



Summer 2023 Newsletter

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TRAIL Annual Meeting - Recap/Summary

A lot of work and a lot of fun occurred at our annual meeting at the University of Iowa this past June. Kari Kozak was a wonderful host using her mad skills of organizing to not only run the meeting in person, but also online. We had 45 people attend with 16 in person. The first day we had lots of updates and reports, including an update from CRL President, Greg Eow. For dinner we gathered at The Vue Rooftop where we were able to view Iowa City and watch the sun set while enjoying excellent food and drink. On the second day we focused on formulating future directions TRAIL might take. Major themes that came out of the meeting included a call to update the bylaws, and a shift in focus on which format types to digitize, as well as what this would mean in terms of changes to workflows and costs. The Steering Committee will be sending out a survey to poll members on what directions TRAIL should be

focusing on in the near future. Reports will be posted on the TRAIL workspace soon.



Group Photo from TRAIL Annual Meeting in Iowa City, IA and Online

New TRAIL Members

TRAIL is delighted to announce that it has added SIX new institutional members in the last 12 months. New TRAIL members (and member representatives) are: New York University (Sam Putnam); University of Oregon (Le Yang); University of New Hampshire (Louise Buckley); University of Toronto (Angela Henshilwood); Columbia University (Will Vanti); and the University of Buffalo (Erin Rowley).



TRAIL Series Gap Fill Project

The Gap Fill project wrapped up requesting reports from U.S. Bureau of Mines report series. More than 600 reports were contributed, adding substantially to TRAIL's Bureau of Mines holdings. Those contributions helped complete two additional Bureau of Mines series (the Bulletins and the Technical Papers), and we came within one report of completing a third series (anybody out there have BoM Economic Paper #10?).

The next set of needs lists is currently being compiled, and at some point this fall, you should see the first opportunity to fill gaps in series from the (former) National Bureau of Standards.

TRAIL Survey Coming to an Inbox near you

This fall the TRAIL Steering Committee wants to hear from you on TRAIL's future plans. We will be sending out a survey in the next few weeks. Please fill it out, even if you attended the Annual Meeting back in June. It will help the Steering Committee's decision making processes and will help us better serve our members.

TRAIL Metrics Update

The 2022-2023 Metrics have been updated. Checkout the numbers from the last year at <https://www.crl.edu/trail-metrics>

FY 2023 (July 2022 - June 2023) TRAIL Metrics

Core Metrics FY23

Metric	July-Dec 2022	Jan-June 2023	FY Total
Number of reports processed for digitization	2,002	0	2,002
Usage of UNT content	339,459	231,126	570,585
Usage of UW search interface			
Number of sessions	3,862	6,424	10,286
Number of users	2,983	5,019	8,002

Other Metrics FY23

Membership

As of the end of the period, number of TRAIL institutional members	53	54	
As of the end of the period, number of TRAIL personal members	13	15	

Institutions Contacted

Total Contacted	Academic	Govt Agency	Federal Lab	Non-profit	Federal Service Academy	Public Library	Private Library
17	14	1	1	0	0	0	1

Reports by Host Site

As of the end of the period, Number of reports available in HathiTrust	62,992	62,992	
As of the end of the period, Number of items available from UNT ("Visible")	30,522	31,578	
As of the end of the period, Number of "Hidden" items from UNT	12,780	18,152	

Processing Highlights

Names of series that have had a significant amount of content processed for shipment by Central, by fiscal year (for CRL Annual Report)

- EPA-Environmental Protection Technology Series
- Air Force (AEDC-TR), Arnold Engineering Development Center
- Air Force (AFSOR-TR), Air Force Office of Scientific Research
- Air Force (WADD-TR), Wright Air Development Division
- Air Force (AFWAL-TR), Air Force Wright Aeronautical Laboratories

Derived Metrics FY23

Total Reports/Items in Repositories ^A	106,294	112,722	
Total Reports/Items Available	93,514	94,570	
UNT Usage data, cumulative			6,641,635
UW Search Interface Sessions, cumulative (beginning FY2019)			32,024
UW Search Interface Users, cumulative (beginning FY2019)			25,415

Notes FY23

^A This metric includes all reports or items that are processed and counted somewhere. New metric for FY23 given that workflows do not necessarily result in immediate availability. See notes from 9/20/22.

