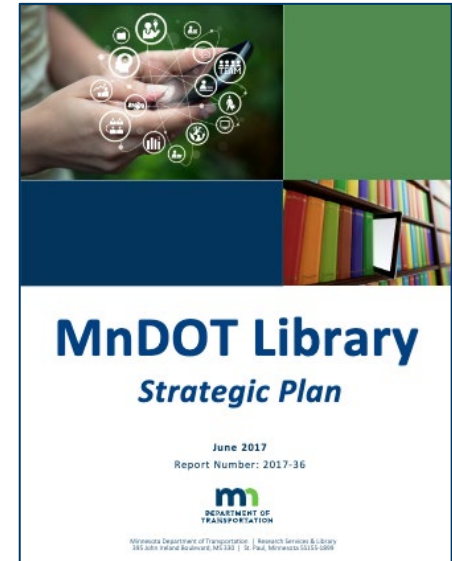DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MnDOT Digital Library Pre-Launch, Post-Launch, and Lessons Learned

Presented to Transportation Librarians Roundtable
November 14, 2024

Situation leading to digital library

Before 2020

- MnDOT born-digital publications stored in many environments
- Many older publications were print-only
- 2017 Library Strategic Plan identified "Digitization: Expand availability of digital materials" as a strategic goal

MnDOT Library
Strategic Plan

June 2017
Report Number: 2017-36

Minnesota Department of Transportation | Research Services & Library
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 330 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

Since March 2020

Library staff have digitized processes and materials to meet needs

Photo by Chris Montgomery on Unsplash

Vendor for digital library

PALS

- MnDOT's catalog service provider for decades
- Started providing digital library service around 2010
- Islandora platform based on Drupal

https://www.mnpals.org/services/islandora/

Homepage of MnDOT Digital Library – mdl.mndot.gov

MnDOT support for digital library

- Library Director support
- Upper mgmt approval
- IT assistance
- Dedicated library staff
- Research & Innovation marketing assistance

About

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Scope and Vision

The MnDOT Digital Library is a public repository that provides persistent access to born-digital and digitized publications produced by MnDOT and the former Minnesota Department of Highways. Collections include research reports, annual reports, employee newsletters, and publications related to the history of the Department and Minnesota highways and bridges.

Established in 2023, this digital library is a collaborative endeavor by MnDOT Library staff, whose mission is to advance knowledge with timely, direct, and cost-effective connections to the information needed to provide the highest quality transportation systems.

About page of MnDOT Digital Library – mdl.mndot.gov/about

Lessons learned

- It is tough to go first on a platform's new version.
- Expect quirks.
- Build in extra time for signatures.
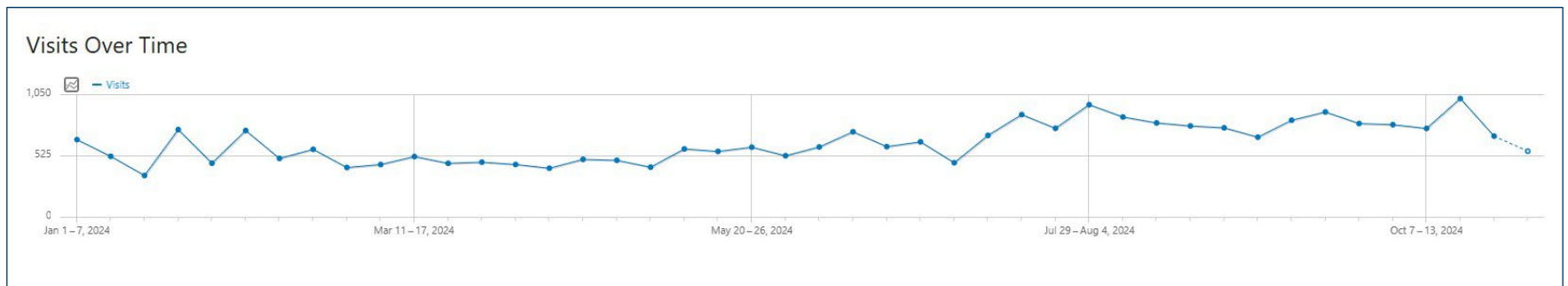- Process documentation is key.

And another important lesson…

Created at
imgflip.com/memegenerator/Take-A-Seat-Cat

"If you build it, they will come."

2023: 21,900 unique pageviews

2024: 41,476 unique pageviews by end of October

Approximately 5,000 items available

Graph from Matomo Analytics showing visits by week to MnDOT Digital Library from January to October 2024

Demo

MnDOT Digital Library
https://mdl.mndot.gov/

Any questions?
Maddie Kuncio, Madeline.Kuncio@state.mn.us
Marilee Tuite, tuite003@umn.edu
MnDOT Library, library.dot@state.mn.us

Thank you!