

Technical Report Archive & Image Library at 15 – Audio transcript

[Please standby for realtime captions]

Hello, everyone will be getting started and 10 minutes. In welcome to those of you that just joined us we will get started with our session in five minutes. In if you have questions we will address those at the end of the session. We are recording the entire conference. Everyone will receive a link to the recording in their email. With that, I will pass it off to Sinai Wood.

Thank you, Kelly. Can everyone hear me okay?

Yes, you sound great.

Wonderful. Welcome to this afternoon to the very first day of FDLP. 2021 represents the 15th year of trails existence. We would like to just mark this time and to tell you a little bit about who we are in our current project. Let's see. I can't advance the slides. In are you clicking the right arrow button next to the cereal one?

Thank you. As Kelly said, Laura, Jen, and myself. As far as our roles in TRAIL , Jen is the metrics coordinator for the working group and I am the coordinator for the collections working group. I'm going to give you just a very brief introduction to TRAIL . Laura will talk about the value of the reports and how to find -- I guess now we are calling out our micro card digitization project, because it is in full swing and a little bit about a marketing materials and future plans that we have. And of course, last but most importantly, anyone can join us. So TRAIL began as a graded Western Library alliance collaborative project with the Center for research libraries. That was in 2006. In 2010, it was developed into a global resources network initiative for CRL. In 2006, when graded with your library notes call for proposals for projects, the University of Arizona and CRL put together a pilot proposal to digitize federal digital reports. The proposal was selected and from there they developed a task force and eventually it became accepted and funded and it was a viable project. Our mission is to ensure preservation, discoverability and persistent open access to government technical publications regardless of form or format. In the way that we fulfill the mission, we identify, acquire, catalog, and digitize U.S. government technical reports. The key word there is catalog. We catalog down to the piece level. We provide unrestricted access to these digitized technical reports to the TRAIL search interface and Internet search engines. We identify and investigate the long-term preservation possibilities of this unique body of literature. With that, let's move on. Technical reports are divided institutions across the country before being sent to the University of Arizona. So these reports are either identified by donors, individuals, or librarians and from academic libraries, public libraries, even corporate libraries. And they will contact TRAIL in the collections working group will review the potential donation. And if we decide, yes, we are going to proceed with that, we coordinate with the University of Arizona, which happens to be the central processing site. We were truly refer to it as central members. Would the reason it is there is because of the Dean and the science engineering at the time who was the founder of this project, they were at the University of Arizona. And they developed the program, and they were able to use staff members there to help with the cataloging of the content that was coming in.

Central, or the University of Arizona, they received the shipment and assemble collections and create Google spreadsheets that are processing inventories. They happen to be Google spreadsheets, but they could be Excel spreadsheets. But that is how we initially track what we have and what is going to be processed and catalogued and sent on. They create catalog records for each technical report, and they ship the processed technical reports to either the University of Michigan, and that will go through the middle string, or the University of North Texas for digitalization. The University of North Texas will actually digitize their creek the University of Michigan allows us to put our content in their group stream, as I said just now.

Eventually when it is all said and done, you can go to our TRAIL guide instance where you can look to see there on the left inside the different agencies that we touched and that we have selected technical support series from those agencies to process for digitization. When you click on one of those agency names, you will get a list of series that we have started. And each series is actually a Google spreadsheet, and you can see what has been digitize. They actually provide the LCL record in the link. The link will either take you to hottie trust, or it will take you to the UMT digital library. We also have a TRAIL search interface that Laura will talk about later that you can search all of our content in one spot.

I will pass it on to Laura. In thank you, Sinai.

You're welcome.

So I am going to talk about the value of technical reports and how you can find content that TRAIL has digitized. Technical reports are published to communicate government research and science and technology, particularly to specialized researchers. These reports contain detailed information, often including data and recommendations, more in-depth than a scientific journal article. While heavy in stem, these reports can also be used by other disciplines, like history of science and technology, or even as background information for fiction novelist. They're not just for scientists anymore.