^B As of the end of June 2023, Central has processed 2,002 reports for FY23. 2,002 reports were sent to the Scanning Center in August 2022. Materials prepared in Jan-June 2023 will be held for shipment in September, after classes resume.

Processing Update

Central Processing, at the University of Arizona, is currently at work preparing two pallets of technical reports for shipment to the Google Scanning Center in Michigan. Google now requires us to ship two pallets (40 boxes per pallet) at a time, so instead of two shipments per year we will only have one. We hope to get this culmination of a year's worth of work out the door within the next week or two. This summer, TRAIL staff also worked to describe digitized microcard images residing in the University of North Texas's Digital Repository, cataloged gap fills of series we've received from donating libraries, turned our attention to cleaning up series inventory spreadsheets for clarity, and facilitated conversations between the Collections Working Group and various member and non-member libraries about donations.

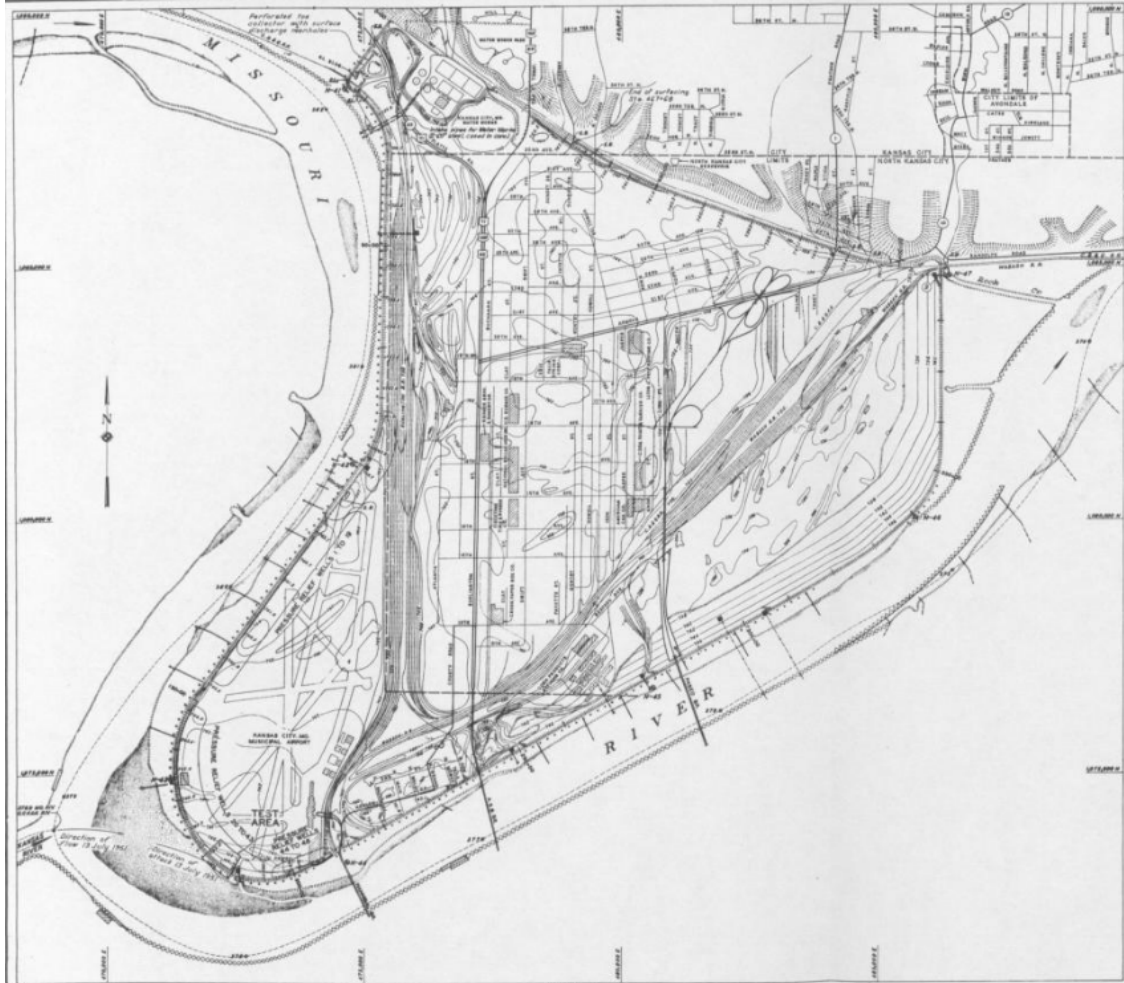
In other news, TRAIL staff also took the opportunity to take some vacation time this summer, our whiz student employee Isabella Espinoza has let us know she plans to continue working for TRAIL for this next academic year, and we are about ready to do another conversion of our microcard metadata records to MARC21 next month. This means we, and our volunteer partners, have cataloged hundreds of digitized microcard reports!

