

# Expanding Access to & Discovery of Research Information

THE UNIVERSITY OF

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— AT AUSTIN —

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#### About the Research Library

TxDOT Project 0-9902-17 / Interagency Cooperation Contract #15437, "RTI Research Library," establishes that the Center for Transportation Research will operate and maintain collections and library services that support TxDOT's mission and provide public access to unclassified research. The library functions as the primary repository and information hub for the Research and Technology Implementation Division's (RTI) Cooperative Research Program. Duties include, but are not limited to:

#### Service

- Provide literature searches
- Deliver articles and papers.
- Lend publications.
- Send publication alerts.
- Collaborate with national groups.

#### Dissemination

- Distribute research deliverables.
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- Manage online public catalog.
- Host PDFs online.
- Publish monthly digest.
- Provide email and RSS alerts.

Digitize legacy reports.

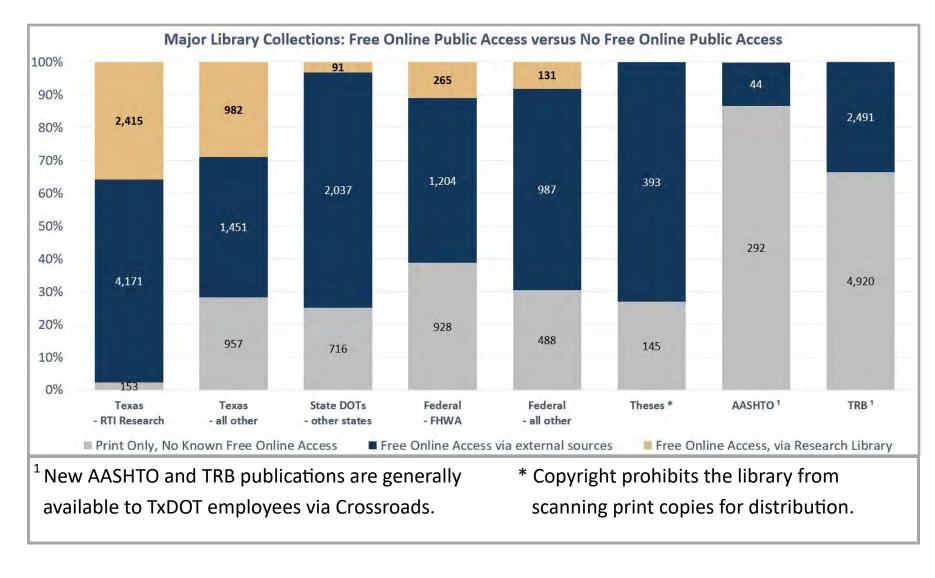
Archiving

- Reduce duplication of effort.
- Onboard TxDOT employees.
- Inform knowledge networks.
- Preserve TxDOT retiree

#### collections.

#### **Print and Electronic Collections**

The library helps ensure that TxDOT research remains available in both print and electronic formats, and continues to digitize legacy print materials, guard against link rot, and provide access worldwide. The library catalog provides links to **free** online versions of approximately 67% of the 28,000 titles in the library's collection.





Many seminal reports and important reference publications are not readily available online or may disappear in the near future. The reasons why online access to publications is not guaranteed include:

- DOT and university research publications experience a high incidence of link rot.
- Copyright often prohibits digitization and posting online.
- Poor quality scans may require print versions to be consulted.
- Access may be buried in the "deep web" and not easily found.
- New digital publications may be held behind cost prohibitive paywalls.

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#### What Is "Link Rot"?

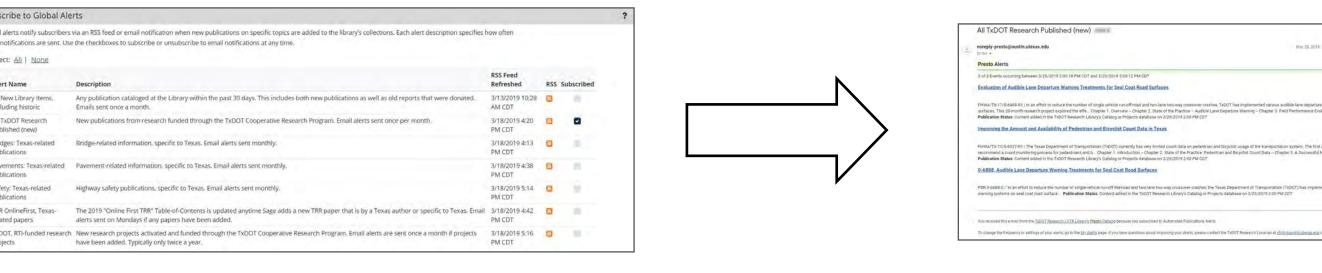
Link rot occurs when a resource previously located at a specific hyperlink vanishes and is not redirected to an updated location. In the past 3 years, the library has discovered an average link rot rate of 81 links lost in our digital collection per month. We search for alternative sources when available.

