

Welcome! New Librarian

By: Ken Chambers

Mitch Ison has worked as a professional librarian since 2000. Before coming to the NDOT Research Library, he worked at the Sacramento Public Library, the El Dorado County, California Library and, most recently, the Nevada State Library, where he worked as a reference librarian for over nine years. Mitch holds a Masters degree in Library Science from Indiana University.

Although transportation is a new discipline for him, Mitch is looking forward to learning and making his own mark on the Research Library, and eventually making it a leader in the field. Currently his main focus is the dual challenge of finishing the process of full cataloging of the entire 20,000 item collection, along with boosting the library's web presence by making online tools more readily available to stakeholders of all kinds. He's also looking forward to growing and updating the collection.



Mitch Ison

Mitch is looking forward to helping meet the information needs of NDOT employees through requests for information and materials. If you need help please email him or call him at mison@dot.state.nv.us or 775-888-7895.

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Mitch Ison in his own words!

When did you start working at NDOT?

April 1, 2013.

Tell us about your background. What are some of the jobs or positions you held before working in Research?

I have been working in libraries for almost twenty years. I received my master's degree in library science (MLS) in 1999 from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. I've been working as a professional reference librarian since 2000. My first position was at the Sacramento Public Library. I later moved to the El Dorado County, California Library. More recently I worked at the Nevada State Library from 2004 to 2013, when I started at NDOT.

Tell us about your life or your interests outside of work.

I'm an avid mountain biker (and frequent mountain bike crasher, but I don't let that stop me). I'm also into road biking. I like hiking, especially backpacking. I try to do at least one backpack trip each summer. Last year, I went on an incredible week long, 50 mile trip in southern Yosemite. I'm also into digital photography and reading science fiction.

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What surprised you the most about the Research Library?

I shouldn't have been, but I was pleasantly surprised to see just how much the department supports its library. In a time when so many government agencies are failing to see the value of their libraries it was gratifying to see that NDOT does see the value (including overall cost savings) of providing access to quality information services for its employees.

Describe your day to day duties.

I've been very busy with a large project to get all the books and other materials in the collection entered into our online catalog and labeled with Library of Congress catalog system call numbers for easy retrieval. This takes up a great deal of my time. I'm also busy answering requests from NDOT staff, including answering questions, research, and locating items for loan from other libraries (interlibrary loan).

What is the one thing you wish everyone knew about the Research Library?

I want NDOT staff to know that the library isn't just a bunch of bookshelves collecting dust. The library is an active and modern resource available to them to assist with their research needs. The Research library offers an increasing access to electronic materials available on their desktops, such as the ASCE Journal Collection, the ASTM Standards Database, and the Lynda.com Online Training Library, along with access to interlibrary loan materials from a unique network of dedicated transportation libraries across the country.

What is the biggest change you would like to see implemented?

The world of information is evolving at lightning speed, and researchers rightly expect to access library materials on their desktops. Subscriptions to ASCE Journals, ASTM Standards and Lynda.com are the first steps in supplying access to the very best online content available. I want to continue to expand access to electronic resources through additional online journal subscriptions and ebooks. I also plan to add content to our website and intranet page to allow increased access to the wealth of quality information available for free on the internet. (But have no fear, paper books and reports will still be available!)

The Nevada DOT library contains nearly 20 thousand volumes covering the entire range of transportation related subjects. The majority of the print collection includes materials from TRB, AASHTO and FHWA. Other important materials include NDOT reports and engineering exam study manuals. The collection can be searched via the library's online catalog which features both basic and expert interfaces, along with current library news and links to free online resources. And of course the librarian is always happy to assist via telephone, email or in person. The catalog can be accessed from the library's webpage and SharePoint site, or directly at: <http://207.67.203.78/N94025Staff/OPAC/Index.asp>

In addition, the library provides access to over 75 magazines and journals including online access to the ASCE Journal Collection; a full list of titles that can be found in the Library News section of the online catalog. In addition to the ASCE Journals, database access includes the ASTM International Standards database, an industry leader in the development of standards worldwide, and the Lynda.com Online Training Library. Lynda logins are checked out for a 14 day period and may be renewed. Please contact the library for a login.

Nevada LTAP
By: Jim Nichols

Many local agencies in states are required to take on the responsibility for administering construction of roadway projects in rural area having populations less than 50,000 and projects costing \$2 million or less. Although Nevada has what is considered to be an urban population, it is because the population is centered in two urban areas, Las Vegas and Reno. The truth of the matter is that Nevada has vast sparsely populated areas with widely spaced infrastructure construction projects which nevertheless need monitoring and oversight. The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) has just published Research Digest 381 titled Guidebook for Construction Management Practices for Rural Projects.

Nevada LTAP continued.....

