

## MTA Library Selected for National Network of Transportation Libraries

By VERONICA TORREJÓN

(Nov. 5, 2003) Recognized as one of the nation's best, MTA's Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library is one of just 15 libraries recently selected to participate in a resource-sharing network.

"It's quite an honor for us and says a lot about the quality of our collection," says Library Administrator Matt Barrett. The network will debut in less than two years.

Known as the Transportation Libraries Union Catalog, the network was developed by the National Transportation Library and will link resources at MTA, UC Berkeley, Northwestern University, the University of Michigan, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and 10 others.

"We are in prestigious company," says Barrett.

Set for unveiling in March 2005, the network will allow users to access one combined on-line catalog for all selected transportation libraries. An existing system of cooperative interlibrary loan privileges would then facilitate the exchange of materials between agencies free of charge.

### Lending the collection

The existing system has allowed the MTA to lend its collection to, and to borrow from, other transit agencies, universities, law firms and government agencies in the U.S. and for more than 25 years, Barrett said.

He said the MTA library's size and scope were among the reasons it was selected by the National Transportation Library to participate in the online network.

Currently, MTA has the only transportation library in Southern California. The collection, which Barrett describes as unique, includes approximately 250,000 items including 45,000 books, reports, studies, conference proceedings, plans, maps, and drawings.

Also included in the collection are 10,000 to 20,000 historic photographs from MTA and its predecessor agencies back to 1873. These include horse-drawn trolley cars, the first propane-powered buses from the mid-1950's, and snapshots of buses used in old

PHOTOS: BILL HEARD



Library Administrator Matt Barrett shows an item from the SCRTD collection to Intern Daisy Corona, left, and Monica del Toro, assistant administrative analyst. Barrett displays the Library's most recent book acquisitions for easy reference by employees.



movies.

Last year, the library was expanded to make room for a collection that included almost 3,000 new items. Since then among other things, a new library card system was implemented along with new software and additional DVD and video availability.

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