- Projects lose funding, delete websites.
- Websites are updated, old content not preserved.
- Publisher moves items behind a paywall.Publisher revokes access to outdated versions
- Automated archiving tools do not crawl sites deeply enough to pick up PDFs and secondary web pages.

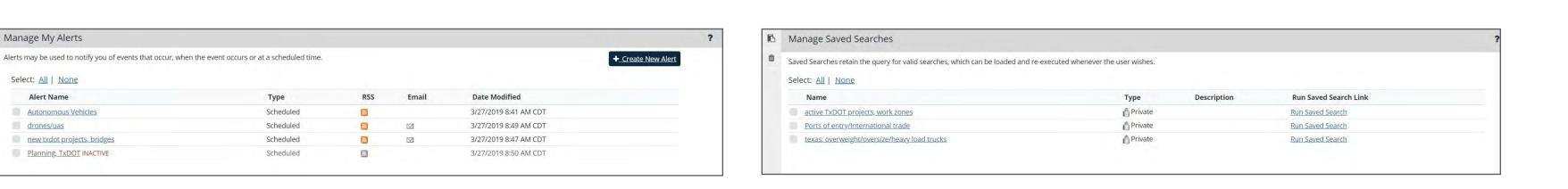
#### 2019 Improved Online Services

It now takes **minimal effort** to stay informed about research in your area of interest:

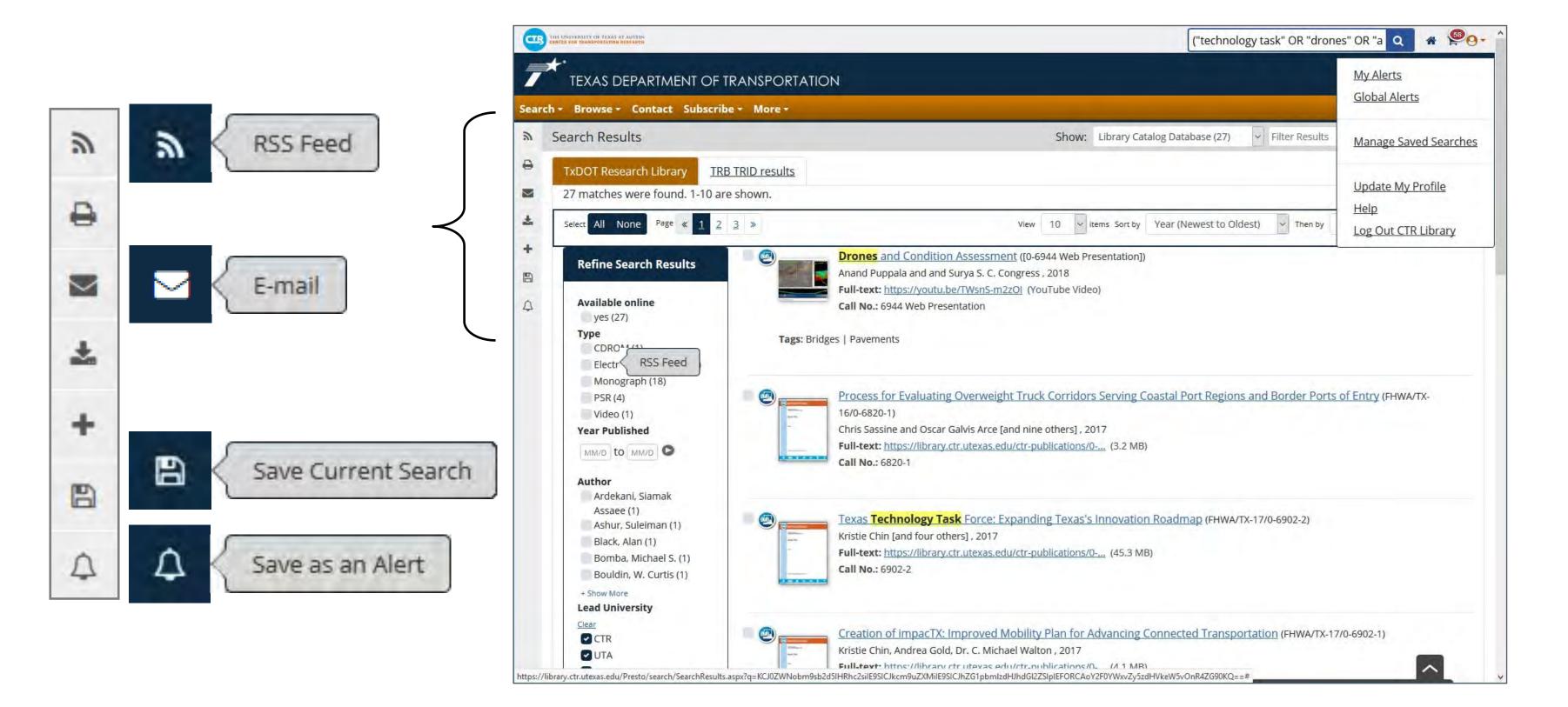
1. "Global Alerts" subscriptions allow registered users to receive periodic email notifications when the library curates materials on popular topics.



