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2013

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Recommended Citation

McDonough, K. (2013). [Review of the website *United States Department of Transportation*, by the United States Department of Transportation]. *Choice*, February, 50-3233.

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50-3233 Internet Resource
United States Department of Transportation.
<http://www.dot.gov/> (reviewed in CHOICE February 2013).

[Visited Nov'12] The official site of the US Department of Transportation (DOT) is filled with information, yet its design does not overwhelm the visitor with links. Particularly helpful when interacting with an organization's large website is having multiple means of navigation. The DOT achieves this by organizing site information for intended audiences (individuals, partners, and government) and also by mode of transportation (e.g., automobiles, aviation, railroads, bicycles). In addition, there is a Top Requests list, with links to web pages most often sought by visitors. Unfortunately, these important means of navigation on the main page are somewhat obstructed by a prominent display of rotating images linked to current news. Finally, there is a drop-down menu at the top of the main page that provides access to more common information about the DOT, such as mission, history, and activities.

Likely to be of interest to library patrons are resources for individuals, or those listed under specific modes of transportation. For example, there is a link to current airport conditions, where a reader can chose a major airport from an interactive map or view more detailed listings by selecting particular regions. National road closures are provided through various state-level agencies. Other popular topics include five-star auto crash ratings, child seat safety, and a list of state transportation departments. Especially valuable are statistics provided by various subagencies, e.g., numbers of alcohol- and non-alcohol-related highway fatalities, fatalities by mode of transportation, freight transportation data by state, domestic demand for gasoline by year. Librarians will best serve their patrons if they become familiar with some of the more valuable offerings from the DOT and provide direct links. See related, North American Transportation Statistics Database <http://nats.sct.gov.mx/sys/index.jsp?i=3> (CH, Jul'10, 47-6002). Summing Up: Recommended. All libraries and user levels.

--K. P. McDonough, Northern Michigan University

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Full review available online: <http://www.cro3.org/lookup/doi/10.5860/CHOICE.50-3233>