Center bookshelves. There is no checkout system and no formal method of assistance.
Connecticut	2017	Connecticut DOT maintained a physical library for many years. When the agency's librarian retired in December 2016, it appeared that a successor librarian would be hired. When a new administration was established in 2017, the physical library closed and librarian position was left unfilled.	At the time of closure, portions of the library's collection were advertised on the TRANLIB mailing list for distribution to other libraries. It is not known what remains of the original print collection.
Idaho	Not known; occurred before the respondent joined the department in late 2021	The survey respondent assumes that the position was reclassified based on leadership's assessment of more pressing priorities at the time.	None
Iowa	2017	Upper management did not see value in maintaining a library and the services provided by the librarian	The agency maintains a digital collection accessible through the State Library of Iowa's Iowa Publications Online. An agency consultant uploads the Iowa DOT's research-related documents to this online repository. Research staff members serve as the gatekeeper for AASHTO digital publications to provide agency staff with access to transportation- and engineering-related standards and manuals.
Kentucky	2016	Budget	Print National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) publications are supplemented by digital materials in UKnowledge, a digital repository launched by University of Kentucky

Synthesis Report Continued

6 Cataloging Practices

Slightly more than half of the 35 agencies responding to the survey for this synthesis maintain a cataloged collection. Of these 19 agencies, nearly 80% or more maintain some type of cataloging practice for new materials.

This chapter describes responding agencies' cataloging practices by addressing the use of controlled vocabularies to classify and organize materials; participation in cooperative cataloging programs; the types of materials that remain uncataloged in agencies with cataloged collections; and the sources of support for cataloging efforts within a transportation library. The chapter closes with a brief examination of the core competencies needed to become a proficient cataloger.

6.1 Cataloging Agency Collections

When asked if the materials in their agencies' collections are cataloged, 16 of the 35 respondents (46%) said no or noted that there was no collection to catalog. The 19 remaining responding agencies, listed below, maintain a cataloged collection:

- Arkansas
- California
- Illinois
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New York
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates

Many agencies perform both copy cataloging and original cataloging of new materials. A few respondents perform only copy cataloging (*Oregon*, *South Dakota* and *Wiss, Janney, Elstner*); *Michigan* and *Oklahoma* only perform original cataloging. Table 16 describes agency practices using abbreviations for copy cataloging (CC) and original cataloging (OC).

Table 16. Cataloging Practices for New Materials

State/Firm	Performs Copy Cataloging	Performs Original Cataloging	Staff Participation in Cataloging Number (% of Time)	Description of Cataloging Practice
Arkansas	√	√	1 (80%)	OCLC WorldShare used for CC, with any necessary changes. The librarian starts with a blank template record created by the library within its cataloging module. Information is added as needed to complete the record.
California	√	√	4 (One staff member spends majority of time; for other 3 staff, time is marginal.)	CC used when possible. OC used if CC not available or appropriate.

Digitization

- Current partnership with Internet Archive
  - https://archive.org/details/transportationresearchpooledproject
- Over 3,000 items digitized
- Current project with Wisconsin DOT
  - Over 22 boxes weighing nearly 900 pounds and over 100,000 pages
  - 16mm film digitized. WisDOT Public Affairs office wants to do a monthly feature on them in employee bulletin
- Digitizing other materials from Montana DOT

Section 508 Remediation

- Remediation support ongoing for various members
- Can range from review/recommendations to full remediation of documents

Peer Meeting at Oregon DOT





- Pooled fund members met from October 27-29 in Salem, Oregon
- Facilitated by CTC & Associates (consultant/vendor for the pooled fund)



Peer Meeting Agenda

- Review of synthesis study
- Topic 1. State of Library Services at DOTs
  - Full department library perspective – Karen Neinstadt/Heather Biedermann, Minnesota DOT
  - Librarian without a library perspective – John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT
  - Library without a librarian perspective – Cindy Smith/Tracy Carr, Mississippi DOT
  - Contract support perspective – Michael Molina, Oklahoma Transportation Library
- Topic 2. Showing the Value of Transportation Libraries – How does your library
  - Support data-driven decision making – Karen Neinstadt/Heather Biedermann, Minnesota DOT and Rachel Cole, Northwestern University Transportation Library
  - Assist with knowledge management, retaining institutional knowledge – Lamara Williams-Jones, North Carolina DOT and Amy Boggess, New Mexico DOT
  - Demonstrate the importance of literature reviews and/or Return on Investment (ROI) – John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT and Anders Johnson, Montana DOT
  - Accelerate project research – Robin Survis, Missouri DOT and Amanda Carter, Oregon DOT
  - Assist in meeting federal compliance requirements (Accessibility/Section 508, etc.) – Casey Walker, Idaho TD and Michael Molina, Oklahoma Transportation Library
  - Comply with data management requirements – Thad Bauer, South Dakota DOT and Amanda Wiesenhofer, Illinois DOT
  - Records management vs. library services. How do they interact? – Laurel Harrison, Nevada DOT and Matthew Colvin, Caltrans

Peer Meeting Agenda Continued

- Tour of Oregon DOT Library
- Solo Librarian Organizations – How to make it work
  - Amy Boggess, New Mexico DOT
  - Amanda Carter, Oregon DOT
  - Anders Johnson, Montana DOT
- Roundtable – Lighting Chats
  - Collection development – Karen Neinstadt/Heather Biedermann, Minnesota DOT
  - Literature searches – Matthew Colvin, Caltrans
  - AI use in libraries – Rachel Cole, Northwestern University Transportation Library
  - Managing a department archive or history collection – Amanda Carter, Oregon DOT
  - Relationship with state library and how it manifests at different states – Amy Boggess, New Mexico DOT



Opportunities for Future Iteration of the Pooled Fund

- Group Discussion Questions
  - Do members want another pooled fund and would their agency support it?
  - If Oklahoma DOT is unable to host, is there another state willing to be the lead?
  - What objectives should remain?
    - Digitization
    - Section 508
    - Synthesis Reports
    - LibGuides
    - Peer Exchange/Annual Meeting
  - What objectives should be new?

Still time to join!

- https://pooledfund.org/Details/Study/666
- Study does not end until September 30, 2027
- Contact Michael Molina (mmolina@ou.edu) or Gary Hook (ghook@odot.org) for more information