



Spring 2022 Newsletter

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2022 TRAIL Annual Meeting - Virtual

The TRAIL Steering Committee, out of an abundance of caution, has decided to hold a virtual TRAIL Annual Meeting in 2022. The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24 – Thursday, May 26. The meeting will be held each day for 4 hours (9-1 Pacific / 10-2 Mountain / 11-3 Central / 12-4 Eastern). On Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24-25, there will also be an **optional** coffee/tea hour immediately preceding the meeting (8-8:50 Pacific / 9-9:50 Mountain / 10-10:50 Central / 11-11:50 Eastern).

Additional details on the agendas for each day will be sent out by May 11, 2022.

If you want to know more about what occurred at past Annual Meetings, Mid-Year Updates, or what our Working Groups have been up to during the last 10 months, you can also check the CRL TRAIL Collaboration Workspace: <https://workspace.crl.edu/>.

Zoom Link: <https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/94893468365?pwd=c1N0UDAzTGdyeHFLWWIWbHdSWFBLdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 9346 8365

Passcode: 868705

Call-IN: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

TRAIL 2021 Annual Meeting - Follow-Up

At the 2021 TRAIL Annual Meeting, one member asked, “How can we work better with GPO and other govt agencies so that nobody duplicates work?” The short answer (and good news) is that the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) is a TRAIL member, and GPO’s Collection Development Librarian Megan Minta serves on TRAIL’s Collections Working Group. She is aware of what agencies publish technical reports and digitize them, and keeps TRAIL updated so that we can collaborate to make the best use of our resources.

GPO is currently working on digitization as they announced last

April: <https://www.gpo.gov/who-we-are/news-media/news-and-press-releases/gpo-and-libraries-set-goal-to-make-every-us-gov-doc-accessible>.

Since most federal technical reports were distributed outside of GPO’s program, TRAIL helps fill that gap, while GPO digitizes publications distributed through their program.

As for agencies doing their own digitization, that is a bit harder to follow up on, as agencies usually decide to digitize based on the needs of the populations they serve. TRAIL focuses on digitizing content not currently available online but sometimes there are duplicates. On the other hand, duplication is not a bad thing. Sometimes material on agency websites is unavailable, so material available through TRAIL is available even if an agency is down due to a government shutdown or a broken server. This follows the concept of LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe <https://www.lockss.org/>).

TRAIL Series Gap Fill Project Launch

On March 30th, TRAIL announced the launch of its series gap fill effort! This is a strategic direction that emerged from the 2021 TRAIL annual meeting, and we are now ready to fill gaps in the series for which TRAIL has previously processed content.

How & When

A gap fill request or “needs list” of reports from one or more series from a particular agency will be sent out every 4-6 weeks to different email lists in the following order: TRAIL-related lists, sci-tech librarian email lists, gov doc librarian lists, and [FDLP eXchange](#). The needs list will be revised at each step as content is contributed.

Some ground rules for how the process will work, and digitization specifications for institutions that might wish to scan needed reports instead of supplying them in print for destructive digitization will always be available at <https://trailguides.crl.edu/series/gapfill>

CRL and TRAIL - Introducing Samantha Abrams, CRL Head of Collections



Samantha Abrams was promoted to CRL Head of Collections in August of 2021. In this position she focuses on forming and managing forward-thinking partnerships that advances the aspirations of cultural heritage communities and increases equity for the communities they serve. Samantha and her team oversee digital, international, and distinctive collections – such as TRAIL. Her

responsibilities for TRAIL include serving as an ex officio member of the TRAIL Steering Committee, assisting the Treasurer with the budget, assisting the Communications Working Group with updating the [TRAIL website](#) and making sure TRAIL receives any support it needs from CRL.

