EBSR NEWSLETTER – Issue no. 6

EBSR TRAINING RESOURCES

1   Background

With the increasing take-up of EBSR there are now 52 operators (O licences) that have made the transition to EBSR or are in the course of making that transition, as well as 94 local authorities handling registrations submitted as EBSRs.
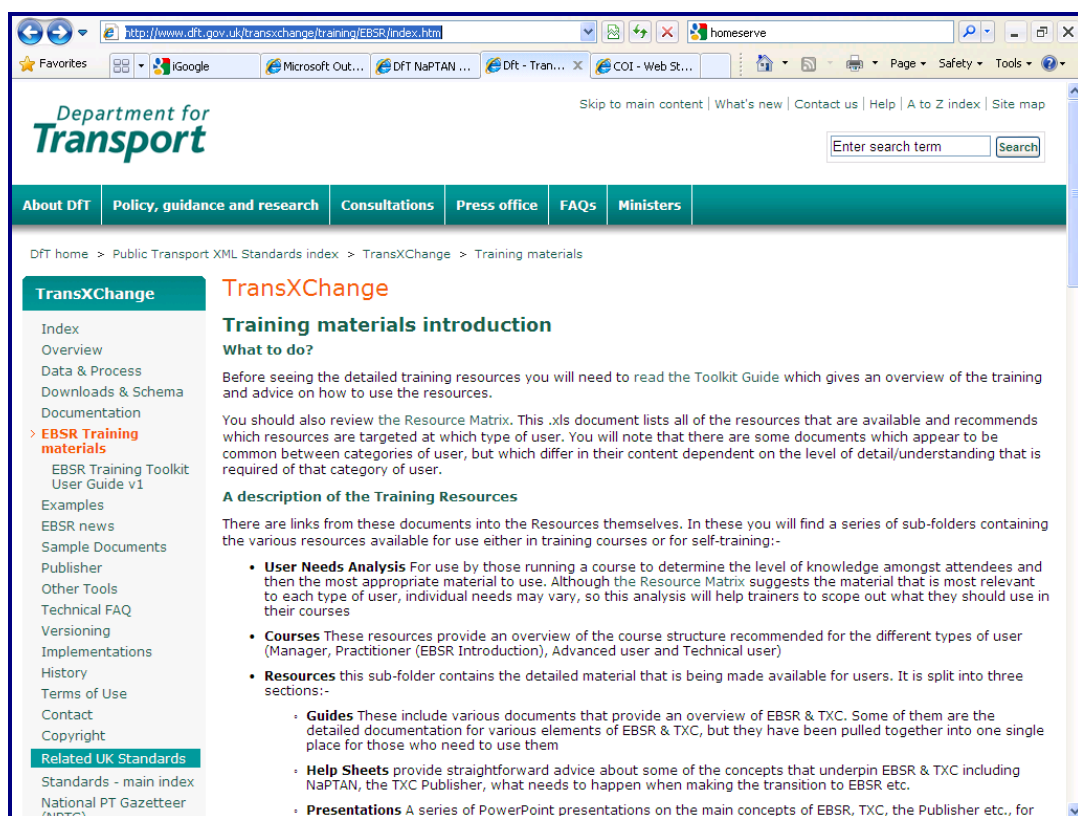
Most of these authorities do not see a large number of EBSRs, though some see quite a number, while there is still a significant proportion of authorities that have yet to see an EBSR. There is obviously a large number of Operators that are not yet exploring EBSR. Consequently, for many people the handling and processing of EBSRs remains a mystery.

Transport Direct has now assembled and is making available a set of training resources to help explain EBSR and some of the underlying support mechanisms such as TransXChange, the EBSR Publisher, NaPTAN, NPTG etc.

