

Research at a Glance

# Technical Brief



## Research Library Operations – Calendar Year 2017

The New Jersey Department of Transportation Research Library completed its 20<sup>th</sup> year of operation since its reopening in February 1998 and, since its reestablishment, has been funded annually by NJDOT as a research project with State Planning & Research (SPR) funding. This report for Calendar Year 2017 updates the most recent report for Calendar Year 2016, and provides a snapshot of the Library's activities.

### Principal Investigator

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### Research Problem Statement

Since 1998, the NJDOT Research Library has operated as a branch of the New Jersey State Library (affiliated with Thomas Edison State University) to provide onsite library services to NJDOT, to support the research and technical work of the Department and its affiliated agencies, and to provide stewardship of the Research Bureau's collection of technical reports and other materials.

### Research Objectives

The main objectives of this research project were to operate and improve the Research Library as a major resource for transportation knowledge sharing and technology transfer. By partnering with NJDOT staff and Department units whenever possible, and with other transportation libraries and entities, Library staff sought to provide support to the organization and the industry, to assist people in their professional endeavors, and to fill gaps in the body of knowledge within the Department and externally.



## Research Project Manager

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### Methodology

Two professional librarians used library and information science practices to manage operation of the NJDOT Research Library and to provide knowledge services to NJDOT staff and external customers.

### Results

This report examines calendar year 2017, with a look back for comparative purposes at calendar year 2016. The number of requests received remained relatively stable with a slight increase in requests from out-of-state constituents. The vast majority of 2017 requests, 87 percent, came from NJDOT requestors.

Based on a majority of requests received, whether in-person or by telephone or email, face-to-face remained the most popular method of contact. Additionally, as in 2016, a majority of the NJDOT requests came from Department staff working in the same building as the Research Library.

In collaboration with other units within the Department, Library staff undertook the following:

- Met with staff from the Commissioner's Office and Communications regarding digitization of photographs.
- Worked with Bureau of Materials staff to have the Department subscribe to AASHTO publications electronically via the ASTM platform.
- Coordinated with Administration and Capital Program Management to subscribe to the AASHTO Transportation Coordination Curriculum Council (TC3) online training for use by Department staff.



This brief summarizes FHWA-NJ-2018-007, "Research Library Operations – Calendar Year 2017," produced through the New Jersey Department of Transportation Bureau of Research, 1035 Parkway Avenue, P.O. Box 600, Ewing, NJ 08625 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.