Samantha became interested in preservation after taking the course 'Introduction to Archives' and a week-long class on web archiving during her first year in Library School. She states, "Preservation — especially digital preservation — requires careful thinking, proper allocation of resources, and attention, and brings a new challenge almost every day, which keeps things interesting. Preservation keeps me engaged and learning — there's always a new format that needs to be preserved, and I love having to think on my feet." Her work at CRL also allows for partnerships, which has been a second focus of her career. Her first position was as the Community Archivist with StoryCorps, through which she collaborated with people at the Library of Congress, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Schomburg Center, and more. Working for CRL allows Samantha to liaise with over two-hundred member libraries and ten groups under the Global Resources Network, one of which is TRAIL.

Samantha lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she has started a garden – growing two tomato plants, parsley, rosemary, and chives in pots at this point in time. She also crochets, reads a lot and is an avid crossworder - successfully completing the New York Times Crossword 380 days in a row with no mistakes! Living in Brooklyn there's no shortage of new things (and restaurants) to explore so Samantha likes wandering the city without a destination in mind and seeing what catches her eye.

Update - Public Website Reviewed and Updated for Changes

TRAIL Communications Working Group members periodically review all the TRAIL public website pages and identify any changes or updates that are necessary to maintain current information. Once the required changes are identified, they are passed along to CRL, who actually updates the pages. This process was completed most recently in mid-March.

Processing Update

Central has been focusing on continuing to process materials for digitization from the Google Scanning Center as well as working on the microcard distributed cataloging project. As reported earlier, digitization efforts at Google ground to a halt for well over a year, during which time TRAIL's content sat at the scanning center. We've been checking on access and it appears that the first of the three shipments we have sent to the scanning center has now been processed and content is showing up in HathiTrust, which is great to see.

Central Staff met with librarians and staff from Stanford University and The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to get them introduced to our microcard distributed cataloging project. Stanford is already up and running while Illinois will likely get started sometime within the next month or so.

Tech Report Highlight

The weather report on any radio or television broadcast will often mention the Doppler radar scan of the region, giving an early warning about approaching weather systems and their severity. NEXRAD, or Next Generation Weather Radar, is a nationwide network of Doppler radar stations.

NEXRAD is the first daily prediction and forecast network using Doppler radar, a technology improvement in the algorithms that process radar signals, as well as in the display of that information (often referred to as "products"). Doppler technology provides wind speed and direction information in addition to data on the internal structure and motion of storms from the radar signal. With NEXRAD Doppler radar, weather forecasters are now able to detect and geographically locate tornadoes, gust fronts, and turbulence.

The first test of the operational utility of NEXRAD-like algorithms and display products for processing radar signals occurred in 1983 at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Oklahoma City. Later that same year, the Boston Area NEXRAD Demonstration (BAND) began, extending the use of the NEXRAD algorithms and display products to the wide range of weather situations encountered in the northeast United States through the winter and into early summer.

The TRAIL technical report "[The Boston Area NEXRAD Demonstration \(BAND\)](#)" reports on 450 hours of NEXRAD-like information outputs generated from November 16, 1983 through July 1, 1984. The researchers found the trial generated excellent quality data. Additionally, they made recommendations for increased high vertical resolution and to increase resolution of wind profiles. The Boston Area NEXRAD Demonstration represented a significant milestone of NEXRAD development. The first installation of a NEXRAD radar for daily forecasting use occurred in 1992, and the full nationwide network was completed by 1997. The network of NEXRAD radars are still used for weather forecasting today.

