

TRB Begins Operation of New Information Service

As urban transit is reacting to federal cutbacks in funding for both capital projects and operations, the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has taken steps to expand the flow of information available to the hard-pressed transit operator and the urban planner. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) has been tooling up for its new UMTA-funded Urban Mass Transportation Research Information Service (UMTRIS), which began operations during the final quarter of 1981.

As have the other TRB transportation information services, UMTRIS is covering wide-ranging sources of transit information—technical reports, journal articles, statistical sources, and even some computer programs. Although the majority of its references are from U.S. sources, there are also many from other nations, most of which give transit higher priority than is the case here. All such citations are abstracted and indexed prior to storage in the TRB master file. Once stored, these citations are then the basis for UMTRIS publications, for its batch-mode literature searches and a current awareness service, as well as UMTRIS input for on-line users of the Dialog Information Retrieval Service. Like other TRB services, UMTRIS is available for searching in Dialog File 63.

From its newly assembled data base for the years 1974 to 1981 are coming approximately 8000 citations that will appear in the first UMTRIS publication, a Cumulative Index (with abstracts), which is planned for distribution this spring. The majority of the citations in this publication have been stored previously by TRB's Highway Research Information Service (HRIS) and Railroad Research Information Service (RRIS). There are, however, some additional references that are unique to the new UMTRIS publication.

As time goes on, the UMTRIS data base will be expanded for current coverage of a growing number of its own sources. Selections will increasingly be made with the transit operator and the planner specifically in mind. From these new sources and from those traditionally used by TRB will come the citations to be included in the planned semiannual Mass Transit Abstracts.

Research-in-progress summaries from U.S. and Canadian sources are also part of the UMTRIS data base.

These descriptions of research projects currently under way are indexed and classified in the same manner as the UMTRIS abstracts and may be retrieved in the same manner so that other investigators may know of such activities. Although the research-in-progress summaries will appear in Mass Transit Abstracts, they will be in a separate section, but arranged in the same succession of categories as the abstracts. Sources of this ongoing information will include UMTA, other government and public agencies (federal, state, and local), universities, research institutes, and some commercial organizations. Many of these are already supplying summaries of their activities to TRB.

In its planning, UMTRIS has developed a classification scheme so that users of its publications will find 28 sections, each containing abstracts relating to the same general topic. For instance, there will be a section of each regular UMTRIS publication entitled "Transportation of Special User Groups", which is UMTRIS Category 34, with citations relating to elderly and handicapped, accessibility, coordinated service, specialized demand-responsive services, travel barriers, and special vehicles. Examples of other categories are Bus and Paratransit Vehicle Technology (Category 11), Construction and Tunneling Technology (15), Safety and Product Quality (26), Conventional Transportation Services (31), and Transit Financing (43). The entire classification scheme is detailed in Figure 1.

The regular Mass Transit Abstracts also will contain summaries of ongoing research activities that, although published separately from the abstracts (but in the same volume), will be divided into the corresponding 28 categories to simplify their use.

It is planned that an input of about 2500 new UMTRIS citations will be available annually to transit administrators, engineers, economists, planners, and those involved in transit research. The coverage will include buses, trolley buses, rapid transit railways, light rail transit, traditional street cars, commuter rail, advanced guideway systems, paratransit, vanpools, ferries, and urban-area air services. There will be citations on vehicle design, operation, construction of subway and aerial structures, fare collection, productivity, safety,

Figure 1. UMTRIS classification scheme.

