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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION LIBRARY

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MORE INFORMATION

For background on the importance of a knowledge network for transportation:
Transportation Information Resource Management: Articles and Reports,
Mn/DOT Library,
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/library/access.html>

2002 Midwest Conference on Library and Information Resources for
Transportation, Midwest Regional University Transportation Center,
<http://www.mrutc.org/outreach/libraryinfo/index.htm>

Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network
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THE CHALLENGE

Professional engineers, planners and administrators face incredible challenges in trying to meet the country's current and future need for safe, reliable transportation.

Fortunately, research and innovation are a hallmark of transportation in the United States - thanks to the leadership of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, the U.S. Department of Transportation, public and private universities, and individual state DOTs. Through their efforts, a continuous stream of new time-and-money-saving technologies is flowing to transportation practitioners.

However...all of this innovation and new information is a challenge in itself. How does the transportation community connect potential users to the new knowledge?

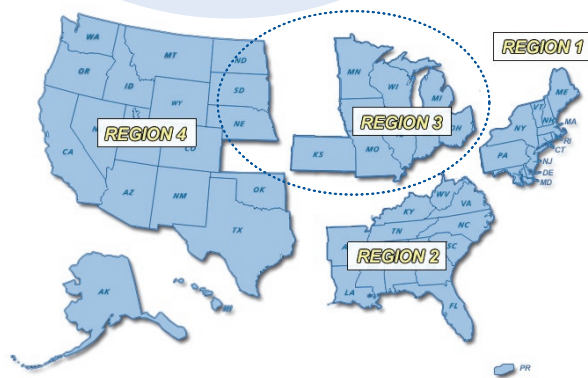
OUR MISSION

Increase collaboration among the region's transportation libraries and information centers so managers, engineers and planners are better able to find and apply the most recent, credible, validated technical information to their current projects.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

THE MIDWEST TAKES THE LEAD

The MTKN was founded in December 2001, through the efforts of the National Transportation Library, Midwest transportation libraries – both at state DOTs and universities – and numerous concerned professionals in the region.



The nine states comprising Region 3 of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (plus South Dakota and Nebraska) are the starting point for what must become a **national network**. These states are building and maintaining strong transportation collections, including the services of full-time transportation librarians who are dedicated to serving state DOT practitioners.

Unlike the comparable medical and agricultural sectors of our economy, transportation does not yet make significant investments in a coordinated national network of libraries and information centers to speed new research into the hands of those responsible for planning, designing, building and operating our multi-modal transportation system. Here's why we have our work cut out for us.

INVESTMENT COMPARISONS

TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURE, MEDICINE

	NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION LIBRARY	NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY	NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
FY 2001 FUNDING	\$1.8 Million	\$20 Million ¹	\$57 Million ²
INDUSTRY GDP 2001 ³	\$306.7 billion	\$140.7 billion	\$589.8 billion ⁴
NATIONAL LIBRARY INVESTMENT AS A % OF INDUSTRY GDP	0.001%	0.014%	0.010%

¹ Report on the National Agricultural Library – 2001, <http://www.nal.usda.gov/assessment/AL.html>

² National Library of Medicine's budget for library operations; excludes NIH Library budget of \$9.5 million. See <http://www.nal.usda.gov/assessment/AH.html>

³ Gross Domestic Product by Industry in billions of current dollars, 2001. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/dn2/gpoc.htm#1994-2001>

⁴ For Health Services industry; does not include pharmaceutical or other health product manufacturing

HOW WE HELP PRACTITIONERS

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Here are just a few ways in which the MTKN benefits transportation professionals throughout the Midwest – and why a national transportation knowledge network will be of value to every state in the nation.

MULTIPLICATION OF COST SAVINGS

MTKN member libraries can find needed transportation information faster, more completely and at lower costs than can practitioners themselves. One state DOT library estimates that its services contribute \$8.3 million annually to the department in reduced costs and added value.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGY

Federal and state agencies invest hundreds of millions of dollars annually in research to fuel innovation. Helping practitioners access these new technologies more effectively will speed implementation, avoid lost opportunities and reduce duplication of already proven approaches.

POOLING OF INDEXED MATERIALS

One of MTKN's major initiatives is creation of an online "union catalog" of transportation materials in the Midwest region in cooperation with the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). This will make finding pertinent reports and documented research much quicker and more efficient.

SHARED RESOURCES BRING EFFICIENCIES

MTKN members will share specialized items in their collections through rapid, low-cost inter-library loans and share expertise related to the rapidly expanding science of capturing, indexing and disseminating information in printed and electronic formats.

EXPERT SEARCHING AND INSTRUCTION

The vast majority of publications on the Internet are contained within the "deep web" – the quality resources contained in library catalogs and publisher databases that are not accessible via general Internet search tools. For example, 65% of recent reports abstracted in TRB's TRIS Online database are not available on the Internet. Transportation librarians are information experts who can navigate the "deep web" to find these reports and also show interested practitioners how to go beyond general search engines.