

An Information Network . . .

By networking with libraries and other information providers throughout the state, region, nation and world, we extend our reach and WSDOT's access to resources through cooperative and collaborative resource sharing:

Locally: As a Washington State Library (WSL) branch and member of Cooperating Libraries in Olympia (CLIO) consortium our collections are part of the WSL online catalog. We also make sure WSDOT publications are part of the WSL's State Publications Depository program.

Regionally: As a member of the Western Transportation Knowledge Network (WTKN) we work with 14 other member organizations including university transportation research centers, western state DOTs and private sector transportation information providers to organize and share resources and expertise.

Inter-regionally: We are partnering with the Eastern and Midwestern TKNs to cultivate enhanced resource sharing as a foundation for a National Transportation Knowledge Network.

Nationally: We are members in the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee TKN Task Force and the Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund project, working with the National Transportation Library to develop a national TKN.

Globally: We are a member of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) which facilitates worldwide borrowing and lending capabilities.

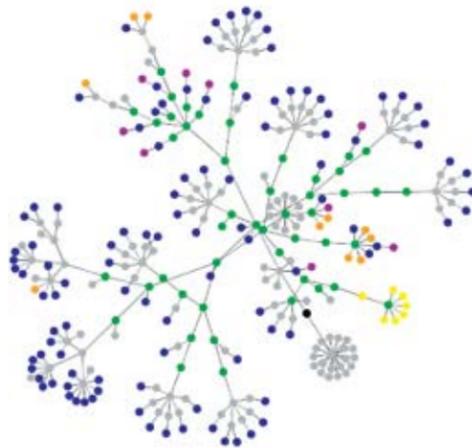
What is a Knowledge Network?

"A Knowledge Network is a voluntary alliance of organizations and people, supported by technology, with a common goal to provide and share rich, quality information and expertise."

[American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Research Advisory Committee, Transportation Knowledge Network Task Force, October 2008]

Historically the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Library has been very involved in developing transportation library networks and improving access to transportation information. Today the WSDOT Library continues to have a leadership role in the transportation library community. It is involved in transportation networking activities -- being an active member of Western Transportation Knowledge Network and the Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Project.

—Barbara Post
Manager of Information Services
Transportation Research Board



Map of the WSDOT Library website.
Credit: www.aharef.info/static/htmlgraph/

"A well run library is the silent partner in a well run Transportation Organization, people will use it extensively, as they do at Ferries, because they can find what they are looking for and be confident that the data is accurate."

—Vince Crane
Marine Engineer
WSDOT Ferries Division

Where we are . . .

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Library plays a vital role in providing information to agency staff, WSDOT consultants, legislators and the public. It is a branch of the Washington State Library. There are four physical library locations at WSDOT serving specialized interests:

- Transportation Building with a collection covering a broad range of multimodal, multidisciplinary transportation information needs.
- Materials Laboratory Library with a collection focusing on construction materials, geotechnical, and pavement engineering.
- Vessel Engineering with a collection of vessel engineering information resources and drawings.
- Terminal Engineering with a collection of marine and terminal information resources, as well as engineering drawings and plans.

WSDOT Library websites

Internet:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Library>

Intranet:
<http://wwwi.wsdot.wa.gov/Library/>

Convenient gateways to all manner of transportation (and related) information. Whether you are inside or outside of WSDOT, you'll find the websites are designed and organized to save you time and enable you to access information directly, or easily contact us for assistance as needed.

For more information contact:

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PO Box 47425
Olympia, WA 98504-7425
360-705-7750
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WSDOT Library



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The WSDOT Library identifies, locates and obtains information and source materials to support the practices, processes and policies of the Department's employees and contractors statewide.

"I always know that I can count on the WSDOT Library team for everything from a national literature search to 'that folio from a few years back . . .' All I have to do is ask."

—Steve Reinmuth
WSDOT Chief of Staff

"A huge amount of research has been done or is underway around the world on some of the same issues WSDOT is wrestling with. The WSDOT Library helps us learn from the experiences of others through literature searches. This saves Urban Planning Office staff time, and because library staff know where to look, turns up information we would miss. It's hard to put a value on that, but it's clear that information now available through the WSDOT Library represents hundreds of millions of dollars worth of research that we can access at virtually no cost. What a deal! It sure beats re-inventing the wheel every time we run into a problem."

