Trenchless Technology Center Newsletter

DECEMBER 2013

# TTC Launches a Digital Trenchless Technology Reference Room

In our electronic communication-driven society, Web-accessible digital libraries are a key to distributing and sharing technical information. Established in 1995, the Trenchless Technology Reference Room at Louisiana Tech University's Trenchless Technology Center (TTC) represents one of the largest collections of technical papers, books, technical reports and trenchless-related product information in the world, with more than 27,000 entries and growing. Over the years, this extensive collection of knowledge and technical data regarding the specification, design, installation and inspection of dozens of trenchless-based construction methods has attracted a number of visiting researchers from Europe, South America and China, who have spent several days to several weeks exploring the wealth of knowledge in this reference room. The reference room is also used on a regular basis for supporting research activities at the TTC and responding to dozens of trenchless-related inquiries from municipalities and vendors received by the TTC each year.

The role of the TTC as the 'bookkeeper' for the trenchless industry was recognized by the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) in 2010 when choosing to donate its London-based archive, which contains many hard-to-come-by documents, to the TTC. This collection has also been augmented by private donations, such as the one from Hugh O'Donnell, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and one of the pioneers in the design of HDD crossings. Altogether, the holdings provide a collection of literature that is of great interest to practitioners and academia alike.

As its library collection grew, the TTC invested thousands of man-hours in the organization and documentation of the material, scanning and cataloging many thousands of articles, technical reports and product brochures between 1995 and 2013. In-house software was developed for managing and searching the growing electronic and hardcopy collections. As the collections grew and its value to the industry became more evident, the TTC directors realized that dedicated resources and a more systematic approach were required to support the collections. It also became clear via our interaction with members of the TTC Industry Advisory Board and others in the trenchless industry that a means of remote access to the collections is essential to allow the industry to take the full advantage of this wealth of knowledge.

Thus, a decision was made in 2011 to establish the Digital Trenchless Technology Reference Room (DT2R2), a Web-based search engine that provides abstract and reference information for all articles, reports and other publications available at the TTC library. With financial support provided by the Louisiana Contractors' Trust Fund and TTC IAB members, 27,000 citation records were reviewed for completeness, edited and categorized using an open source library software named KOHA. Additionally, all 27,000 records were converted into the International Library Format known as MARC21. With these standards adopted, the library has the capability of participating in interlibrary loans and quick catalog export programs. The library offers citation information, as well as a shelving scheme for access of digital/flat files.

The library, which was launched during the recent annual TTC IAB meeting, held Oct. 25-27, 2013, can be accessed directly at *http://library.ttcils.latech.edu* or via the TTC's main Website at *http://ttc.latech.edu*. Searches can be performed from the user's own computer or smart device using multiple modes, including key words, author(s) and year of publication. The library also offers advanced search options, which allow the user to quickly narrow the search results to entries of most interest.

Our next goal is to be able to offer at least 40 percent of the 27,000 entries as full length manuscripts. The TTC is currently uploading its own publicly accessible reports and publications and is engaged in discussion with several large copyright owners to explore opportunities for access to full-length manuscripts, either by hosting the manuscript on the TTC server or by providing hyperlinks to the locations of the full-length articles. We welcome practitioners and researchers in the trenchless technology arena


Figure 1. TTC main Web-page control panel


Figure 2. Interface of the digital trenchless technology reference room

from around the world to engage this powerful resource and share their experiences with us so we can make it even more user friendly and responsive. Please forward your comments and suggestions to *allouche@latech.edu* or *fletcher@latech.edu*.

The TTC would like to acknowledge Dr. Ray Sterling, Jadranka Simicevic and Teresa Fletcher, who have devoted much time and energy for the creation of this valuable resource. We also would like to acknowledge Victor Weston and the Louisiana Contractors' Educational Trust Fund for providing the financial support to make this valuable resource a reality.

## Annual Industry Advisory Board Meeting Held in October

The Trenchless Technology Center (TTC) typically holds three Industry Advisory Board (IAB) meetings each year. Short update meetings are held at both the UCT conference in January and at the NASTT No-Dig conference later in the spring. However, the main event is the fall meeting held at Louisiana Tech University, where industry members, faculty and students get together for two days of presentations and discussions wrapped around several enjoyable social events.

This year's event featured nine technical presentations with topics ranging from emerging sensor technologies, to new downhole tools for HDD, to the long-term performance of CIPP liners. In addition, Walter Graf of the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) led a brain-storming session titled "Rehabilitation of Water Distribution Systems: Challenges and Opportunities" and Drs. Erez Allouche and Rob McKim led a second brain-storming session on the rehabilitation of wastewater and storm drain systems. Demonstrations of several technologies currently under development by the TTC and its industrial partners further enhanced the event.

The Presidential Medallion was awarded to Lynn Osborn (left) by Louisiana Tech University president Dr. Les Guice.

A highlight of the meeting was the election of Dino Ng, associate commissioner at NYC Department of Design and Construction, as the new chairman of the TTC Industry Advisory Board. Ng is the second individual to hold this position since the inception of the TTC 22 years ago. Another highlight was the awarding of the 'Presidential Medallion' to Lynn Osborn, a founding and long-serving member of the TTC IAB, by Louisiana Tech University president Dr. Les Guice, recognizing his long-term commitment to the TTC and its advisory board.

Feedback from the Board about the value of the meeting has been positive in terms of learning about the latest research under way, being in a position to contribute the board members' experience to the research efforts and being able to network with other industry colleagues, owners and consultants. Enquiries about participation in TTC activities as an Industry Advisory Board member or Sponsor are welcomed. The IAB is a key part of the TTC's success, providing critical financial and intellectual support.

The TTC Industry Advisory Board

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**Trenchless Technology Center *Newsletter***

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Trenchless Technology Center

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