Technical report literature has always been a challenge for librarians. First, they were not disseminated consistently. They are often on catalogued within individual libraries that help them. They were distributed in multiple formats, including print, microfiche, and micro card. Prior to TRAIL, most reports did not have title level cataloging, just series level records and LCL see and often does had no holding records. This made them challenging to get by in your library alone. Finally, prior to TRAIL, not many were available electronically.

TRAIL has created the search interface seen here. The link at the bottom will search for all of our digitized reports, whether they are in UMT suppository are the hottie trust suppository. Notes that there is an advanced search that will let you search by author, agency, or report number. In we have a widget available to place on your like I to make it easy for your patrons to search for reports. On the trails full page, there is a link to live guides that show our processing inventories that Sinai discussed earlier.

Now my favorite part, the reports. Here is an example of report housed in the UMT suppository about the metric system. When I was a kid back in the 70s, schools were mandated to teach the metric system, and we did that for one year, and then we never covered the metric system again. But notice on the right-hand side, you can see links of how you can download or share the report, as well as view its metadata.

Here is an example of a report from the Bureau of mines in the 1930s. This one is housed at the trust. I love the title to this one, Japanese waltzing mice and canaries in mind. Apparently Japanese waltzing mice are more rambunctious than regularity white mice. White mice get bored and sleep a lot. That is not reliable when trying to find poisons in the air.

We also want to share how the you into suppository has TRAIL reports are grouped together as a collection. UMT is managing -- more on that in a minute. But I do want to show you how to view the micro card collection that has been digitized so far. Now I am going to turn the talk over to Jen Kirk.

Thanks, Laura. Now that we have told you a bit about what TRAIL has done for the past 14 years, we will talk about what we been doing in your 15. A major problem but that we would like to share with you today are the micro card project that Laura just alluded to in some additional marketing materials at the group has put out over the last two years. So the micro card digitization project was originally a pilot project and is now a full blown project that covers some 33,000 technical reports from the Atomic Energy Commission that were originally, this part of the collection came to us from the University of Arizona. I do want to note that the AEC depository was separate from the federal library program. There is a potential that a good number of these are unreported federal publications under the FDLP. The 35 -- 33 reports are proximally 50,000 micro cards. UMT is managing the digital dictation to a commercial vendor. The way this project works is that the University of Arizona inventoried the materials before sending them off to UMT UMT organized the materials and sent them to a commercial vendor in a series of boxes the commercial vendors then returned one file per card, per micro card, to you in T and then they are taking this digital file and dividing it into report pages by hand. After each report is completed, that maybe one card, it may be multiples, it is returned to the TRAIL processing group or central to create the catalog records for the item and digital files are available through the trauma record collection or by searching by title through the search interfaces that were talked about earlier.

The project is actually quite advanced. We have completed delivery of all micro cards to the vendor, and 100% of those cards have been digitize. You in T is in the postprocessing remaining of the final 13 boxes that have been returned from the vendor. At the time of the creation of this light, 2% had been uploaded to the TRAIL micro card collection. That percentage is now higher. We encourage you to let any stem librarians know about this project too, whether they are at your institution or just an professional affiliation for you. We do think that this will make them so happy that they will give you cookies, and we all missed the cookies right now. Be sure to spread the word. Additionally, the marketing materials have been a focus of the TRAIL steering committee for the last two years . I had thrown a link in the chat to the TRAIL media kit page where you can find infographics that describe the projects outcomes over the last few years. We also provide social media graphics and text, including our TRAIL 15 logos and our regular logo and the 15 year anniversary logo as well. If you're interested in staying in touch, we now have a quarterly newsletter. You can sign up for that. And you can join our TRAIL talk list serve by emailing TRAIL at CRL.edu.

