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**trail@15**
TECHNICAL REPORT
ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

# Summer 2021 Newsletter

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# TRAIL Annual Meeting - follow-up

The Scope of TRAIL

During our annual meeting in May there was a session where participants brainstormed ideas and suggestions of projects for TRAIL, and then we voted on these ideas to rank what meeting participants wanted most. Several votes were for web archiving of reports hosted on government or other websites and have TRAIL serve as an aggregator for technical report content not digitized by TRAIL.

The Steering Committee discussed this suggestion and would like to notify members that at this time this suggestion is not within the scope of TRAIL's main purpose – to catalog and digitize technical reports in paper and microformats to make them openly accessible online. TRAIL conducted a pilot back in late 2011 where all NACA reports available in the NASA Technical Reports Server were harvested and ingested into the TRAIL collection. Unfortunately these NACA reports had very messy metadata that did not meet our minimum metadata standards and had to be cleaned up. This took a lot of time and money. At this time the Steering Committee feels we have plenty of reports that need digitization, and we will continue to focus on them for the time being. We do not have the time or the resources to focus on harvesting right now.

# TRAIL@15 party report

Fifteen years after the first planning meeting for what later became TRAIL, people associated with the project, both historically and currently gathered to celebrate the progress and longevity of the project. We had 28 people join in and saw some of the founding members of the group who have since retired or changed jobs.

After a few challenges getting everyone into the virtual celebration, we talked a bit about the beverages we brought, or the ones that would have been consumed if people were not on-campus, or in the middle of their afternoon. We learned about beers, mixed drinks, ciders, sodas, and in one case a water that were all named or somehow related to the name TRAIL.

Current chair, Lisa Nickum, shared some remarks about history, milestones, and current progress of TRAIL that led to sharing of past stories and updates on some current activities.

Finally, we ended the gathering with a short trivia competition, which Communications Working Group members participated in, even though we contributed most of the questions. The questions have been shared on Facebook if you're interested (https://www.facebook.com/TechnicalReportsandImageLibrary/posts/10159340023361718).

Thanks to everyone who joined us, and here's to the next 15!

Podium of the winners of TRAIL@15 Trivia.

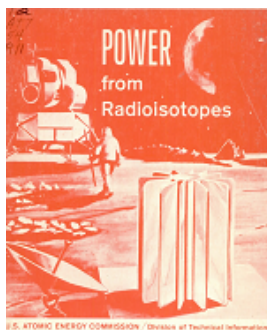# TRAIL on your library's database list and libguides

The reports on TRAIL are excellent primary sources for mining, space exploration, water resources, and engineering and scientific topics. Spread the word among the STEM Librarians to include them in research guides.

You can also spread the word about TRAIL by adding this resource as a reputable database for your library database list.

Links, widgets, and TRAIL's own libguide are listed here: https://www.crl.edu/grn/trail/about-trail/trail-tools

# TRAIL Collection in HathiTrust

TRAIL is thankful to Heather Christenson, TRAIL personal member and HathiTrust Program Officer for Collections and Federal Documents, and her colleagues for the creation of the TRAIL Collection. Creating collections at HathiTrust is a way to group and make sharing with others easier. The full text of items

within a collection can be searched independently of the full library.  Basic information that a collection offers allows for analysis of the collection or ease of use by HathiTrust Research Center users.  More about collections can be found here: https://www.hathitrust.org/help_digital_library#CBBuild.  The TRAIL Collection will be tagged as a Featured Collection.  Featured collections are created by member libraries, organizations, etc.. In case you're wondering the University of North Texas (UNT) Digital Library also hosts TRAIL content and users can search within a TRAIL-designated collection.

# Processing Update

The University of Arizona Libraries, has been busy over the summer. We've opened our libraries with full services and welcomed back our 40,000 students on August 23rd with our largest incoming Freshman class. TRAIL staff have been steadily working through print material from Stanford and pulled from our own collection. We have been collaborating with the University of North Texas and Colorado School of Mines on developing documentation and a workflow for the microcard distributed cataloging project, which was discussed during the 2021 TRAIL annual meeting. We expect, this week, to send a spreadsheet of titles to Colorado School of Mines to test out the process, after which we'll open it up to other volunteer institutions. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering cataloging time to help describe the microcards. Contact: Teresa Hazen at hazent@arizona.edu.

Lastly, we've learned that the Google Scanning Center in Michigan has reopened for business this August and we are currently are waiting for paperwork from them to ship out our second pallet of material. Hopefully by the next newsletter, we'll have more to share on Google's progress digitizing TRAIL content for inclusion into HathiTrust.

