“How To” Monitor Research and Results
A white paper developed for AASHTO committees to provide guidance on research-related activities.

As a part of developing and maintaining a committee research strategic plan, understanding research gaps, and identifying research needs, AASHTO committees need to stay up-to-date on active and recently published research. While TRB is the largest source of information, there are other sources to keep you informed. As each of the following resources has a unique focus, try using as many as possible, as appropriate, when developing a strategic plan or developing research project scope to ensure all relevant information is considered, preventing unnecessary duplication and optimizing future research.

1. TRB Online Resources: Two excellent resources can keep you informed:

- **TRB Transportation Research E-Newsletter**: The Transportation Research E-Newsletter is a free weekly electronic service highlighting recent research publications. You can update your interests at any time to deliver only the most relevant information.
- **TRB Library Snap Searches**: Snap Searches are designed for the busy researcher or professional who would like to quickly get up to speed on complex research topics. They provide a succinct summary of activities in TRB on a given topic including: upcoming events such as conferences and webinars, names of committees working on relevant issues, and a list of recent reports.

**Literature Searches**: For more detailed information on a specific topic, a literature search may be needed. The process of completing a literature search may be best executed by a professional librarian, but this resource provides directions the professionals follow: Literature Searches and Literature Reviews for Transportation Research Projects, including defining the topic, choosing resources to search, choosing search terms and strategy, and organizing the results. For more assistance, contact your agency’s librarian or TRB staff. These are the key resources to search:

2. Ongoing Research

- **RIP**: TRB’s Research in Progress (RIP) Database contains current and recently completed research projects from the state departments of transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, University Transportation Centers, TRB, and international organizations. RSS feeds can be set up to push information out to you on specific searches when new information is added. Ask your librarian or IT staff about setting up RSS feeds with your mail system. Every night, RIP is copied into another database called TRID, so you can search both by searching TRID (see below).
- **Websites**: Individual websites may also be searched, including those of state DOTs, universities, and other organizations. State DOT research and development websites can be accessed via the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) to the AASHTO Special Committee on Research and Innovation website.

3. Completed Research

- **TRID**: [Transportation Research International Documentation]: TRID contains records in the field of transportation research covering all modes and disciplines, making it the largest resource covering published transportation research. TRID contains links to full text documents and ordering information. RSS feeds can be set up to push information out to you on specific searches when new information is added. Ask your librarian or IT staff about setting up RSS feeds with your mail system.
- **NTL**: The National Transportation Library (NTL) provides an integrated search tool called ROSA P (Repository and Open Science Access Portal) to search TRID Online, NTL catalog, NTL Digital Repository, and other websites either individually or collectively. The NTL offers other resources for transportation information on the home page.
- **Internet Search Engines**: Google and many others cover all subjects, are free, retrieve many results, but provide no quality control. Using a search engine like Google Scholar can increase

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the quality of results as it specifically searches scholarly literature and academic resources.

- **Subscribed Databases:** Your state university or employer may subscribe to several databases that could be of assistance. They provide a level of quality control to their content and cover information in a specific area. Ask a librarian for help. The largest database of library collections in the world is [WorldCat](https://www.worldcat.org).

- **AASHTO RAC Survey Results:** The AASHTO RAC maintains an online database of surveys detailing the state of the practice within a full range of transportation business areas.

**You Can Always Ask a Librarian:** Start with your agency’s librarian. If your agency does not have one, consider contacting the [TRB Library](https://library.trb.org) or a university library.

The complete set of “How To” documents include the following:

- Committee Approach to Research
- Writing a Strategic Plan
- Writing a Problem Statement
- Funding Resources
- Experimental Features
- Sharing Results
- Implementing Results
- Determining the Value of Research
- Monitoring Results