

Midwestern Transportation Library Consortium

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Background

- Special Libraries Association
 - Discussions back to 1970's
 - Other results: TRIS, serials group
- National Transportation Library (NTL) creation
 - Head librarian appointment
- Elements in place

Pilot Project Development

- MIN DOT meeting, December 2001
- State DOT Libraries: IA, IL, IN*, KS*, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH* and SD
- UMTRI, Northwestern, NTL and OCLC
- Discussed:
 - Why a consortium?
 - Financial support by NTL
 - Goals of pilot project
 - OCLC presentation

Consortium Pilot Project - Goals

- Provide more/better access to transportation information
- Develop a union catalog (ability to search 11 transportation library catalogs at once)
- Narrow the searching field to local/regional transportation community

Consortium Pilot Project - Goals

- Pool resources to develop regional:
 - Interlibrary loan (ILL) agreements
 - Joint reference programs
 - Collection development programs
 - Joint acquisitions programs
 - Training
- Resulting in cost savings and additional services

What is a Union Catalog?

- Electronic gathering of library catalogs
- One stop search of 11 libraries (650K records)
- Enable search of local & regional library collections first and then move country-wide
- Enable quick ILL request
- Goal = Icon on library web page

Requirements for Union Catalog

- System to hold it: OCLC
- Library must belong to OCLC
- Add library catalogs into OCLC
 - Current members
 - New members: New catalogs
 - New members: New records
- Goal = Critical mass (600K books, reports, magazines, videos, etc.)

Ultimate Goals

- Develop a Midwestern library consortium
- Develop best practices on how to organize a transportation library consortium
- Apply best practices to develop a national transportation library consortium within next five years

NTL Commitment

- Hope to fund libraries for 2-3 years to:
 - Join OCLC
 - Add catalogs into OCLC
 - Catalog new items into OCLC
 - Fund travel to meetings
 - My salary
- Committing funds and staff to develop a National Transportation Library Consortium

Current Conditions

- Regaining momentum
- Consortium facilitator since May, 2002
- NTL
 - Working with OCLC to finalize contract to develop union catalog
 - Developing funding model
- Visiting libraries – collections review
 - Developing plan to add collections into union catalog
 - Updating stake-holders, gaining support
- OCLC union catalog function delayed

Questions?