The LTAP (T²) Center is developing a training course based on this NCHRP report but will be tailored to Nevada's situation. The course will present information on:

- Contract Administration • Cost Estimating • Inspection • Scheduling • Quality Assurance and Control
- Construction Safety • Claims and Disputes

The course will be targeted to project managers and senior field personnel of local and regional transportation agencies who have not been exposed to construction management but will begin having responsibilities for implementing and administering roadway construction projects. The course is expected to be completed and ready for presentation in the fall of this year.

Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) has signed the contract to conduct the trainings for FFY 2013. For class notifications and newsletter updates, please contact the Nevada LTAP Center Team:

Program Director: **Jim Nichols** • Phone: (775) 829 – 9022 • Email: jnichols@tmcc.edu

Program Manager: **Mindy Gonzalez** • Phone: (775) 829 – 9046 • Email: mgonzalez@tmcc.edu.

NDOT Product Evaluation Product Evaluation Program By: Heather Manzo

NDOT was represented at the National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP) 2013 Annual Meeting April 21-24 in Pittsburg, PA. At this meeting, I was given the opportunity to meet other representatives from many states as well as the AASHTO staff who work with NTPEP. This was a valuable experience and it will be beneficial to have NDOT representatives at NTPEP each year. The NTPEP team has offered to host a NTPEP education session at NDOT Headquarters this August. Invitations will be sent out to a list of contacts in the near future.

If you are interested in learning more about what NTPEP has to offer, please let Heather know and she will add your name to the list. For more information about NTPEP please visit their site at <http://www.ntpep.org/>

The Arizona Department of Transportation hosted a Southwestern States Product Evaluation Program Peer Exchange panel May 7-10, 2013 in Phoenix, AZ. John Eiche represented NDOT at this meeting where DOT representatives from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah were also present. The representatives shared their ideas for products which could be reviewed on a collaborative basis among the southwestern states. The products NDOT brought forward for potential collaboration were Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) Walls, Bridge Deck Overlay Systems and Pavement Markings/Retroreflectivity.

There was a follow up meeting in late June where participants from the peer exchange met via teleconference. Mark your calendars! The next Product Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2013.

Library Corner By: Mitch Ison

Thanks!

As a new NDOT employee I just wanted to say thanks to all the great people I've met and worked with so far (especially Ken, Manju, Chris and Heather in Research!). Everyone has been so welcoming and supportive. I'm glad to see that NDOT values its library. I look forward to making the NDOT Research Library a leader in its field.

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Magazines and Journals - Stay Informed

Magazines and Journals (periodicals) are a vital source for current professional information. However, in a busy world, they are too often overlooked. Fortunately the library subscribes to over 70 periodical publications addressing a variety of transportation related topics. In addition, many journals are available on your desktop through the ASCE Online Library (<http://www.ascelibrary.org/>). Paper issues are available for loan and can be mailed to your location. A full list of titles can be found at:

<http://207.67.203.78/N94025Staff/OPAC/bulletinboard/bulletinBoard.asp>

Wow, check it out, new books!

The library is always trying to add to its collection. Some recent highlights include:

- *The Bridge Inspector's Manual* (on CD)
- *Civil Engineering Reference Manual for the PE Exam, 13th edition.*
- *Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures.*
- *The "Greenbook": Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, 2012 edition.*
- *Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design Guide: a Manual of Practice.*
- *Six Minute Solutions for the Civil PE Exam: Transportation Problems.*
- *Transportation Depth Reference Manual for the Civil PE Exam.*

Lynda.com Online Training Library – Sign up Today

Lynda.com is a fantastic resource for learning all types of software along with other fun things like photography and graphic design. Lynda is available to all NDOT employees. Take a look at available courses at: <http://www.lynda.com/allcourses>. Contact the Research Library to “checkout” your 14 day account. Logins are available on a first-come first-served basis and renewals are available as long as no one’s waiting. Please email requests to Mitch Ison: mison@dot.state.nv.us.

Database Update – ASTM Standards

ASTM develops international standards for materials, products, systems and services used in construction, manufacturing and transportation. ASTM DOT Web Portal can be accessed from any desktop on the NDOT network at: <http://nvdot.cyberregs.com/>.

If you have questions about the library or are in need of assistance, please contact Mitch Ison, Research Librarian at: mison@dot.state.nv.us / 888-7895.

Nevada Fun Fact

By: Chris Akinola

• The Stratosphere is the tallest free-standing observation tower in the U.S. and the tallest structure west of the Mississippi River.

• Nevada is the only state to possess a complete skeleton, approximately 55 feet long, of an Ichthyosaur. This extinct marine reptile is evidence of Nevada’s once underwater history. You can see other of these specimens at the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park located in Nye County, Nevada.



The NDOT Research Section administers the NDOT’s research, development and technology transfer program and serves as the “clearing-house” for product evaluations.

Research and Technology Review is published quarterly by the NDOT Research Section. Its purpose is to provide the latest information on the NDOT research activities including product information and other pertinent research topics.

If you have comments or need additional information regarding any of the topics discussed in this issue, please contact the Research Section. Edited by: Chris Akinola.

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