Tech Report Highlight

The 1951 Kansas (Kaw) and Missouri River floods remain the most economically devastating flood event to ever strike the Kansas City region, causing roughly \$935 million in damages (1951 US dollars, exceeds \$10.9 billion in 2023 US dollars). This flood also had the highest observed discharge rate (water flow) measured at Kansas City since the Army Corps of Engineers began recording this in 1873. The most economically devastated areas were along the Kansas River close to its confluence with the Missouri, in particular the West Bottoms. The vaunted Kansas City Stockyards in the West Bottoms and Armourdale districts were destroyed and never recovered, and large storage tanks at the Phillips Petroleum plant were unmoored by flood waters and caught fire.

North Kansas City, located on the north bank of the Missouri River near the confluence with the Kansas River, had the protection of a levee system that

held back the flood and prevented major damage to that city's industrial district. Fortuitously, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had installed a relief well system on these levees in 1948 to prevent seepage. While the North Kansas City levees did experience some scour (erosion of the earthen levee), the seepage was minimal and the pumping stations functioned satisfactorily. This U.S. Waterways Experiment Station Report, Technical Report no. 3-443, "[Performance of Relief Wells Along Missouri River Levees: 1951-1952 Floods](#)," details the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers analysis of the performance of relief well systems at Omaha, Council Bluffs, and North Kansas City.



Map showing the city of North Kansas City, MO at the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas (Kaw) Rivers, p. 61

Get to Know TRAIL Member: Zachary W. Painter



Zachary W. Painter
Assistant University Librarian for Science and Engineering
Princeton University

How are you involved in TRAIL? Currently I am the TRAIL Vice-Chair, which I just assumed in June 2023. I was TRAIL Treasurer from 2020-2022, and I have been a part of the Collections Working Group since 2016. Incidentally, I have never been the official member representative of an institution to TRAIL despite working at three different libraries; as I was a personal member at UMass Dartmouth when I first started participating, then I moved to Stanford in 2018 where James Jacobs is the member rep, and now I am heading to Princeton where Willow Dressel is the designee!

Favorite TRAIL moment? Over the past few years, I have been working with a major collection donation from an aerospace defense contractor called NEAR, Inc., in Silicon Valley. This was a 20,000 document collection of often rare or formerly restricted Cold War era weapons reports. Being able to accept this collection, consider it for preservation, and send some of it to TRAIL for digitization has been a highlight of my career. It is the kind of thing I hoped to explore when I first joined TRAIL Collections.

Favorite Technical Report? Report on the Lands of the Arid Region of the United States, from John Wesley Powell. The watershed map from the 11th edition is one of my favorite maps about a geographic feature from reality. The US West was very much shaped by technology, and Powell's recommendations for the watershed boundaries being state lines is a really fascinating alternative history look at resource conservation and shared governance.

What is your favorite part of your job? In both previous stops it has always been the classroom teaching aspect, whether I was working with EMT students, or teaching research computing, or in the first-year writing courses. I do not know how much of that I will get to do in the future, but I suspect the Princeton Winter session is going to be a favorite of mine for years to come!

What is your “typical” work week like? In the Platonic ideal of a workweek, which might be better than me trying to find something “typical”, I would hope to teach a class or three, meet with a faculty member or center director about a cross-campus collaboration, tinker in a makerspace or at a machine shop, meet some other library colleagues for lunch to talk about their projects, answer a few reference requests while learning something interesting along the way, and maybe consider answering some emails.

What are you reading now? *New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton.

What are your favorite non-work activities? I enjoy hiking, visiting museums and historical sites, and attempting to play various sports despite everything hurting after doing so.



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Web address:

technicalreports.org



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