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| <p>TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY Major areas of transit research and development.</p> <p>11 BUS AND PARATRANSIT VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY Accessibility for Elderly and Handicapped, Alternative Fuels, Bus Design and Engineering, Life Cycle Procurement, Power Units, Propulsion Systems. . . .</p> <p>12 BUS AND PARATRANSIT OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY Automatic Vehicle Monitoring Systems, Computer Applications and Systems. . . .</p> <p>13 RAIL VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY Power Systems, Propulsion Systems, Track and Wayside Technology, Vehicle Design and Engineering. . . .</p> <p>14 RAIL OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY Automatic Train Control, Fare Collection, Noise Abatement, Rail Standardization. . . .</p> <p>15 CONSTRUCTION AND TUNNELING TECHNOLOGY Engineering, Ground Control, Muck Transport, Noise Abatement, Subway and Station Construction, Track and Wayside Construction, Tunnel Portals. . . .</p> <p>16 MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY Maintenance and Rehabilitation Technology for Vehicles, Facilities and Equipment. . . .</p> <p>17 NEW SYSTEMS AND AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY Accelerating Walkways, Advanced Group Rapid Transit Systems, Automated Guideway Transit Systems, Dual-Mode Systems, People Mover Systems, Personal Rapid Transit. . . .</p> | <p>formation, Technology Sharing, Signing, Telephone Service, Timetables. . . .</p> |
| <p>TRANSIT MANAGEMENT Major areas of concern for administrators and managers of transit systems.</p> <p>21 TRANSIT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT Automated Run Cutting, Government Body Relations, Industrial Relations, Insurance, Routes, Schedules. . . .</p> <p>22 TRANSIT MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT Maintenance Management for Vehicles, Facilities, Equipment, Preventive Maintenance. . . .</p> <p>23 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT Education and Training, Industrial Relations. Staggered Work Hours, Transit Operator Management, Part-Time Labor, Working Conditions. . . .</p> <p>24 PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY Performance Measures, Performance Audits, Reliability. . . .</p> <p>25 FARES AND PRICING Collection Techniques, Congestion Pricing, Credit Card Fares, Fare Elasticities, Graduated Fares, Intermodal Fares, Parking Price Strategies, Road Pricing, Off-Peak Fare Elimination, Tickets, User-Side Subsidies. . . .</p> <p>26 SAFETY AND PRODUCT QUALITY Fire Safety, Safety Guidelines, Accidents and Reporting, Product Qualification, System Assurance and Reliability, Risk Management. . . .</p> <p>27 SECURITY Within Vehicles, At Stations and Terminals, Crime, Policing, Lighting, Surveillance. . . .</p> <p>28 MARKETING Market Studies, Publicity, Graphics, Advertising, Public Relations, Employer Participation Programs. . . .</p> <p>29 INFORMATION SERVICES Service Information, Response to Inquiries, Public In-</p> | <p>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES Areas for literature that is not directly concerned with technology or management but is addressed to general or specific transportation services, including transit.</p> <p>31 CONVENTIONAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES Airports, Automobiles, Bicycles, Bus Service, Parking, Rail Transit, Routes, Traffic Control, Waterborne Transit. . . .</p> <p>32 PARATRANSIT SYSTEMS AND SERVICES Alternative Travel Modes, Brokerage, Car and Bus Vanpools, Charter Bus, Demand-Responsive Systems, Ride Sharing, Subscription Bus, Taxis and Jitneys. . . .</p> <p>33 NON-URBAN AND LOW-DENSITY AREA TRANSPORTATION Coordination, Demonstrations, Local Providers, Rural Systems and Services. . . .</p> <p>34 TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIAL USER GROUPS Accessibility, Coordinated Services, Elderly and Handicapped, Specialized Demand-Responsive Services, Travel Barriers, Special Vehicles. . . .</p> <p>URBAN TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS Areas that relate to transit and other transportation services but that are generally of importance to the urban community at large.</p> <p>41 SOCIOECONOMICS OF PASSENGER SERVICES Citizen Participation, Customer Services, Economic Projections, Human Factors, Societal Benefits, User Needs. . . .</p> <p>42 TRANSIT PLANNING, POLICY, AND PROGRAMS Alternatives Analysis, Assessment and Impact Studies, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Forecasting, Modal Choice, State and Regional Studies, Surveys, Travel Demand. . . .</p> <p>43 TRANSIT FINANCING Budgeting, Financing Methods, Financial Audits, Fund Allocations, Grants, Investment, Multi-Agency Funding, Subsidies, Taxation. . . .</p> <p>44 POLITICAL PROCESSES AND LEGAL AFFAIRS Contracts, Interagency Relations, Legislative and Regulatory Law, Motor Vehicle and Traffic Law, Public Finance and Tax Law, Transit Boards. . . .</p> <p>45 LAND USE Housing Development, Joint Development, Land Acquisition, Property Values, Revitalization, Urban Development, Value Capture. . . .</p> <p>46 CENTER CITY TRAFFIC RESTRAINTS Automobile-Use Incentives and Disincentives, Pedestrian Malls, Zoning Restrictions. . . .</p> <p>47 URBAN GOODS MOVEMENT Intracity Movements, Intercity Movements, Terminals. . . .</p> <p>48 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT Aesthetics, Air Quality, Conservation Strategies, Contingency Planning, Environmental Impact, Noise, Pollution. . . .</p> |

security, planning, subsidies, and energy conservation.

By using the initial data base of more than 8000 citations, augmented by the regular input of new entries, UMTRIS will be available for batch-mode searching at TRB by the information-service staff on a weekly turn-around basis. After a relatively short time lag for inputting to the on-line system, this same data base will also be available to DIALOG subscribers. Eventually, a keyword listing will be available for on-line searching and as an aid in working with the UMTRIS staff in developing batch-mode searches.

In its effort to expand sources for coverage, UMTRIS has already approached municipal planning organizations for materials that might be included in the UMTRIS data base. Other such sources are also being investigated for possible coverage.

Primary sources for UMTRIS will always include published materials from organizations such as the American Public Transit Association, trade journals dealing with all phases of mass transit, and government agencies (principally UMTA). Secondary sources will include the National Technical Information Service, Engineering Index, and the International Road Research Documen-

tation network. A substantial quantity of non-U.S. coverage will come from such secondary sources. Eventually, other international exchange agreements may increase the volume of such coverage.

A Steering Committee, established as a part of the UMTRIS project, began to function last autumn. This group has assisted in developing the classification system, defining the user community, and establishing the coverage UMTRIS should give. Included in this group are Chairman, George M. Smerk, Indiana University; Lyn Long, University of California; Mary L. Roy, Northwestern University; Jean M. Lucas, ATE Management and Service Co.; Tandy Stevens, American Public Transit Association; Judy Genesen, Chicago Transit Authority; Tara Hamilton, National League of Cities; Lawrence Dallam, St. Paul Metropolitan Council; Marta Fernandez, Georgia Department of Transportation; and Norman G. Paulhus, Jr., Office of Technology Sharing, UMTA.

Those interested in UMTRIS should contact Fred N. Houser, manager of the new TRB service, or Suzanne D. Crowther, transportation information specialist, at TRB, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20418; or by calling UMTRIS, 202-334-3256.