trail TECHNICAL REPORT ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

Autumn 2022 Newsletter

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2022 TRAIL Annual Meeting - Follow-up

TRAIL members, particularly those belonging to TRAIL Working Groups, have been working diligently since the 2022 Annual Meeting on a variety of issues. The TRAIL Steering Committee discussed all recommendations that emerged from the Annual Meeting and distributed them to the appropriate groups. Some of the work being accomplished is listed below:

- Gap Fills continues with the third round of gap fill notices out from the Collections WG. The requests have been successful with hundreds of reports being supplied at this point. For additional information, click here.
- The Microcard Project continues with students at both Stanford University and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign providing metadata/cataloging for hundreds of records and making them available through the UNT Digital Library – TRAIL Microcard Collection. In addition,

the catalogers from Central (University of Arizona) continue providing cataloging records to this collection.

- A [deaccessioning guide for U.S. federal technical reports](#) from libraries was written by Laura Sare earlier this fall.
- [TRAIL's Benefits of Membership](#) page is currently being looked at by the Metrics Working Group. We are expecting to introduce a new page in 2023.
- Encouraging new people to take leadership roles generally starts with people at the Working Group level. A [new document](#) was produced to indicate what openings there are currently. We have had a few new people join these groups in the last several months.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendars

TRAIL Fall Meeting

Save the Date for the next TRAIL semi-annual update meeting! During this 1 hour meeting, we will provide updates on what's been happening recently. We look forward to having you join us!

Wednesday, **December 7**, 2022 - 12 pm PST, 1 pm MST, 2 pm CST, 3 pm EST

https://mines.zoom.us/j/94159098979?pwd=MHBiMktFYmdNMFhWc3p6UjB3SEV1QT09
Password: 289590

TRAIL Annual Meeting - Save the Date

The TRAIL Annual Meeting will once again convene in person, with a virtual option. We will do our best to run a fully hybrid meeting so your ability to travel won't hinder your ability to participate. Please hold Wednesday and Thursday, **June 7th and 8th** for a meeting at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA. Checkout the [2023 Annual Meeting Page](#). Stay tuned to this page for more information.

TRAIL Series Gap Fill Project

After a temporary suspension of this project to clear up some UPS Ground shipping account issues, the TRAIL series gap fills project is back in business. Three calls have gone out to TRAIL members thus far, all for content from U.S. Bureau of Mines report series (the third call, in mid-October, covered the last of the Bureau of Mines series). The first two calls have also gone out to broader audiences. To date TRAIL has either received or been promised over 600 reports from the first two calls (no one has yet responded to the third call). Particular kudos go Courtney Crummett and the MIT Libraries, who have supplied most of those 600+ reports.

Processing Update

People

Lynne Carmody started working 16 hours a week with TRAIL August 16, 2022. Lynne is a retiree of the University of Arizona Library with extensive experience in serials cataloging. She is now up to speed with cataloging print material for the Google Digitization/HathiTrust work stream and is creating microcard metadata in the University of North Texas Digital Library.

Isabella Espinoza started working 10 hours a week with TRAIL October 18, 2022. Isabella is an undergraduate student at UA in the STEM area. Isabella

is doing the pre-cataloging physical processing of print material and some updating of the TRAIL inventories and is doing very well.

Process

Central continues to work with staff and student employees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Stanford University on cataloging microcards for discovery in the University of North Texas's digital repository.

Dan Barkley has done some testing to see if the digitized versions of reports from the three past shipments to Michigan/Google have made it into the HathiTrust repository. Results, based on sampling titles from different shipped boxes reveal uneven access so far.

- March 2021: about 40% available in HT
- February 2022: about 90% available in HT
- August 2022: about 25% available in HT

We will continue to investigate access and update the membership.

Promote TRAIL at your Library

The Communications Working Group has TRAIL stickers and pens that you can give away at your library or at professional conferences, particularly when you make a presentation about TRAIL. Please contact Laura Sare lsare@tamu.edu if this is of interest to you (Limit of 30 stickers and/or pens per person). Also, don't forget to check out our [Media Kit webpage](#) - here you can find links to infographics, brochures about TRAIL, and graphics to promote TRAIL's technical reports on your library's social media outlets.

Tech Report Highlight

In the first decade of the Twentieth Century the U.S. Congress authorized the Department of Agriculture to investigate methods to improve the nation's barley crop for its use in the production of barley malt to make alcoholic drinks. Bulletin 124 from the USDA's Bureau of Chemistry, "Chemical Studies of American Barleys and Malts," (1909) provides details on market methods for valuing barley crops, then presents measured physical and chemical properties of four varieties of barley grown in different parts of the United States. The tests confirmed that higher-protein barleys have lower yields of malt extract and starch, while also being higher in hulls (by weight) than lower-protein barleys. Also, within a particular variety of barley, the protein content can vary markedly due to environmental conditions, especially soil composition and agricultural practices. The report documents an increase in soluble protein during the malting process, in addition to the marked increase in sugars converted from the barley's starch. More sugars means more alcohol produced per weight of barley malt. The initial findings support that one can manage a barley crop for lower protein levels, yielding a more efficient brewer's malt.

Get to Know TRAIL Member: Jesse Garrison

Jesse Garrison
Science & Technology Librarian
Iowa State University

How are you involved in TRAIL? I've been Iowa State's member representative since 2018 and have served as the TRAIL Secretary since May 2020.

Favorite TRAIL moment? Touring the scanning

facilities at the University of North Texas during the 2019 Annual Meeting that was hosted there.

Favorite Technical Report? https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA033575.pdf

What is your favorite part of your job? Any time I'm given a puzzle to solve – say, tracking down a source given a partial or ambiguous citation. My "favorite" technical report above, for example, was part of a long chain of back-tracing to answer a question about an "ingestible toothpaste" mentioned in a publication of things that had been developed by/for NASA and then brought to market for the general public. It's less that the report itself was important to me, but it represents the best part of my job.

What is your "typical" work week like? Most of the time things are rather relaxed. I spend around 8 hours a week on our online Ask A Librarian service. I make purchase requests, field questions, and provide course-related library instruction for the subject areas corresponding to the departments I'm the liaison for. ISU has a required, credit-bearing, online class on college level research and information literacy that librarians in my department teach. We take turns as the instructors, but during semesters when it's my turn I spend a fair amount of time answering student questions or providing hands-on assistance when necessary. I also act as our library's EndNote administrator, so I handle technical questions about using that citation manager and I'm stepping into a similar role regarding LaTeX.

What are you reading now? John D. Rateliff's The History of The Hobbit which is an in-depth

analysis of the process by which Tolkien wrote that book.

What are your favorite non-work activities? I've long described myself as a "narrative junkie", so consuming most forms of narrative fiction from books to movies to games is the easy answer. I also have a 4-year-old son and playing with him is always fun too.