- Scott Curtis

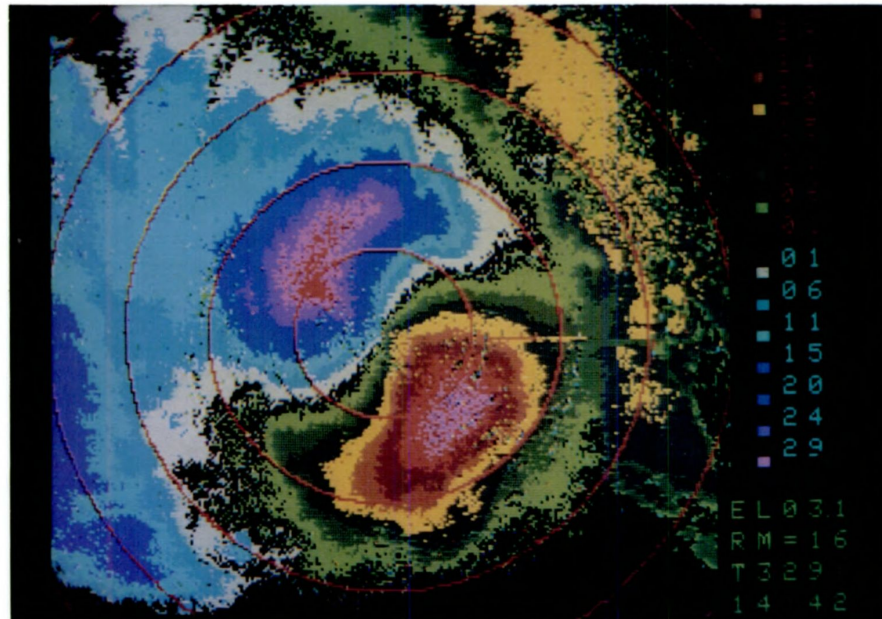
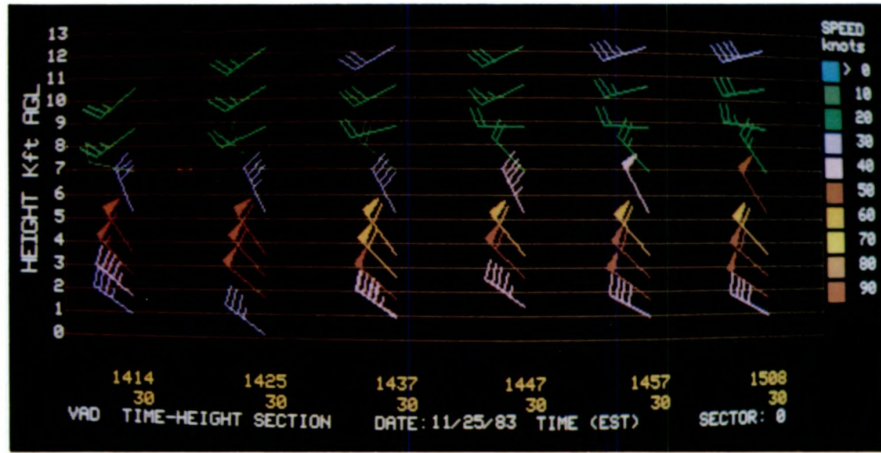


Figure 7. Examples of Base (lower) and Derived (upper) Wind Products Observed in Part I, 25 November 1983. Wind bars are expressed in nautical miles per hour (knots). Note the low-level jet in velocity PPI image for 1442 EST as well as in the time height sections for the period approximately 1/2 hour before and after the PPI

Get to Know TRAIL Member: Jason Burton

Jason Burton
Science Collections Librarian



University of California, Los Angeles

How are you involved in TRAIL? I am currently on the Collections Working Group and will be starting a two-year term as Treasurer in May.

Favorite TRAIL moment? Working on a project looking at foreign copyright and government publications. It was a fascinating dig into how other governments look at copyright around their work.

Favorite Technical Report? “A Radiometric Traverse Along the Alaska Railroad”
<https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc502115/>

What is your favorite part of your job? Getting to show patrons how much material they have access to.

What is your “typical” work week like? A healthy combination of meetings, consultations, materials purchasing, and in-depth searching.

What are you reading now? My wife and I just started reading/discussing *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*.

What are your favorite non-work activities? Watching a movie or cricket and rambling around Los Angeles.



May 12, 2022

Web address:

technicalreports.org



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