



Spring 2021 Newsletter

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Jen Kirk appointed to the Depository Library Council of the Federal Depository Library Program

TRAIL's Metrics Working Group Chair Jen Kirk is the Government Information Librarian at Utah State University (USU). At USU, Kirk coordinates the Government Information Program and connects government documents to users across disciplines. As the Regional Coordinator for Utah and Nevada, she works with 15 depositories to provide public access to government information. She promotes government information through the Utah Library Association's Government Documents Roundtable (ULA GODORT). Her research interests focus on practical applications of government information librarianship, distribution of government agency publications, and presidential libraries. Congratulations, Jen!

<https://www.fdlp.gov/news-and-events/4983-gpo-director-names-new-members-to-the-depository-library-council-2021>

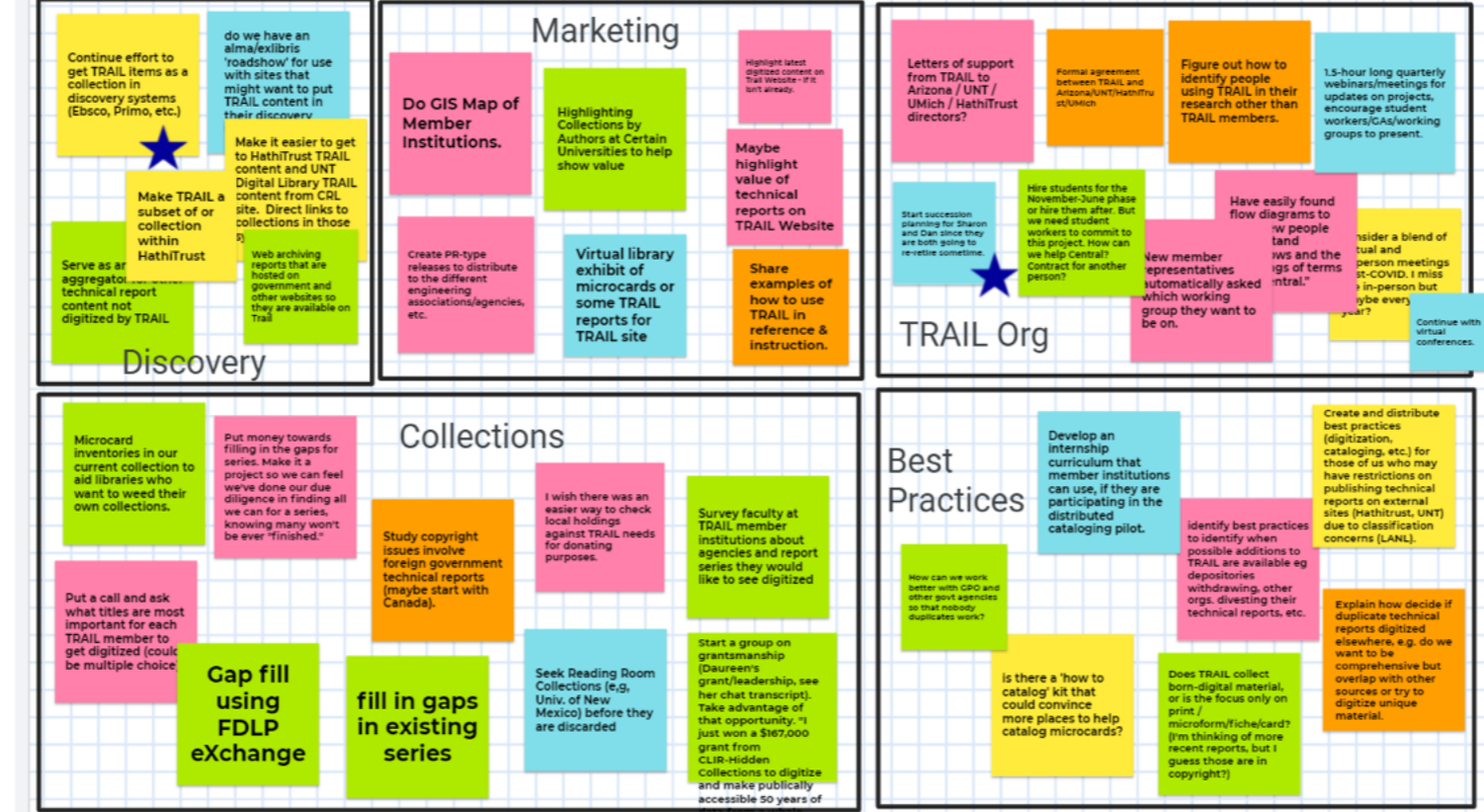
TRAIL Search Interface - www.technicalreports.org - Downtime

The University of Washington Libraries host the TRAIL search interface at www.technicalreports.org. The entire contents of the UW Libraries server room will be relocated to a UW IT server building, meaning dozens of UW-hosted pages will be down for parts of two days. www.technicalreports.org will be down from roughly 5:30 am PT on June 15th until approximately 8:00 pm PT on June 16th. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience.