So, most importantly, TRAIL functions on volunteers there are two types of memberships that we will talk about and how you can get involved. This is a list of the institutional members at the TRAIL . As you can see, I believe we are close to 50 right now. We do not have the number on the slide, but we also have personal members that have joined us. And so these are librarians at institutions that may not be members that the institution may not be a member, but the library was interested enough to participate and many of our working groups and steering committees. How to join? We have got a link there which I will throw into the chat. Institutions pay a fee, personal members do not. That is the key distinction here. Institutions wishing to participate can fill out a TRAIL participant agreement and pay a membership

fee of \$3000 there are many benefits that come with membership, including paying for shipment of materials, so if you're weeding but TRAIL covers all shipment materials to our site . And your supporting the integral work of cataloging at a site that, you know, is not your institution. Individuals who work in the institutions that are not members are that personal membership will talk about earlier and there is no membership fee for becoming an individual member of TRAIL point we also have multiple participants from institutional members , for example, I'm not be TRAIL representative for my institution point we are are an institutional member, but I participate on an individual basis.

And primarily, TRAIL functions because we are a small community of volunteers that work together through activities and have impact across various fields of librarianship. There are six main ways to be involved. The working groups of the primary way to be involved, and the vast majority of our participants are in loft in one or more working groups, as Sinai mission, she is the chair of the collections working group. They work on what we are going to digitize next and finds those elusive technical reports and bring them into our workflow. The communications working group, of which Morrison member, help spread the word about TRAIL and keeps our members updated on what we are doing. The membership working group seeks out new libraries or institutions to join TRAIL to support our mission. The metrics working group, which I am the coordinator of, helps track trails impact across the various ways that we interact with our members and with materials. And then the processing working group is basically shorthand for the University of Arizona central working group. And they get a lot of our work done for us. We thank them a lot. Here you can see a picture of one hour more recent in person gatherings, it is a little dated because of COVID, but this is just a small portion of the people who keep our work moving. And they have for the last 15 years.

We are looking for additional partners to participate in the project. Institutions, no matter their size, can participate. For example, if you are weeding materials, we would like your documents. We now have a needs a list that is up on the TRAIL guide link that we shared earlier. We also are now posting our needs on FDLP exchange to fill gaps. A shout out to FDLP exchange . We encourage you to post technical report discards on the FDLP exchange point we hope to be posting needs listed to & L soon. That is our next hurdle to get over.

So here is where we are going in your 16. We would like to explore possible partnering opportunities for content discovery, and funding. We are looking to initiate a distributed catalog and project. Prior to this year, all counseling has primarily been done by our team as central the University of Arizona. Were now looking at ways to get more libraries involved, especially in tackling those at 33,000 reports that we have recently digitized. We are always looking to improve our workflow between TRAIL and its partners and involve new personal members in the project. Again, personal membership is no cost. And we would like to add more members excluding government agencies. We would like to note that the government publishing office joined us in 2013. That has been great resource in helping us connect with the government documents community. In our most recent government agency is the Los Alamos national laboratory, which joined us in 2020. We have digitized a lot of the materials to have them involved as members. In here is a screenshot of Megan participating on behalf of our celebration, she brought been to the party, which is great. Filmed a celebration of the last 15 years using 15 partners starting with University of Arizona and our founder and going through to today. If you would like to check that out, we will throw that link in the chat as well. Thank you to whoever already did that. Now we would love to talk to you about this project and answer any questions you may have. Thank you. All right. I see a question in the chat. I will read it out loud. One of the main distinctions between TRAIL , Austin.gov and NTS.gov? The TRAIL have a wider range of technical reports? That comes in from Sheila. Thank you, Schiller Park .

The distinction primarily is that we tend not to digitize what has already been done by federal agencies. We do know however that there are shutdowns and changes in the agency, their priorities and such. There are dangers there as well. Right now, we are concentrating on content that has not been digitized elsewhere. That is not to say that other partners might harvest content. We have harvested some content. We have that. NTIS, while we are aware that they have, of course, a treasure trove of federal technical reports. At present, I do not think we have digitized very much at any NTIS reports. But if member institutions or partners or other academic libraries would want us to open up a series, we would certainly be open to discussing that. So in many ways, TRAIL does have a wider range of technical reports because we go into USGS and national Bureau of standards and would love to go into the biological sciences and fish and wildlife. We are not limited to the stem fields by any means. Because that has been the predominant area where these long runs of technical reports exist, that is where we have started. I hope that answers your question. Thank you, we will take a quick pause to let people type in any questions that they may have.

