trail TECHNICAL REPORT ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

Celebrating 10 years!

TRAIL :
A labor of LOVE expanding open access to government information

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trail@10 TECHNICAL REPORT ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

TRAIL's Mission: *To ensure preservation, discoverability, and persistent open access to government technical publications, regardless of form or format.*

www.crl.edu/grn/trail/

42 Institutional Members
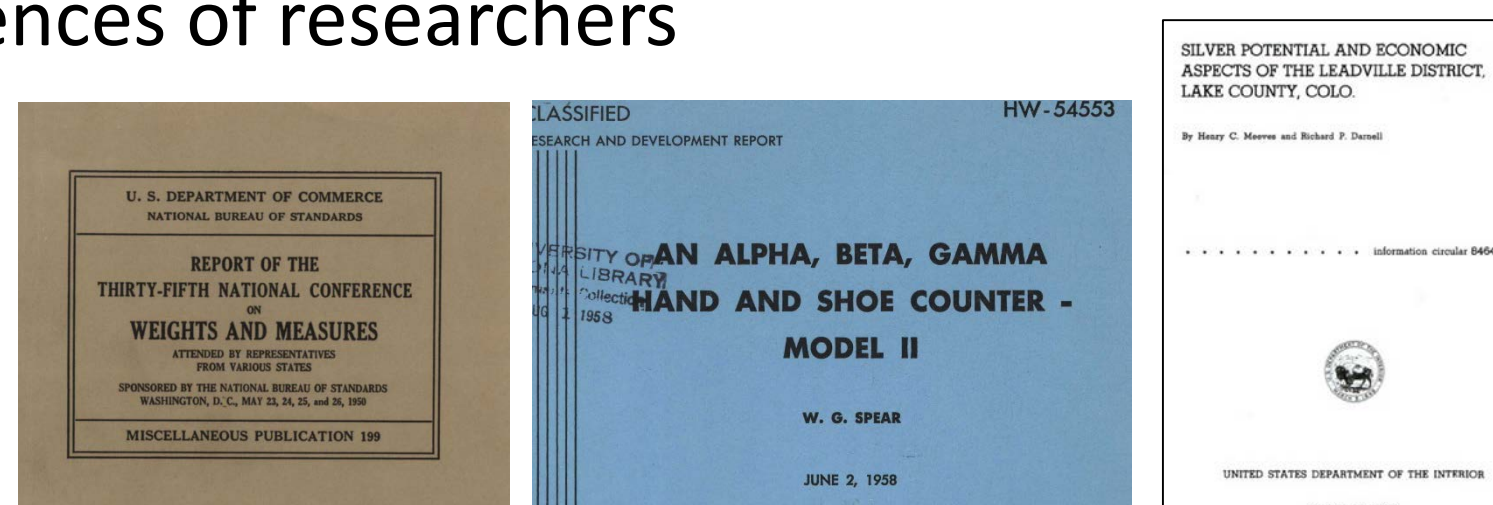**9 Personal Members**

What are Federal Technical Reports?

The U.S. government has published technical reports since the 1800s. They communicate progress in government research in technology and science.

Technical reports contain detailed research and data important to specialized audiences of researchers.

Value of Technical Reports to Researchers

- They communicate research in technology and science
- They deliver information for technical development to industry and research institutions contributing to the continued growth of science and technology
- They contain valuable information serving specialized audiences of researchers

The problem: *Accessing series of technical reports, especially historical reports, can be a difficult, time-consuming, and even impossible task for the everyday user. This is due to changes in series designations, agency name changes, agency closures, and many other reasons.*

Why TRAIL exists

TRAIL formed in 2006 to address these and other issues for accessing technical reports.

Through TRAIL's collective and voluntary efforts, we have progressed from a small digitization pilot (200 documents) to the current library of 50,000+ technical reports, which contain content of interest to all disciplines, not just STEMM.

How we fulfill TRAIL's mission

- Identify, acquire, catalog, and digitize U.S. government technical reports
- Provide unrestricted access to these digitized technical reports through TRAIL's search interface and search engines
- Identify & investigate the long-term preservation possibilities of this unique body of literature

How TRAIL Works

Strong collaboration between government document librarians, subject librarians in academia, and many partner organizations that support digitization workflows (e.g., University of Michigan Google Book Project scanning) and donate technical reports for digitization.