—Charles Prestrud
Systems Planning Manager
WSDOT Urban Planning Office

"The WSDOT Library has performed excellent work in researching valuable information in the area of project cost estimating. The contributions of the Library in researching, and acquiring materials, has helped us to support our project offices . . . we are able to stay current on new thinking in these important areas of project development and delivery as well as continue to strengthen our knowledge in the fundamentals . . . All of this helps us to deliver projects on time and on budget and improves our project management skills."

—Mark Gabel, MSCE, P.E.
Unit Leader
WSDOT Cost Risk Estimating
Management

We deliver quality information so you can achieve excellence

“To ask why we need libraries at all, when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads.”

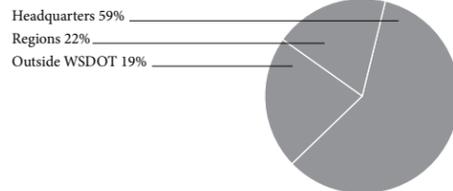
**—Jon Bing,
Professor of Information Technology Law,
University of Oslo, Norway**

In the age of Google some people might think libraries are a thing of the past, but that’s not how we see it at WSDOT, where the professional expertise of our librarians is a great asset to the Department.

Major search engines index, at most, 20% of the Internet’s content, leaving a vast quantity of online information unreachable by most searchers.* And users are frequently frustrated that what they’ve found isn’t exactly what they need. That’s where librarians can help. Using their training and developed resources, they can quickly locate relevant information to better meet users’ needs.

[*Ratzan, Lee. *Mining the Deep Web: Search Strategies that Work*, Computerworld, December 11, 2006.]

2008 WSDOT Library Usage



The WSDOT Library serves all employees in the agency. While a majority of library use comes from Headquarters (including the Washington State Ferries Division), a sizeable number of requests come from the regional offices, and from outside the agency. Questions from outside of the agency come from other state agencies, local government agencies, the general public, and from outside Washington.

“The WSDOT Library has been able to assist us by quickly finding everything from the most up-to-date hazard information to obscure journal articles dating back several decades. Their expertise in finding and delivering needed information is invaluable and helps me be much more effective in providing a safe and healthful work environment for our colleagues at WSDOT.”

**—Corey Lane, CIH
WSDOT Industrial Hygiene Program
Manager**

How we help . . .

Reference: Quick facts and rapid response

WSDOT’s information professionals track down answers to every kind of question, locate statistics, check facts and deliver reliable information from credible sources. We use a variety of tools to provide the best information: online databases of full-text articles, books, historical sources, government publications, and Internet resources.

Literature searches

Literature searches help delineate the current state of the practice and emerging trends. These subject-specific, in-depth reviews of current and historical published research, as well as research in progress, allow WSDOT planners and researchers to move ahead by learning from the research of others instead of duplicating it. Additionally, literature searches help shape WSDOT’s response to emerging issues affecting all aspects of transportation.

“The WSDOT Library’s literature search services provide a valuable tool that is used in the research I conduct on pavements and pavement related topics. The various search engines they use always turn up all of the important literature on any topic . . .”

**—Keith W. Anderson,
Experimental Features Engineer,
Pavement Design Section,
State Materials Laboratory**

Specialized service

At the WSDOT Library we work with our users to create information packages to meet their specific needs. E-mail news alerts updated and sent out weekly on current topics include *HOT lanes/Congestion pricing and Public-private partnerships*. “Toolkits” provide helpful information on subjects including the state’s “Plain Talk” initiative and Climate Change. The *Reauthorization Clearinghouse* is a website with information related to the upcoming renewal of the federal Transportation Act. These custom services inform WSDOT staff, legislators, state and local government stakeholders and the public.

Resource sharing

The WSDOT Library actively participates in the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) interlibrary borrowing and lending program. Whether it’s a technical report from a transportation library in Kansas, or a book from Australia, by networking with other libraries around the globe, we can quickly obtain and deliver to our users the information they need.

“Interlibrary loans ROCK! I have access to the information I need through our library even if it’s not on our shelf.”

**—Jim Cuthbertson,
WSDOT Chief Foundations Engineer,
Engineering & Environmental Programs,
Geotechnical Division**

Library collections

Our specialized materials are multi-modal, multi-disciplinary and multi-media, and reflect the breadth of transportation-related inquiries from all those we serve: WSDOT staff, contractors, other branches of government and the public.

