

# NTKN's Commitment to Our Transportation Knowledge Infrastructure

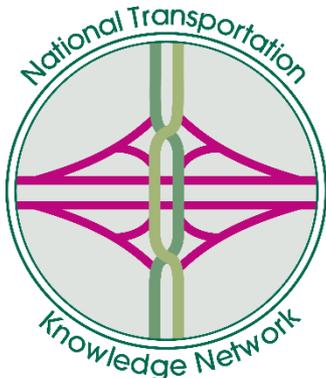
2020 AASHTO National RAC/TRB State Reps Meeting  
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Bob Sweet

NTKN Secretariat

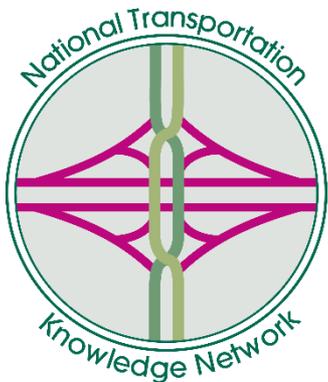
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<https://transportation.libguides.com/NTKN>



# What Is NTKN?

The National Transportation Knowledge Network (NTKN) is a voluntary alliance of transportation organizations, which supports a network of transportation information professionals, who collaborate to expand, improve access to, and preserve the domain of transportation knowledge. The purpose of NTKN is to coordinate with transportation research centers, transportation libraries, information providers, and technical assistance centers to develop a comprehensive transportation information and knowledge network that supports the activities of its members.



# NTL's Legislative Mandate

49 U.S.C. 6304(a)(8), Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, 2012

To support the information management and decisionmaking needs of transportation officials at the Federal, State, and local levels, there is established in the Bureau a National Transportation Library which shall— coordinate efforts among, and cooperate with, transportation libraries, information providers, and technical assistance centers, in conjunction with private industry and other transportation library and information centers, with the goal of developing a comprehensive transportation information and knowledge network that supports the activities described in section 6302(b)(3)(B)(vi).



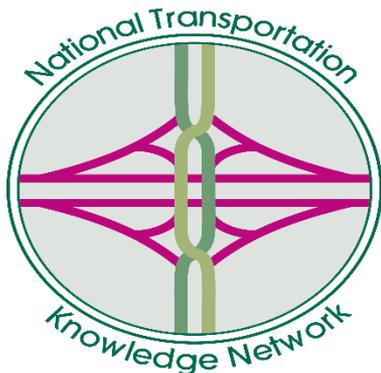
# NTKN History

Minneapolis 2001

Midwest Transportation Library Consortium

Three regional TKNs

A new centralized structure



*Transportation Knowledge Networks: A Management Strategy for the 21st Century.* TRB SR 284

*Transportation Knowledge Networks 10 Years after TRB Special Report 284.* AASHTO white paper

*Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks.* NCHRP 643

# What is a Knowledge Network?

A knowledge network is an ecosystem of information and knowledge professionals, the organizations that they serve, and the knowledge assets for which they are responsible. These professionals are motivated by a commitment to generate, disseminate, and share knowledge within a particular domain. The nodes on the network are spatially and geographically distributed and could be individuals, libraries, research departments, entire organizations, or web-based tools and resources. Connections among the network nodes can be social, formal, or technological. The term can be extended to include concepts, semantic relationships, data tables, and other machine-readable knowledge assets or components. Goals of a knowledge network include coordination of resources and efforts; teaching and learning; developing knowledge assets; innovating methods, tools, and services; adapting knowledge assets for local use; and supporting individual members.



# Transportation Knowledge Infrastructure

## Literature

- books
- journals
- reports
- conference proceedings

## Other information formats

- maps
- photos
- videos
- datasets

## Cataloging systems

- OCLC
- metadata standards
- LC
- Dewey

## Discovery tools

- TRID
- Scopus
- IEEE
- ASCE



# Transportation Knowledge Infrastructure

## Storage

- libraries
- digital repositories

## Access and dissemination

- ILL
- document delivery
- commercial publishing
- Science.gov

## Information/knowledge professionals

- librarians
- knowledge managers
- authors

## Professional associations

- Special Libraries Association
- TRB
- AASHTO

## Informal or social networks



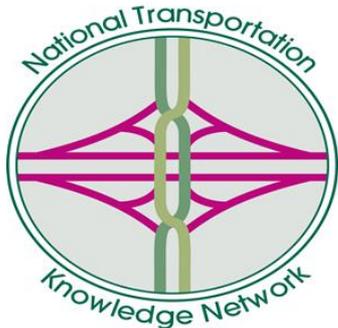
# Transportation Knowledge Infrastructure

What grade does it deserve?

How can we improve the grade?

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1. Recognize the essential nature of this work.
2. Commit to hiring knowledge and information professionals to carry out the work
3. Transform, don't close, libraries.



# The Role of Libraries and Librarians

## Old view

1. Large spaces
2. Financial capital outlay to own materials
3. Intellectual capital assets belong to authors or content creators

## New view

1. Access has overtaken ownership.
2. Intellectual capital assets belong to information professionals

Without full-time knowledge and information professionals to do this work, intellectual capital assets are squandered.



# Transportation Librarians Roundtable

<https://transportation.libguides.com/TLR>



# Join us!

Help us build the transportation knowledge infrastructure  
<https://transportation.libguides.com/NTKN>.

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