TRAIL Annual Meeting - highlights

The TRAIL Annual Meeting was held virtually on May 12-14, with a total of 48 participants. A major component of the reporting and discussion was the ongoing microcard scanning project. All project microcards were delivered to the vendor between November 2020 and May 2021. To date, 59% have been scanned, while 2% have been processed and uploaded to the TRAIL Microcard Collection in the UNT Digital Library. The current estimate is that the original scanning of the cards will be complete by August 2021 and that the University of North Texas will complete processing and ingesting those images into their digital repository in 2022. At that point TRAIL will need volunteers outside of the Central Processing group in Arizona to help with cataloging the individual items – this process will begin with a pilot project of 2 institutions with plans to expand to others at a later date.

The other major project of interest going forward was getting TRAIL content added to library discovery services as its own collection. We have discussions in progress with EBSCO, but we hope to also work with ExLibris and others. TRAIL may be looking for volunteers to be part of a new task force or working group on this topic.



Check out the BrainStorming from Day 3 ([View the Whole Board](#))

Processing Update

TRAIL staff at the University of Arizona, called "Central" in TRAIL speak, continue to work through the processing of material, mostly remotely. A second pallet of physical material slated for the Google digitization center at the University of Michigan has been prepped and stored at Central. The latest update from Google is that the digitization center will remain closed until mid-July at the earliest. Central will send the second pallet as soon as the center re-opens for scanning.

The University of Arizona Libraries will be easing restrictions for being on-site, starting this summer. Central staff will be frequenting Main Library a little more to work through physical material. Central recently received a shipment of material from Stanford and will be on-site some, as a result.

Central continues to work on the microcard project, refining the process for converting UNT metadata to an acceptable MARC record for inclusion into WorldCat.

Tech Report Highlight

Use of Dredged Material Islands by Colonial Seabirds and Wading Birds in Texas

<http://www.technicalreports.org/trail/detail/132731/>

This report investigates the use of dredged material islands made by colonial nesting seabirds and wading birds in Texas initiated in October 1976. While these islands were created from materials clogging ship channels, they inadvertently became a wildlife resource. While most of the data is about nesting birds, there are also vegetation surveys as well.

