Intelligent Navigation of Transportation Information: Research Resources for Transportation Topics

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Abstract

The best decisions are based on the highest quality research and research literature. A key component of every research project is the literature review. In the myriad of journals, databases, and websites, how do we know we are getting the highest quality research reports to inform our own research decisions? And when we know the best tools, how do we use them efficiently and effectively? Iowa DOT Librarian Leighton Christiansen will discuss which tools are best when starting a transportation-related literature search. He will show tips for targeting a search, and tools, such as reference management software, for making bibliographies and resource citations nearly automatic. Further, he will discuss when and how to use general search engines more intelligently. Christiansen will also discuss what information is not on the open Internet--or even digital--and give tips on how to retrieve it. The presentation will end with a sample search, showing how to use the Transportation Research Thesaurus (TRT), the Transportation Research International Documentation (TRID) database, and reference management software efficiently and effectively.

Keywords: Information organization—Information services—Technology transfer—Research reports—Research projects

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