Blazing a TRAIL: Digitizing and Preserving Legacy U.S. Government Technical Reports

Mel DeSart
Head, Engineering Library
University of Washington
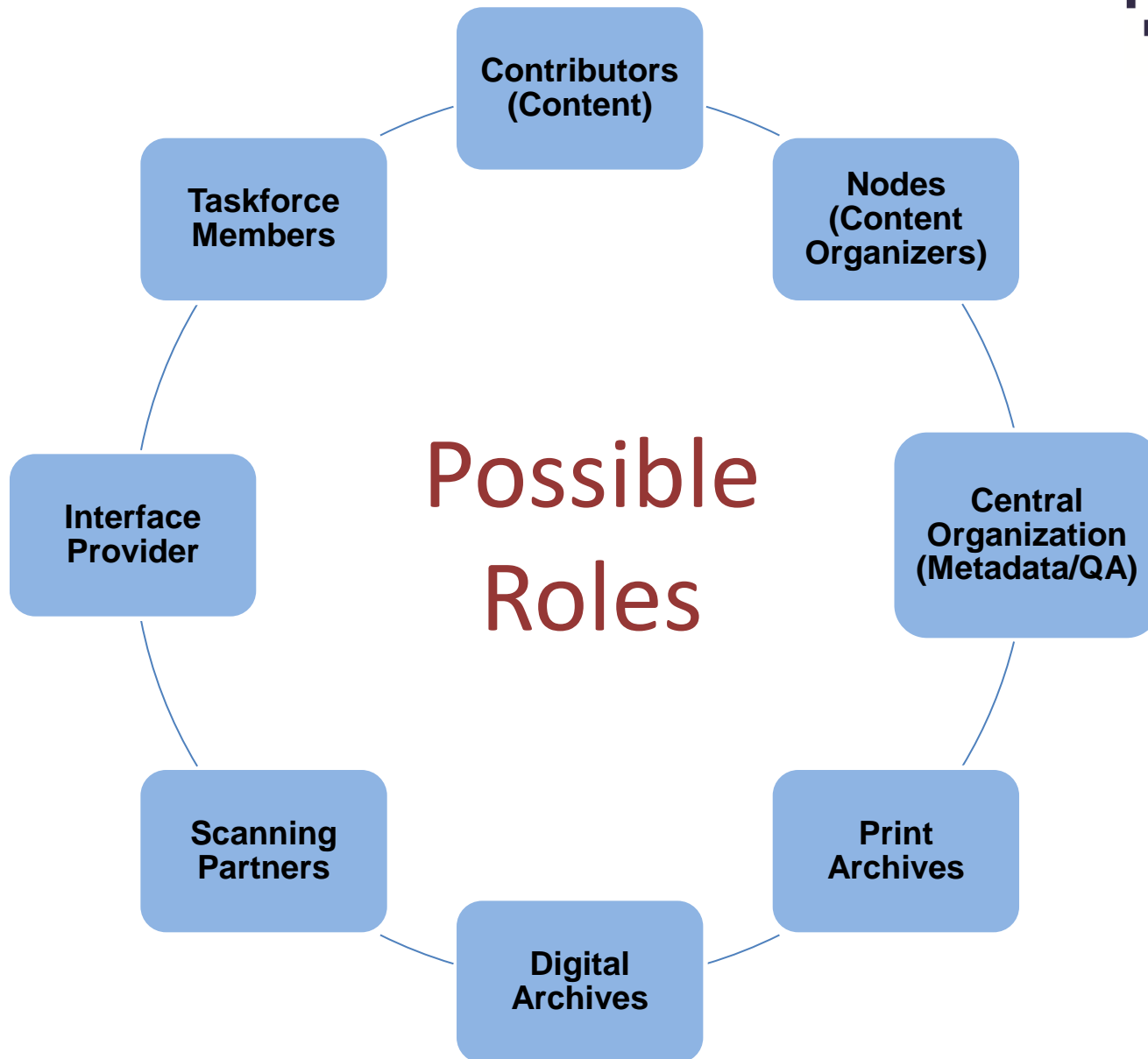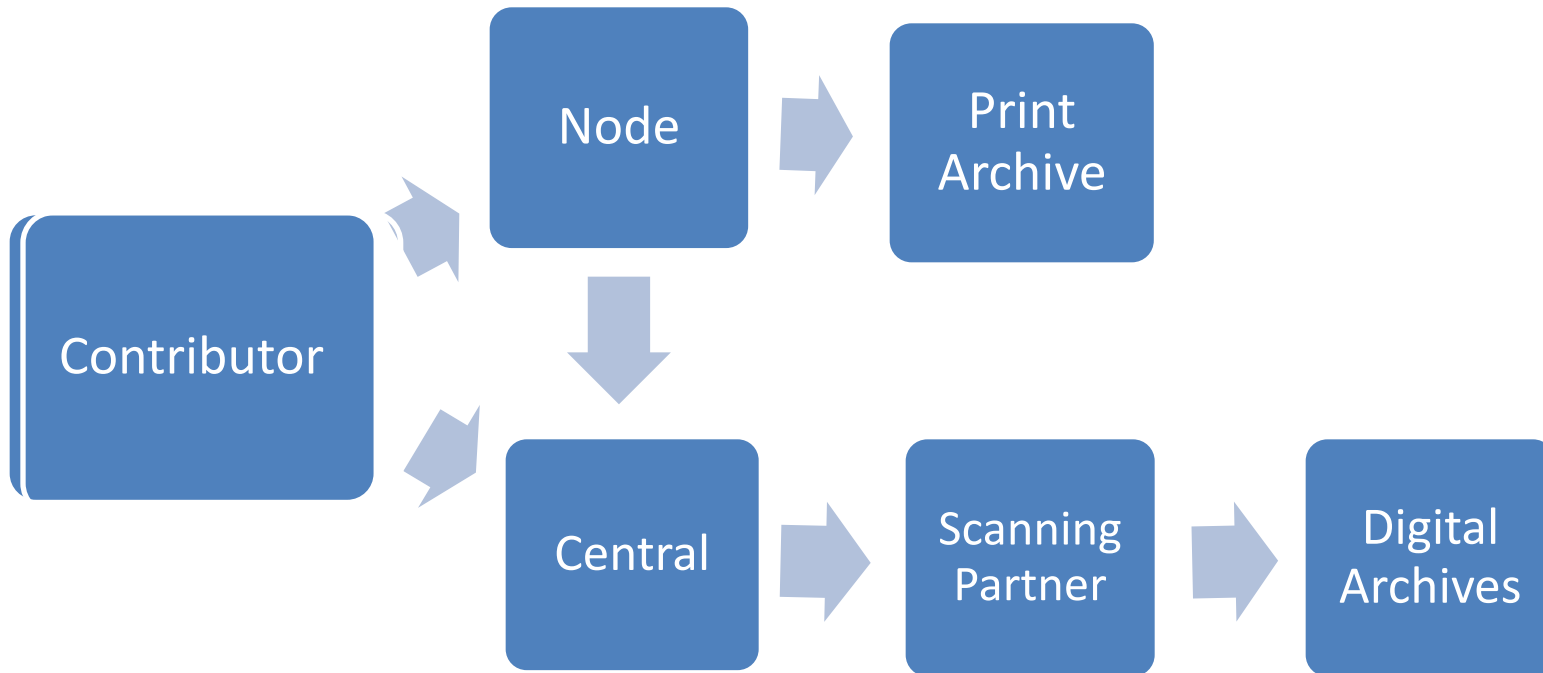
Charge

