

# Our Dream Becomes a Reality: A New Paradigm for APPA's Body of Knowledge

By Maggie Kinnaman

The thought process supporting the creation of a Knowledge Builders column in *Facilities Manager* magazine focused on how best to capture the results of cutting-edge research and new ideas. I can think of no better way to do this than report on the status of APPA's Body of Knowledge (BOK) project. Perhaps our Past President Jack Colby said it best when he described our Body of Knowledge as "captured in our *Facilities Management*

manual, delivered through our educational offerings, and expanded through the Center for Facilities Research." It's obvious that all of our activities are heavily dependent upon a robust, updated, readily available Body of Knowledge.

## THE HISTORY

First reported in May 2007, the BOK was the launch of a new innovative project initiated by APPA. A group of APPA

members set out to update the BOK as embodied in the third edition of the *Facilities Management* manual, 12 years old. This group was not merely updating the information and delivering a hard copy publication, but instead, updating the information and incorporating cutting-edge technology. The updated BOK would be a huge digital, searchable database available to subscribers 24/7 as a "just in time" reference tool.

Furthermore, the digital format enables ease of updates so that we can capture and document cutting-edge practices that impact our profession without waiting years to update. Just think back 12 years ago: Was carbon footprint on your radar? How about total cost of ownership, emergency management, and pandemic planning? Were you concerned about green roofs, LEED certification, or energy creation utilizing solar or wind energy? Suffice it to say that our world is changing at a rate that is unprecedented.

## THE DELIVERY

As Editor-in-Chief of the BOK project, I am proud to announce the completion and delivery of 18 of the over 70 new chapters that will comprise the new BOK (visit [www.appa.org/bok](http://www.appa.org/bok) for a current list of chapters and authors). The BOK is available 24/7 to subscribers, and more chapters will be rolled out to members in early 2010.

I want to specifically thank our four content coordinators—Jack Hug, Gary Reynolds, Darryl Boyce, and Bill Daigneau—and for their diligence and hard work on this project. Without

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their efforts this project would never have been possible. The role of the content coordinators is to identify, engage, and mentor the authors assigned to the chapters within each of the four core subject areas of our facilities profession: General Administration and Management; Operations and Maintenance; Energy Utilities and Environmental Stewardship; and Planning, Design, and Construction.

Providing overall logistical support and interface with our contractor EEI were the expert services of our APPA staff, specifically Anita Dosik and Steve Glazner. Also a huge thanks to the over 70 authors who have served as subject matter experts providing the content of our new BOK. Their willingness to research and document the current state of a specific concept in the context of educational facilities is awesome. I encourage you to thank each of them

# BOK

## Body of Knowledge

for their efforts and contribution to our profession.

Finally, no good research is complete without peer review, and each of our published chapters has undergone this review. My thanks to the peer reviewers who provided thoughtful comments and suggestions to enhance each chapter.

### SUPPORT YOUR PROFESSION

So now it's up to you, our APPA members, to support your profession by subscribing to 24/7 access to the most up-to-date knowledge about our profes-

sion. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your competence by having access to a searchable database of cutting-edge thinking, approaches, and execution strategies within our profession. Use this data, information, and knowledge to enhance your credibility within your respective institutions.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to utilize one of the key tools developed by your professional organization for the purpose of enhancing your competence and credibility within your respective institutions. This project can become your most valuable tool when facing the numerous challenges presented within educational facilities. Make your APPA membership work for you. 💰

Past APPA President Maggie Kinnaman is the editor-in-chief for APPA's Body of Knowledge (BOK). She can be reached at [maggiekinnaman@comcast.net](mailto:maggiekinnaman@comcast.net).

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