Volunteers Coordinate Activities of TRAIL

- ❖ *Steering Committee*
- ❖ *Communications Working Group*
- ❖ *Processing Working Group*
- ❖ *Membership Working Group*
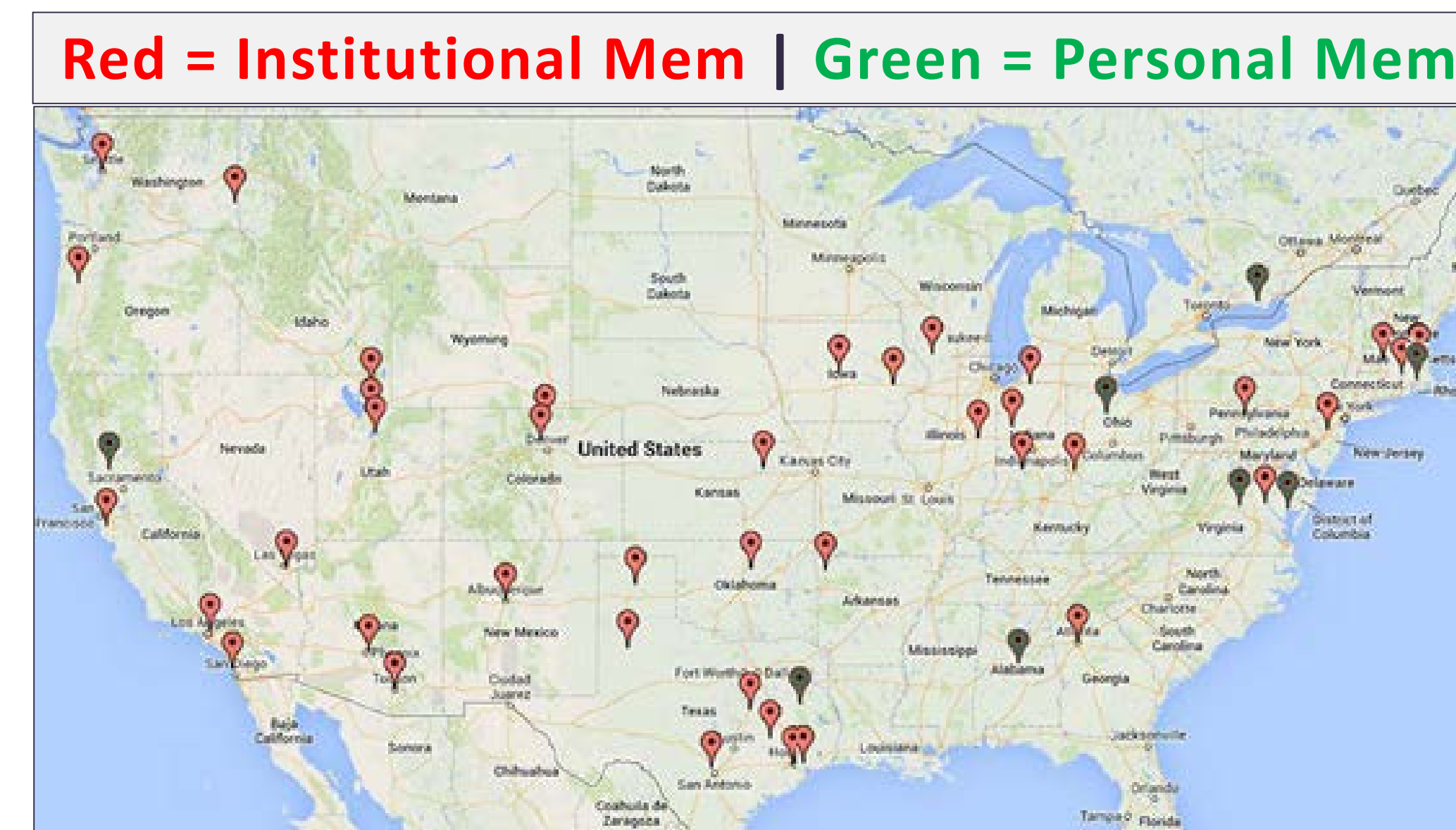- ❖ *Collections Working Group*

Donations are accepted from many institutions, assembled and organized at hub institutions around the country, then sent to the Univ. of Arizona (UA) for processing.

From UA, collections are transported to either Univ. of Michigan (Google Books Project) or to the Univ. of North Texas for digitization.