2. Registered users can also save their own searches for future visits or create specialized email alerts and RSS feeds based on their individual or departmental interests.



Contact the library for assistance in creating or improving your customized email alerts.



### Do you search each DOT website individually or weed through hundreds of unfiltered search engine results?

 The "Search all State DOTs" Google Custom Search Engine provides fast answers by limiting results to information on state DOT websites.



 Soon you will be able to search the full-text of select TxDOT reports using our "Search Inside Reports"
 custom search engine.

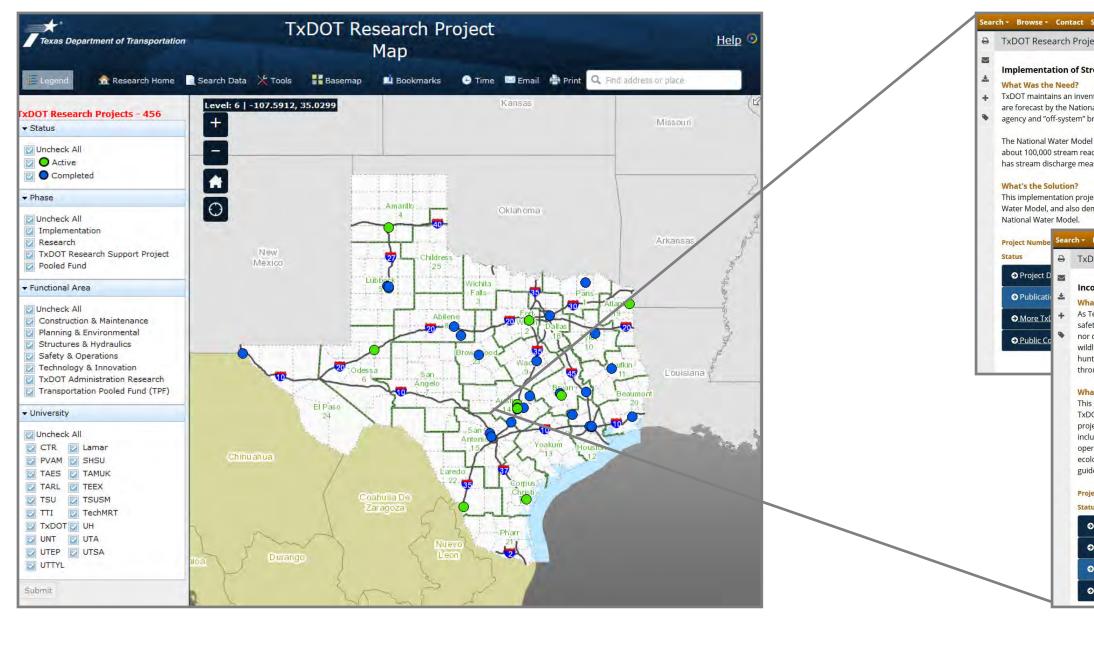
# Our 2019 upgrade to the catalog software greatly improves your mobile experience. Please take a moment to test it out and send us suggestions. \*Mobile emulator images from Mobile Moxie and MobileTest.me.