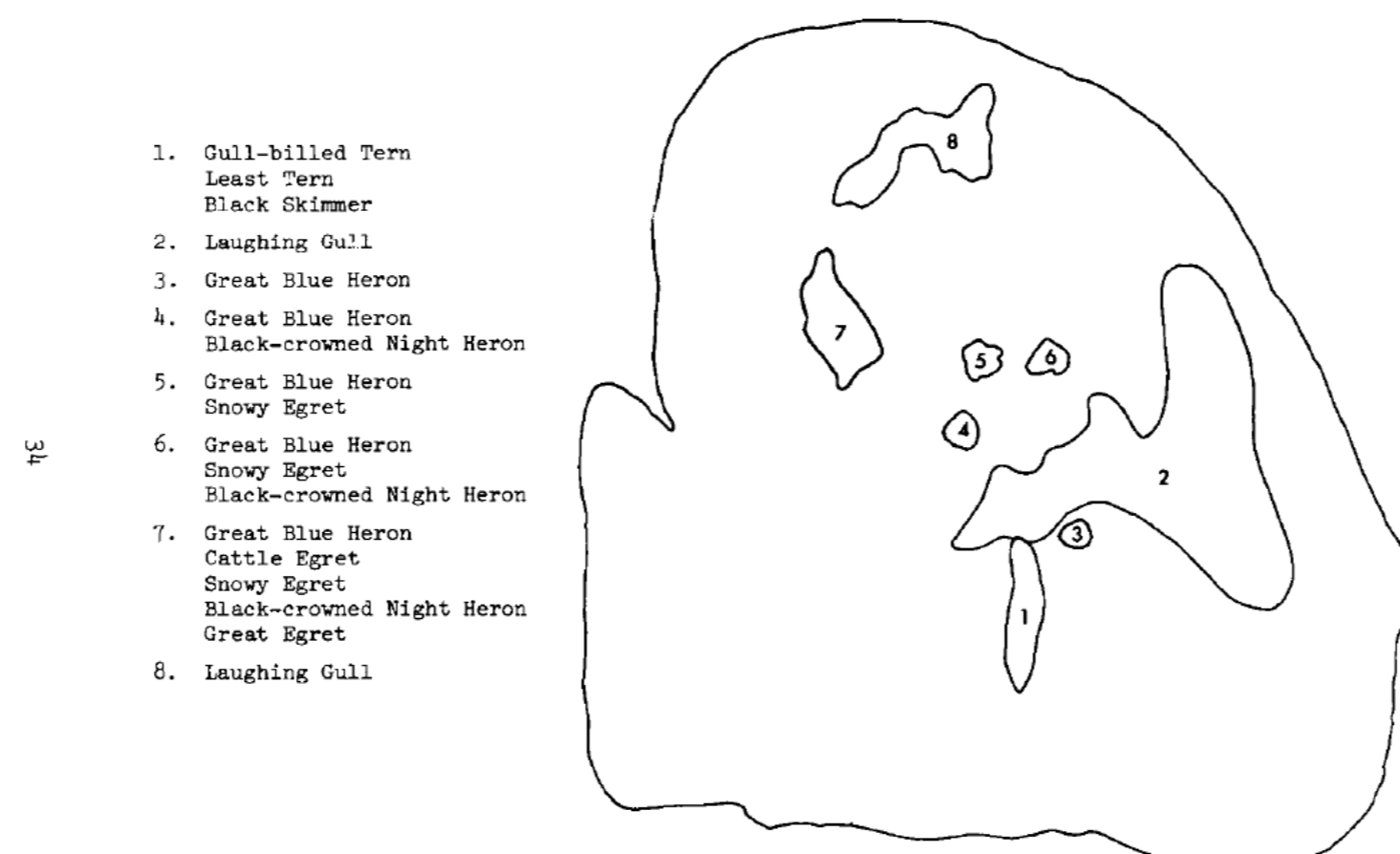


Figure 6. Location and species composition of nesting bird colonies on Island LM 15A.

Get to Know TRAIL Member: Lisa Nickum



Lisa Nickum
Systems Discovery Librarian
Colorado School of Mines

University - Colorado School of Mines

How are you involved in TRAIL? My first involvement within TRAIL was to work with my cataloger colleague, Karen Pliffner, Central (University of Arizona), and UNT (University of North Texas) to start a harvested cataloging project on NACA material. I was TRAIL Secretary from 2018-2020 and TRAIL Chair-Elect from 2019-2021 and became TRAIL Chair after the 2021 Annual Meeting. I am also a member of the TRAIL Steering Committee and 2 TRAIL working groups: Metrics and Collections.

Favorite TRAIL moment? After my first TRAIL Annual Meeting in 2018 in Fort Collins, CO, I had realized that I found "my people." I knew this right away from the first dinner with this crazy group! I had been asking that our institution join TRAIL since about 2010. I enjoy working with others who have the same passion for these reports.

Favorite Technical Report? *Environmental Considerations of Active and Abandoned Mine Lands: Lessons from Summitville, Colorado* - <https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1115026/?q=geological%20survey%20colorado%20mine>. This report was very popular in the Mines library early in my career. Most copies were stolen from the collection and I needed to replace this report multiple times.

What is your favorite part of your job? Configuring a new feature for one of our Ex Libris products that makes a member of our library staff's job easier or is desired by our student and/or faculty users.

What is your "typical" work week like? I have worked 100% at home since March 2020 due to the pandemic (even though our library has been opened since June 22, 2020). I spend the majority of my time on the administration of the Ex Libris Alma, Primo, and Leganto products. This work takes part throughout the week and involves ensuring that the products are working correctly, working with Mines' library staff and other non-library staff, consulting with Ex Libris staff, and keeping up with the new updates for these products. I also supervise 2 students working on systems, digital projects, and electronic resources work. I belong to several library teams, including the Digital UX, Collection Management, Reference, and Access Services, that fill a lot of my working hours with meetings. Since we are a small library, I also provide reference services (virtually only for the last year) for 4-hours per week and provide technical support for our electronic resources throughout the week. Depending on the time in the semester, I could be providing library instruction for undergrad and graduate students in various courses. I also mentor a couple of library faculty members. I have recently been involved in our campus Faculty Senate (for the second time in my career at Mines). My 3-year stint with the Faculty Senate will end the summer of 2021, just in time for the TRAIL Chair work. Finally, I spend a few hours per week on TRAIL activities.

What are you reading now? I both read and listen to books. Right now, I am reading *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood. Atwood has been my favorite author since I read *The Handmaid's Tale* in college. I am currently listening to *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey* by sisters, Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar.

What are your favorite non-work activities? I like getting out into nature (Colorado and elsewhere) to enjoy camping, hiking, and snowshoeing. My family loves exploring national parks! Before the pandemic, I really liked going to the movies with my husband. We typically go to an Oscar Party every year, so we like seeing as many Oscar-nominated movies as we can. We have been watching these movies at home in 2020 and 2021, but it is not the same. I am also in a couple of small groups with very good friends that meet monthly. Many female members of these groups, including me, will be travelling to northern Florida later this year to celebrate several important birthdays that were not appropriately honored during the pandemic.



June 13, 2021

Web address:
technicalreports.org