Top Ten Agencies in TRAIL (by # of reports)

#	Agency
1	Department of Energy, DOE
2	Environmental Protection Agency, EPA
3	National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA
4	US Department of Agriculture, USDA
5	National Bureau of Standards, NBS
6	US Geological Survey, USGS
7	Atomic Energy Commission, AEC
8	National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, NACA
9	US Army Research
10	US Bureau of Mines

TRAIL members are from all around North America, including universities, governments agencies such as the Government Printing Office (GPO), and many individual members, including one from Canada.

TRAIL is funded by member organizations, and works under the administration of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL).

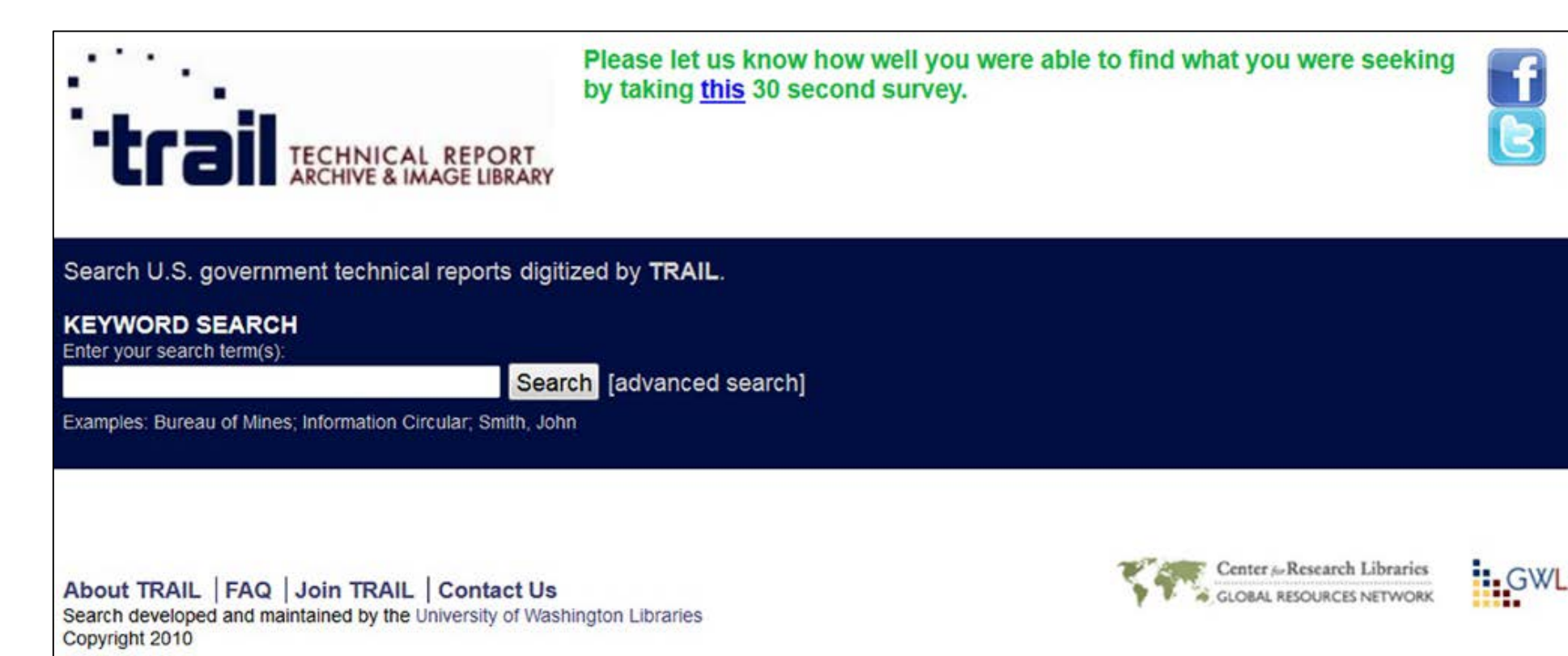**Red = Institutional Mem | Green = Personal Mem**

TRAIL is a continuously growing effort, and depends on the contributions of many who are passionate about preservation and access to technical report literature.

New members and volunteers are welcome!

TRAIL provides an integrated, open access website and search interface for discovery of reports from a range of federal agencies.

technicalreports.org

Acknowledgements