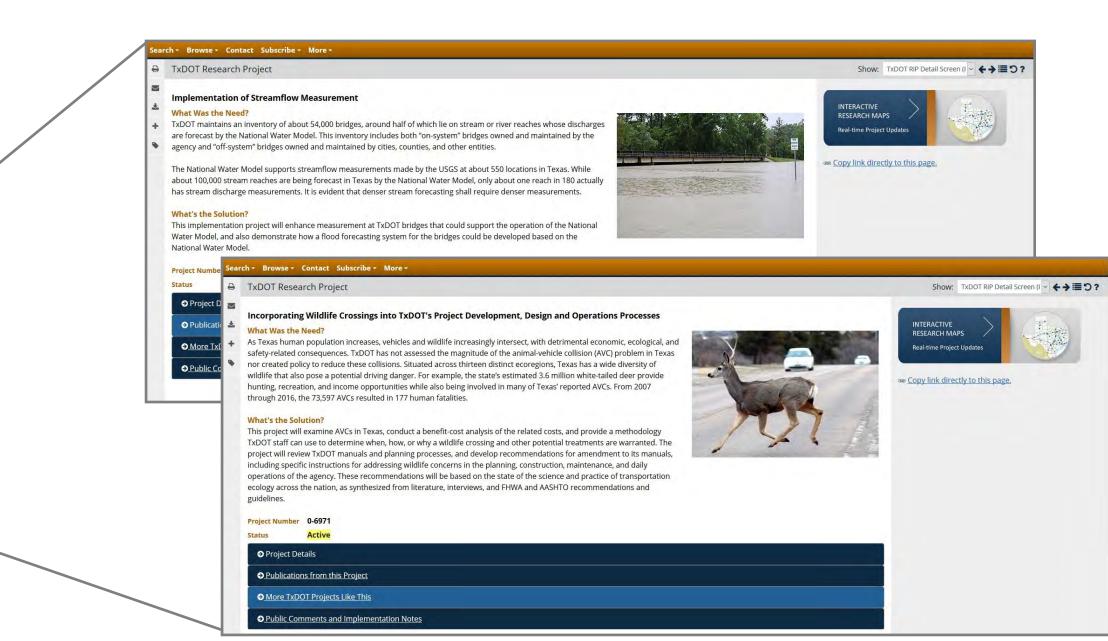
#### Active RTI Research Projects

RTI and the Research Library work together to provide a publicly-accessible database of current and archived research project information. There are multiple ways to find project information in the library's catalog. RTI also offers an interactive map for finding research projects.

https://maps.dot.state.tx.us/ORG/RTI/ResearchProjectsMap/

#### **TxDOT RTI Research Projects Map**



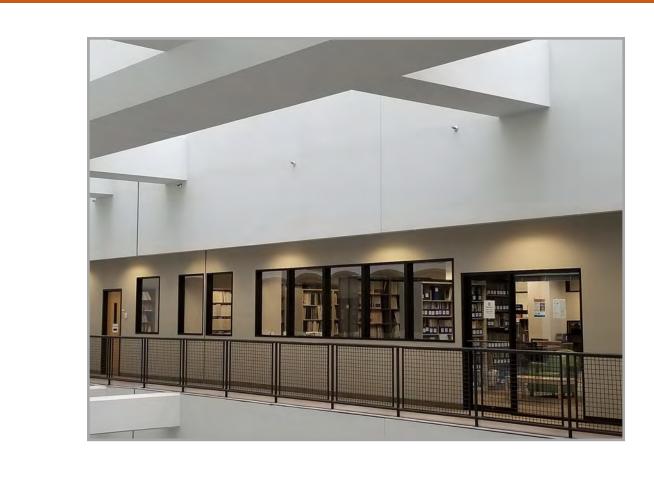




#### Contact the Library

The Library is pleased to answer your questions. We can:

- Accept donations of published materials from TxDOT Divisions / Districts.
- Perform literature searches on specific topics.
- Obtain information from peer state departments of transportation.
- Retrieve and send copies of technical reports, journal articles, and other items.
- Provide orientation and instruction on information retrieval and research.





# Instant Messaging option is on every page of the catalog. Need Help? Ask a Librarian! Enter your name & question, then click SEND to chat with our on-duty assistant. Your Name (or Alias) Enter your Question. Need Help? Ask the Librarians!

#### Site Visits / Mail

If planning a site visit, please let us know in advance so we can provide a parking pass.

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