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## Autumn 2024 Newsletter

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### In this issue:

- TRAIL @ CORE Forum
- TRAIL Mid-year Update Meeting - Dec. 10 - Hold the Date
- TRAIL Steering - Call for Nominations
- Annual Meeting - Hold the Date
- Gap Fill Project
- Processing Update
- TRAIL - A Featured Collection in HathiTrust
- Tech Report Highlight - Can You See Me Now?
- Get to Know TRAIL Member: Phillip Jaffe

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## TRAIL @ CORE Forum

TRAIL was a conference exhibitor at the CORE Forum in Minneapolis last week, Nov. 14-16. This marks our first venture into conference exhibiting to raise awareness of TRAIL. Kari Kozak, as our marketing coordinator, organized the table and the materials included. Amy Van Epps and Teresa Hazen also attended the conference and all three spent some time at the booth talking with interested people and raising the awareness of TRAIL.

The Core Forum is the annual conference for ALA's newest division, Core: Leadership, Infrastructures, Futures. It brings together decisions makers and practitioners that focus on the following areas: Access & Equity, Assessment, Buildings & Operations, Leadership & Management, Metadata & Collections, Preservation, and Technology.



## TRAIL Mid-year Update Meeting - Dec. 10 - Hold the Date

We will share changes afoot at CRL during our virtual update meeting on Tuesday, December 10th, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (eastern time). This meeting will also have our regular updates and a Q&A session for members.

[Save to Your Calendar](#)

[Zoom Link](#)

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## **TRAIL Steering - Call for Nominations**

The TRAIL Steering Committee will soon conduct elections for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, which will take place in winter 2025. This notice informs TRAIL members that the nomination period is open.

The duties of the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect are to carry out the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, arrange for elections and ballots on matters of official project activity or governance, and to otherwise assist the Chair as called upon.

The position will serve a four-year total term from 2025-2029, with the first two years as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and the second two years as Chair. The Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect term will begin at the May 2025 Annual Meeting at Colorado School of Mines, and continue to the 2027 Annual Meeting. At the 2027 Annual Meeting, the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will become TRAIL Chair, and serve in that role through the 2029 Annual Meeting. In addition, the Chair will serve as an ex-officio voting member of the Steering Committee for one year following his/her/their term of office. To be eligible, candidates must be actively affiliated with a TRAIL Institutional Member organization. Personal members are not eligible to have this position.

Please submit all questions about the process and nominations of candidates, which may include self-nominations, to TRAIL Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Zac Painter (zp5928@princeton.edu). It is noted that the changes in CRL in regard to TRAIL may be a question for prospective candidates, and any and all questions related to that topic are also appropriate.

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## **Annual Meeting - Hold the Date**

Colorado School of Mines will host the 2025 TRAIL Annual Meeting, Wed.-Thurs. May 21-22. We will have hybrid capability for those unable to travel but still interested in participating.



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## Gap Fill Project

The second call for National Bureau of Standards reports (from seven series) has now come and gone. The first two calls (covering 21 series total) has resulted in TRAIL being able to add over 200 additional reports to its NBS holdings. The third (and final) gap fill call for NBS series was sent to TRAIL members on October 11th, with a reply deadline of December 13th. Although there were only three series listed in this call, they were all series where TRAIL is missing NUMEROUS reports, so it is a great opportunity for TRAIL members to provide reports to fill gaps in those series.

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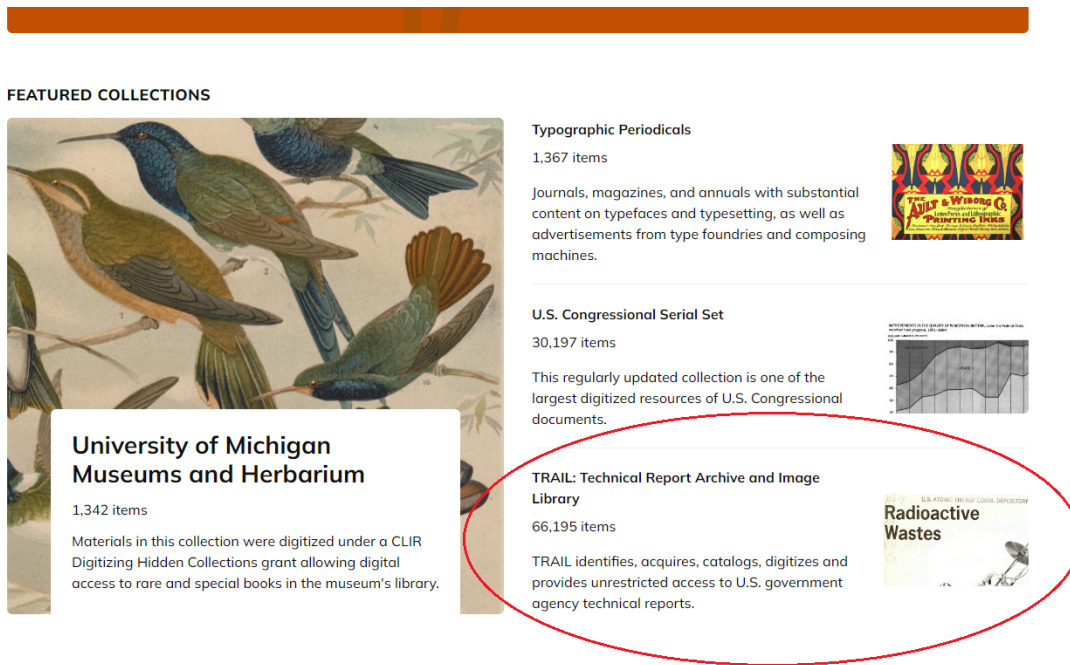
## Processing Update