Develop a collaborative project with the Center for Research Libraries to identify, digitize, archive, and provide persistent and unrestricted access to federal technical reports issued prior to 1975.

History

- Idea began with Maliaca Oxnam at the University of Arizona

- Support from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL)

- Accepted as a Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) digital initiative

- Pilot site created at the University of Hawaii -- Manoa

- Funding an issue – almost all scanning initially had to be paid for – also cataloging costs

- Enter the University of Michigan, Google, and the Hathi Trust – 85% of scanning now free

- 15% of scanning still to vendor - that content now stored at the University of North Texas

- Early 2010, TRAIL moves entirely to CRL as newest Global Resource Network

- Late 2010, new user interface debuts – www.technicalreports.org

Possible Roles

- Contributors (Content)
- Nodes (Content Organizers)
- Central Organization (Metadata/QA)
- Print Archives
- Digital Archives
- Scanning Partners
- Interface Provider
- Taskforce Members

trail
TECHNICAL REPORT
ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

Process

Accomplishments

- Completed an inventory of all defunct federal agencies and report series that were issued by those agencies

- 17,575 page-views of the <u>pilot</u> site in the first year (~ 200 reports available)

- Over 23,000 items cataloged & scanned; over 2.2 M pages scanned

- Establishing collection sets of MARC records in OCLC

- Digital archives at Michigan / Hathi Trust and at the University of North Texas

- Print Archive (Oklahoma State)

- Inventory control for all documents

- Award winning project

About CRL | Membership | Collaborations | Collections | Services | Archiving & Preservation

Search the Catalog | Search CRL.e

COLLABORATIONS · *TRAIL*

trail
TECHNICAL REPORT ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

📄 **Invitation to join TRAIL**

The **Technical Report Archive & Image Library** (TRAIL) is an initiative led by the University of Arizona in collaboration with CRL and other interested agencies to identify, digitize, archive, and provide access to federal technical reports issued prior to 1975. The TRAIL project began under the auspices of the Greater Western Library Alliance⧉.

Technical reports communicate research progress in technology and science; they deliver information for technical development to industry and research institutions contributing to the continued growth of science and technology. These highly detailed reports contain valuable information serving specialized audiences of researchers. While availability to more recent (1994–current) technical report literature has greatly improved with Internet access, legacy technical report documents remain elusive to researchers. Most large research libraries across the country have sizeable collections of federally funded technical research reports—frequently a million or more ranging from several pages to several hundred pages.

An example of some report series digitized include:

trail
TECHNICAL REPORT ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

Search U.S. government technical reports issued primarily prior to 1975 and digitized by the TRAIL Working Groups.

KEYWORD SEARCH

Enter your search term(s):

Search [advanced search]

Examples: Bureau of Mines; Information Circular; Smith, John

Center for Research Libraries
GLOBAL RESOURCES NETWORK

GWLA

trail
TECHNICAL REPORT
ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

Title ▼	contains ▼		AND ▼
Title ▼	contains ▼		AND ▼
Title ▼	contains ▼		AND ▼
Title ▼	contains ▼		

Search   [basic search]

About TRAIL | **FAQ** | **Join TRAIL** | **Contact Us**
Search developed and maintained by the University of Washington Libraries
Copyright 2010

Center *for* Research Libraries
GLOBAL RESOURCES NETWORK

GWLA

Climatic Charts and Data of the Radio Refractive Index for the United States and the World

Author:	Bean, B. R.
Additional Authors:	Horn, J. D., Ozanich, A. M., Jr.
Year:	1960
Document Type:	N/A
Issuing Agency:	U.S. Government Printing Office
SUDOC:	N/A
Series:	National Bureau of Standards Monographs
Report Number:	None
Link:	http://beta.digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc13200/m1/1/

< New search

Climatic Charts and Data of the Radio Refractive Index for the United States and the World

Useful Info

- ANY institution can join TRAIL – don't have to be a member of CRL

- Institutions that are project members have a vote on content, project direction and priorities, can serve on project committees and task forces, etc.

- Non-members can still contribute content, either for digitization or for the print archive, if needed

- TRAIL project site - www.crl.edu/grn/trail

- User interface – www.technicalreports.org

Thank you!   Any questions???