# Tech Report Highlight

TRAIL's Impact

A U.S. Bureau of Mines technical report digitized by TRAIL was highlighted in the journal *DttP: Documents to the People's* Winter 2019 TRAIL Spotlight column.  The column featured "Fires in Abandoned Coal Mines and Waste Banks" and this column was the 11th highest accessed article from *DttP* in the HeinOnline database between May 2020 and May 2021. This column was also was one of the top 20 articles viewed from the *DttP* platform between January and May 2021. https://journals.ala.org/index.php/dttp/article/view/7212/9860

The 2016 "Ten Years of TRAIL" article also published in *DttP: Documents to the People* is the 11th highest viewed article since *DttP* moved to an online platform in 2016. It has been viewed 1645 times. https://journals.ala.org/index.php/dttp/article/view/6070/7794
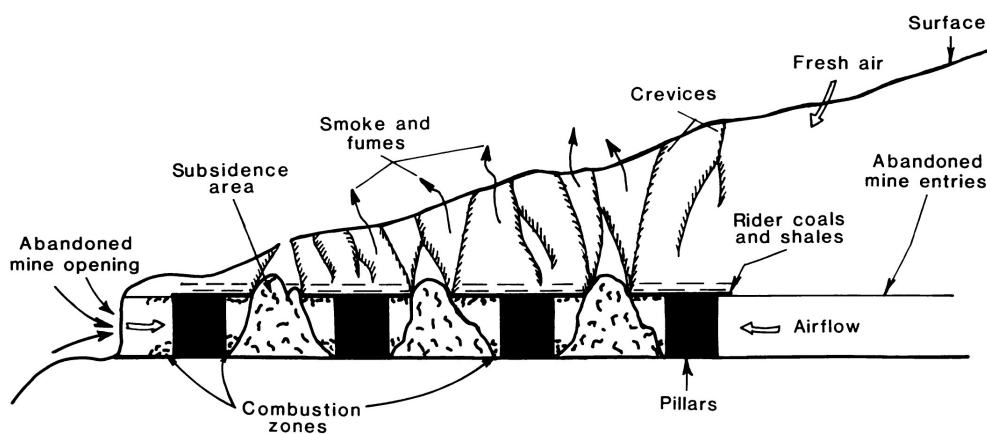


Figure 3.—Fire(s) in abandoned mine.

# Get to Know TRAIL Member: Tom Rohrig

**Tom Rohrig**
**Associate Librarian**
**Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) Librarian**
**Texas Region 1 Regional Depository Librarian**

**University** - Texas Tech University Libraries

**How are you involved in TRAIL?** I am currently in my second term as chair of the Membership

Working Group and am a member of the Metrics Working Group and a former chair. I also serve on the Steering Committee.

**Favorite TRAIL moment?** Serving on the Steering Committee. I learn so much from everyone each Zoom meeting, Plus, I get to see and hear a variety of four legged friends of TRAIL.

**Favorite Technical Report?** [Investigation of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Walkways Collapse](#) This report was featured on a true crime show and the statistics jumped appreciably. This is an excellent example of the value of technical reports—even years after their publication.

**What is your favorite part of your job?** Teaching my section of the TTU Libraries [Essentials of Scholarly Research](#), I teach a section that has a lot of legal studies minors and I talk a lot about government resources. I also love doing chat. You never know what patrons will ask and it's always challenging to help them find what they need.

**What is your "typical" work week like?** I have worked 9-6 full time at the University Library since January. I do chat 4 hours a week. I have a few regular committee meetings, e.g., TRAIL Membership, Metrics, and Steering committee and a few Library meetings – my Research Instruction & Outreach department meeting, Professional Development Team, and Public Programming/Outreach Team. I don't have as many regular meetings as some of my other colleagues so I can devote more time to research, my PTRC and documents responsibilities, and answering reference questions. The rest of my week is involved in research and coordinating the reference part of the Texas Tech Regional Depository (I have 2 excellent staff – Pam Lampe and Anne Dela-

Rosa who handle the technical processing end of the depository) and the Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC). I monitor the FDLP eXchange system for Texas depositories weeding material. I check daily as there are so many titles being weeded – it is a definite trend to downsize physical collections and become more electronic depositories!

I also work with my departments, e.g., Aerospace Studies (Air force ROTC), Military Science (Army ROTC), and Political Science to develop library instruction, order material, help with research, etc. I also work on reviewing and updating workshops I do including Community Information, Creating Your Own Opportunities: Using University Resources to Become an Entrepreneur and Obtain a Patent, Introduction to Library Resources for International Students, etc. with my colleagues.

**What are you reading now?** I usually am listening to a book on the Libby app, an audio in my car, and various hardcover mysteries and children's/YA books. Right now, I am listening to Bring Me Back by B.A. Paris on Libby, Steven M. Gillon's Pearl Harbor: FDR Leads the Nation to War and reading a children's trilogy by Ursula Le Guin beginning with [Catwings](#).

**What are your favorite non-work activities?** I love reading and watching streaming Netflix mystery, science fiction, and horror and attending to my cat Angel's every wish.

*Sept 21, 2021*

**Web address:**
technicalreports.org