TRAIL staff at the University of Arizona have been working on cataloging for the microcard project. Since the digitized content is in the University of North Texas's Digital Library, it is remote work and one TRAIL staff member has been working on that project from out of state for several months. They returned to Tucson mid-October and, working with other TRAIL staff, have switched their collective focus to preparing the yearly shipment of print technical reports to the Google Scanning Center. The shipment will be picked up sometime the week of

December 1-6 and we anticipate about 70 boxes (boxes generally contain around 50 pieces) as part of the shipment.

## TRAIL - A Featured Collection in HathiTrust

The collection of TRAIL materials available through the HathiTrust Digital Library was one of three HT collections called out / featured on their website beginning in September (<https://hathitrust.org>, see the screenshot below) and it's still one of the featured collections as of this writing. The TRAIL collection also received a mention in the September HathiTrust Newsletter. TRAIL very much appreciates HathiTrust's recognition of the TRAIL collection of materials.



The screenshot shows the 'FEATURED COLLECTIONS' section of the HathiTrust website. It lists four collections: 'Typographic Periodicals' (1,367 items), 'U.S. Congressional Serial Set' (30,197 items), 'University of Michigan Museums and Herbarium' (1,342 items), and 'TRAIL: Technical Report Archive and Image Library' (66,195 items). The TRAIL collection entry is circled in red. Each entry includes a brief description and a representative image.

**FEATURED COLLECTIONS**

**University of Michigan Museums and Herbarium**  
1,342 items  
Materials in this collection were digitized under a CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collections grant allowing digital access to rare and special books in the museum's library.

**Typographic Periodicals**  
1,367 items  
Journals, magazines, and annuals with substantial content on typefaces and typesetting, as well as advertisements from type foundries and composing machines.

**U.S. Congressional Serial Set**  
30,197 items  
This regularly updated collection is one of the largest digitized resources of U.S. Congressional documents.

**TRAIL: Technical Report Archive and Image Library**  
66,195 items  
TRAIL identifies, acquires, catalogs, digitizes and provides unrestricted access to U.S. government agency technical reports.

## Tech Report Highlight

### Can You See Me Now?

From 2006-2008 the Air Force Research Laboratory conducted tests on an interesting lifting foil concept for use with UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles, in this case stealth drone aircraft). Ronald G. Houck II, owner of Iron Hawk Enterprises, conceived of a lift foil configuration consisting of upper and lower wings joined at their wing tips. The joining of the wings created flow guides that

would hopefully reduce the aerodynamic vortex losses caused by concentrated wing tip vortices. Two AFRL-RB-WP-TR reports in TRAIL document the Houck Aircraft Design Project: [Volume 1](#) covers theory and analytical evaluation of forces associated with this lift foil configuration, while [Volume 2](#) reports on prototype testing.

Volume 1 - <https://www.technicalreports.org/trail/detail/147668/>

Volume 2 - <https://www.technicalreports.org/trail/detail/147977/>



**Figure 2: Evaluation Model of Houck Airfoil**

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## Get to Know TRAIL Member: Phillip Jaffe



**Phillip Jaffe**  
**Librarian for Engineering and Applied  
Science**  
**California Institute of Technology**

**How are you involved in TRAIL?** Just this summer, after starting in my first librarian position at Caltech, I stepped in as its representative to TRAIL following the retirement of George Porter, whose enthusiasm for the organization and for

technical reports in general rubbed off on me. I am hoping to maintain Caltech's close involvement with the organization and have begun attending Collections Working Group meetings.

**Favorite TRAIL moment?** Can't say I have one yet—but looking forward to being a part of lots of TRAIL moments in the future.

**Favorite Technical Report?** Not much sticks out from what I've come across through my work at Caltech so far. But from poking around the TRAIL inventories, I stumbled upon [this USDA report on canning peas](#) that I think is kind of fun.

**What is your favorite part of your job?** Definitely talking with researchers in the engineering departments about what they are currently working on. I'm lucky to be on a small campus where it's more feasible to maintain working relationships with the individuals in the division I support and to stay on top of what everybody is doing, and I really appreciate that interpersonal aspect of the job.

**What is your “typical” work week like?** I consider myself quite fortunate to not have a typical week. Though recently some of the things that have been taking up most of my time are: managing the print collection, including weeding and donation processing; speaking with members of the engineering division about and putting together resources on open access; and helping out with our institutional repository. Also, most days I try to take a short break to visit the turtles that live in the pond right outside the library.

**What are you reading now?** *The Good*

*Times* by Russell Baker—something of a sequel to his *Growing Up*, which is perhaps my favorite memoir. It's certainly enjoyable and lighthearted, but hasn't been resonating with me as strongly as that first one.

**What are your favorite non-work activities?** I

like doing crossword puzzles and going for long walks. I also recently took up table tennis which I've been enjoying quite a bit.



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*Dec 4, 2024*

**Web address:**

[technicalreports.org](http://technicalreports.org)



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