The dates of coverage, TRAIL started out with looking at 1976, but that distinction, that Mark has faded away because, as you well know, there are series that straddle both sides of 1976. And there are series that have evolved and gone from one agency to the next. We try to digitize the legacy documents that have not been digitized elsewhere. So we can go back as far as we can get tangible content. We do not have a real cut off date.

The other thing, I don't think we mentioned how many reports are available. Currently, there are 89,000 reports, TRAIL reports available. When you were searching or technical reports search interface, your searching over 89,000 technical reports. Caroline asked, how do you advertise needs for the existing inventory list?

We just started doing so. Thank you to Jen Kirk for posting our needs list. Just done so through the FDLP exchange. You can find it there, that but they will be listed under Jen . Is that correct?

Yes, currently there listed under Utah University, and they are marked as being advertised for digitization purposes.

Right. Our next step is to advertise internally to our member institutions. We want to give them priority. One of the benefits of joining TRAIL is that as a member, with your membership dues, as Jen said in the presentation, you can ship your tangible reports to us at no cost to you. Eventually, those reports will get catalog and digitize. And if you have a favorite set, let's say if you were concerned about changes in university and library vision or whatnot, you can protect those reports by sending them through TRAIL . Eventually we hope to offer up, which will be very soon, thanks to Megan for clarifying what our process should be on that. We encourage everyone to take a look at the exchange, you will find our needs there, and you may find the things you may need or offers as well. In thank you to Abby for sharing the link. Identifying needs is a difficult with technical reports for various reasons. One is a lack of cataloging at a national level. Another is changing report numbers and revisions, sometimes they just skip a report number. Identifying needs is a relatively new thing that we are doing as a group. It is because of those challenges. We now have digitized enough that we can see gaps, but sometimes we are casting a line out into the ocean hoping to catch a fish that may not exist.

Right. For those of you at large, research one institutions, that happen to be gifted with these micro cards back in the 40s and 50s and so forth, very soon you will be able to look at the entirety of what we

digitized and then you can decide for yourself what to do with your micro cord set or do something with the different parts. It is a way now to rediscover what is in the micro card set. For those of you that are in smaller institutions or even larger institutions that don't have the sets, now you have a way to push out this information to your library and colleagues, and they can push it out to the stem faculty at your institutions. In the chat, Jenny asked, are you able to use Internet archive digitized items, or just have to trust?

? Hottie trust and UMT, those are the two institutions for now that you can find the digitized content. We do not use Internet archive at this moment, nor do we use other institutions for hosting but the wonderful thing about TRAIL is that we are always revisiting and changing our focus as the climate changes, as the environment changes. We are not just limiting ourselves to those posts, but it present those are our hosts and we only do federal documents at this point.

That answers the next question about federal documents or state publications. And then Jenny terrifies in the chat, I meant Internet archive to identify items to include.

No, Jenny, that is not. That is something to look into. That is a good idea. We are primarily busy collecting the tangible, and now, even though we have always wanted to get feel, we are actually starting to focus on gap deals. Thank you for that tip. In looking forward to possibly getting rid of my micro cards. I'm glad the content will be available. I have not found any of it on Allstate.

I hear you, Beth.

There is something for everyone with the micro cord project, absolutely.

Recently, Heather Christiansen worked with her colleagues there, and now there is a scoped TRAIL collection . If you are interested in you don't want to wade through all of the trust, you can go to the TRAIL collection and search within our content they are. I will pull up that link and just a second. We have you covered in several ways, through scope collections come through a Google search, through the TRAIL interface. It is scoped. In here is the scoped collection. I promise that is a valid link even though it looks bonkers. And here is the one for UMT. Again, if you search technical reports.org, you will be searching both at the same time.

Does anyone have any last questions for our presenters?

I would like to comment that if you're looking for an opportunity for personal personal service, come check us out, come sit in some meetings. We are a fun group, if you can imagine up group of several librarians. We are full of chuckles. Eventually, you just fit right in and you get comfortable. The more participants we have, the more perspectives we have, and the better we are.

Okay. I want to thank all of our presenters. We will be back in this room at 4:15 on a session on introducing the dust collection. Thank you, everyone.