2   The Training Resources

These resources have now been made generally available and can be found at http://www.dft.gov.uk/transxchange/training/EBSR/index.htm (Figure 1)
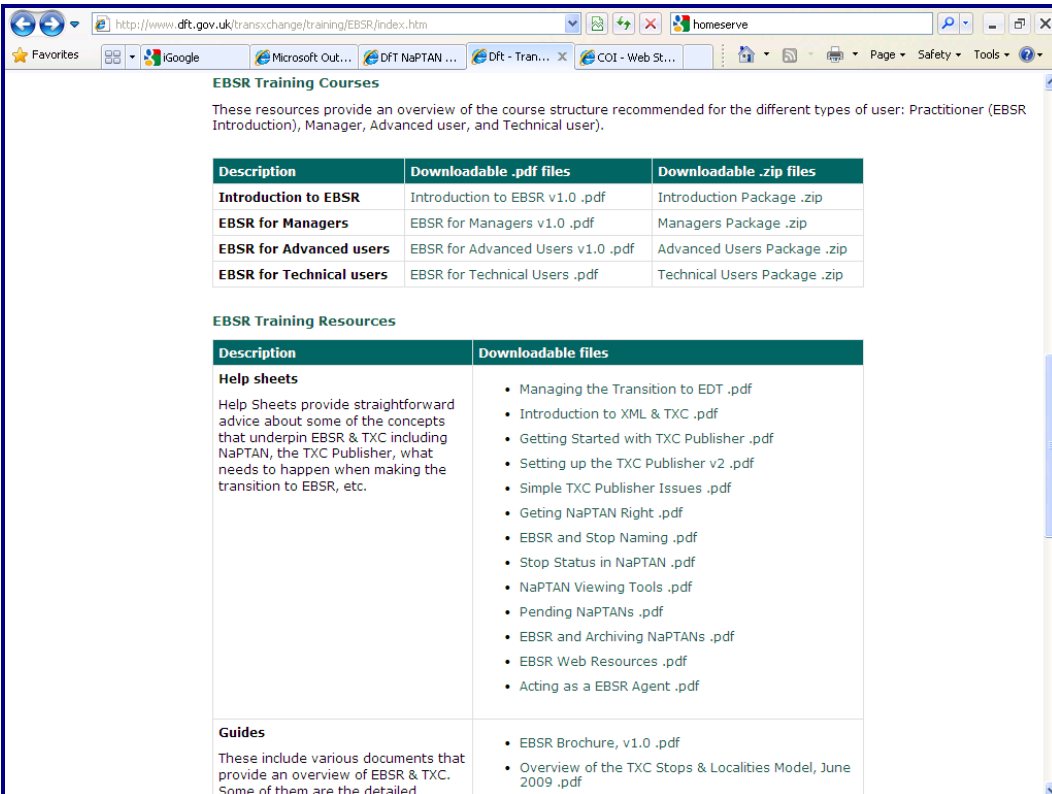
Figure 1 – EBSR Training Home Page

There is a large amount of material available which is structured around the needs of particular individuals with an interest in EBSR. There is a general introduction to EBSR plus three structured courses targeted at:-

- Managers – to explain the background to EBSR and the possible implications for the staff that they manage and the systems that are used to manage public transport data

- Advanced Users – which explains the concepts in more detail and how to use all of the features of tools such as the EBSR Publisher to fully understand the contents of an EBSR submission

- Technical Users – which goes into more detail about the underlying technical issues such as XML and TransXChange and provides links to downloads of the TransXChange Schema.

The materials are structured so that they can be downloaded as packages aimed at those target groups and used to provide the basis of a training course, perhaps one used by a traveline region and delivered to a group from that region. These courses could also be used for self-training.

Figure 2 – Training Resources

In addition all of the course materials are also provided in the form of a number of **Help Sheets, Guides and Presentations** (Figure 2) which provide more detailed information on specific topics related to EBSR.

For example there is a Help Sheet that explains how to install the Publisher on your PC, and another one that explains how to deal with common Publisher problems. There is also a more detailed presentation that explains what the advanced functions of the Publisher allow you to do in order to manipulate the Publisher output to make it more legible and how these should be used.

3 Other Materials

In addition to these training materials, operators have also agreed to provide examples of actual EBSRs which can be downloaded and/or put through the Publisher to understand their content in more detail. These examples are available at http://www.dft.gov.uk/transxchange/realexamples/index.htm and contain sample files that illustrate some of the complexities of service registrations that EBSR has been able to handle (cancellations, clover-leafs, circular services, limited stop services etc.). This material can be used in conjunction with the training resources to help illustrate some of the complexities of EBSR.

4 How Do I Get Further Help and Advice?

If you would like further help with the training resources, or need more information about the material that has been provided, or would like to suggest other topics that might be included in these guides, we would be pleased to hear from you.

You can contact us by sending an email to Transport Direct at ebsr@dft.gsi.gov.uk and we will do our best to help.

Kieran Holmes
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