- 40,000+ items in physical collection
- 80+ full-text online journals
- Standards, manuals and texts in print and online
- Staff development materials
 - Engineering exam preparation
 - Management, leadership, teambuilding
 - Computer program handbooks
- WSDOT reports and publications
- Research reports from around the country
- Historical resources
- Safety videos
- Online bibliographic databases/e-resources
 - CivilEngineeringNetBase
 - LexisNexis
 - BioOne
 - And more . . .

WSDOT Libraries provide numerous online information sources, including those from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Some are free Internet sites; others are licensed by WSDOT for staff. A few licensed resources are available only to Library staff and are accessed by request.

Safety

Huge amounts of snow and intense weather patterns during the winter of 2007-08 posed extreme challenges for WSDOT crews trying to keep the mountain passes open for safe passage of motorists and freight. Conditions for avalanche control were extremely hazardous, and the crews needed all the information they could get to create safe working conditions. Late one morning the WSDOT Library received a call from a staff member in a field office near Snoqualmie Pass. She needed maps of the area showing where avalanches had occurred historically (both natural and human-caused), including local place names. The information was needed that afternoon. Within the hour we sent our WSDOT co-worker an electronic copy of the appropriate avalanche atlas from the Library’s collection.



Mobility

“Perhaps I’ve become a little too well known in our WSDOT Library for asking them to research many difficult, obscure, or state of the art issues in transportation. From requests about world wide practices in shoulder driving to ramp meter algorithms, temporary ramp closures, ramp tolling, microsimulation of HOT lanes, details about the completion of Washington’s portion of the interstate system, automatic vehicle counting and classification using video cameras - you name it, I have asked lots of questions and I’m sure I’ll have more in the future. The result of having asked the Library for help on those aforementioned issues is that they have always quickly found, sorted through, and summarized their research so that I was quickly able to see what the rest of the world was doing and what possibilities existed for our department. There’s no way I would have had the time or connections to have done this research myself so I very much appreciate what the library has done for me and how much time they have saved. The Library is very good at what they do and it makes perfect sense that we have them available for efficient on-call research. “

**—Doug McClanahan, Engineer
WSDOT Traffic Operations**

Examples of how we search out and deliver the critical information needed to achieve the state’s transportation goals for safety, mobility, environmental, preservation and stewardship efforts

Environmental

“How do you get plants to grow on a lakeshore where the water level drops a foot a day in the summer for irrigation purposes? First you do a literature search to see what others have done. Then you decide to put in test plots to investigate the most cost-effective way to get plants established.

Once you identify the plant species to use, you need another literature search to find out all you can about those species. The WSDOT Library has done both for us. This is one of the many challenges we face on the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project. I’m sure that the library’s assistance on this project is far from over. They are an important part of our problem-solving team, even if they never make it onto the site. “



**—Susan Buis
State Horticulturist, WSDOT**

Preservation

Standards and specifications play an important role at WSDOT, especially when it comes to design and construction. One of these many standards is AASHTO M 203M/M 203, *Standard Specification for Steel Strand, Uncoated Seven-Wire for Concrete Reinforcement*, readily available to WSDOT personnel at their desktops through an online database. This particular specification includes a reference to an article published in a 1999 *PCI Journal* that

provides “Guidance for evaluating the degree of rusting on prestressed concrete strand.” WSDOT’s Assistant Bridge Construction Engineer determined that his Fabrication Inspectors needed this article, especially the images from it, for guidance during a recent project. While locating a copy of the article was easy, identifying a lender with the original issue, including quality photos, took some work. Within a few days, however, we obtained a high quality color scan at no cost to the department due to reciprocal borrowing agreements that we have with many of our international library network partners, in this case a transportation library in the private sector. The electronic file has been provided to the Fabrication Inspectors at our precast plants, and it is the tool they now use to evaluate the acceptability of prestressing strand with corrosion.

Stewardship

“We were recently doing work on a bridge at the intersection of I-90 and SR-18. The Contractor was in the process of excavating around one of the bridge abutments. What the Contractor and the WSDOT Inspector found during excavation was a horizontal concrete beam that appeared to be supported by a series of vertical elements. They couldn’t determine what the vertical elements were, and they were unsure how to proceed with the construction. This structure was built in the 1950’s or 1960’s, and all of the abutment details were referenced to the Standard Plans from that time. I was able to locate the correct set of Standard Plans in the WSDOT library. Based on these plans, I determined that this was a “spill-through” abutment. This gave me the information I needed to provide direction on how to proceed with the construction. With the Library’s assistance, this issue was quickly resolved with virtually no delay to the construction.”

—Mark Gaines

WSDOT Assistant State Bridge Engineer

