

Research at a Glance

Technical Brief



Research Library Operations (2018-2019)

The New Jersey Department of Transportation Research Library completed its 21th 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 covering July 2018 through June 2019 updates the most recent accomplishments and provides a snapshot of the Library's activities.

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.

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Methodology

Professional librarians at NJDOT used library and information science practices to manage the operations of the NJDOT Research Library and to provide knowledge services to NJDOT staff and external customers.

Results

This report examines research library operations from July 2018 through June 2019. The number of requests received remained relatively stable. The vast majority of requests came from NJDOT requestors.

Because the library was in the process of moving to a new location for much of the last quarter of calendar year 2018, usage by NJDOT requestors dipped significantly during the time. Requests during November and December of 2018 averaged less than 50% of those in the previous 10 months.

Requests via email were the most common, followed by in person requests. Requests by phone were significantly fewer than the other two methods of inquiry.

Highlights of the accomplishments include:

- Providing technology transfer along with knowledge and resource sharing among NJDOT staff and other external customers.
- Promoting staff career development by obtaining and lending civil service career examination study materials and professional certification exam study materials.
- Continuing to promote and provide access to AASHTO Transportation Coordination Curriculum Council (TC3) online training for use by Department staff.



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