



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY CONFERENCE

★ AMERICA 250 ★

SEPTEMBER 22 – 23, 2026 ★ #FDLCONFERENCE

★ AMERICA 250 ★

TRAIL AT 20: OPEN ACCESS TO FEDERAL TECHNICAL REPORTS

PRESERVING ACCESS TO FEDERAL TECHNICAL REPORTS

For 20 years, the Technical Report Archive & Image Library (TRAIL) has identified, digitized, and cataloged federal technical reports.

TRAIL was formed to address the challenges of accessing technical report literature. These reports are rapidly disappearing from library shelves and federal document collections.

With continued member support, TRAIL continues its mission to preserve this body of knowledge and provide unrestricted worldwide access to these materials.

TRAIL is a collaborative program with the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), which provides operational services.

TRAIL Annual Meeting 2026



20 YEARS OF IMPACT

Celebrating 20 Years of TRAIL - For 20 weeks in 2026, we shared technical report highlights, infographics, and notable events throughout TRAIL's history.

- ★ More than 102,000 technical reports.
- ★ More than 400,000 uses of TRAIL material deposited in the University of North Texas Digital Library repository.
- ★ Over 50 organizational members support the work of TRAIL.



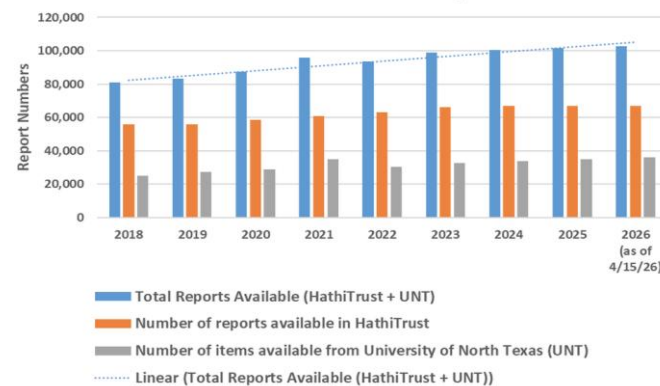
COMMITMENT TO OPEN ACCESS

Full-text reports and supporting materials are available in trusted, open-access repositories: HathiTrust and the University of North Texas Digital Library.

MARC records have been contributed to the OCLC collection, improving discovery and access.

Member organizations have demonstrated a commitment to absorb project costs rather than pass them on to users.

Growth of Accessible TRAIL Reports



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- ★ Exploring AI-assisted description of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) microcards.
- ★ Continued participation in the JSTOR Project Seeklight Pilot.
- ★ Enhancements resulting from innovations from the UNT Digital Library.
- ★ Exploring alternative technical report formats.

www.technicalreports.org

Jen Kirk, Government Information Librarian, Utah State University
Sinai Wood, Associate Professor & Documents Librarian, Baylor University
Zac Painter, Assistant University Librarian for Science and Engineering, Princeton University