Autumn 2020 Newsletter

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TRAIL Member Information/Update Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 9th, 3:00 ET, 2:00 CT, 1:00 MT, 12:00 PT (60 minutes)

Email trail@crl.edu for further meeting information.

Curious about what's going on with TRAIL lately (think microcard digitization project, as an example), or how TRAIL operations have been impacted by the pandemic? Please join us for a TRAIL members virtual meeting on Wednesday, December 9th, to find out where things stand with TRAIL and to ask any questions you might have. We will present a snapshot of TRAIL as of

the date of the meeting, plus our best information on how things will progress over the next six months or so.

There will be about 40 minutes of presented content, with the rest of the session time being devoted to addressing your questions. Registration for this meeting is not required.
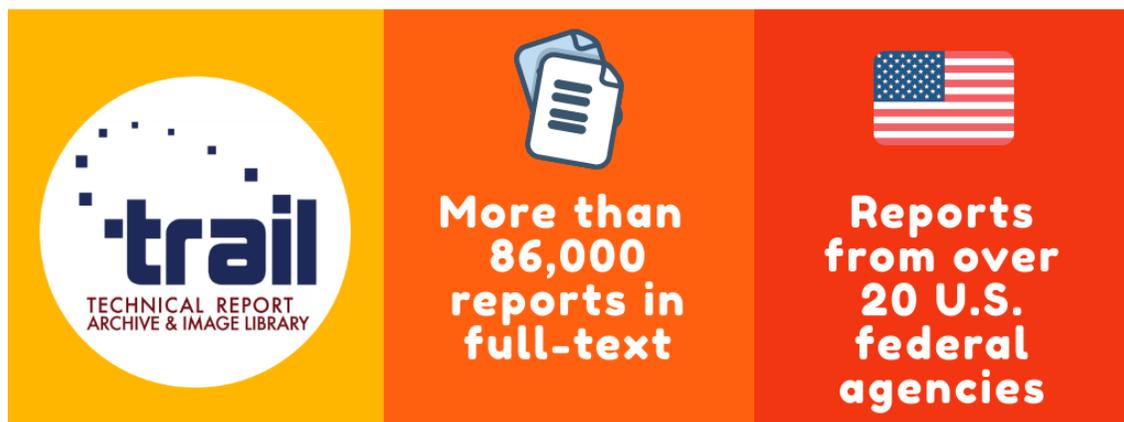
Media Kit Update

Check out our FY2020 infographic to see what TRAIL has accomplished this past fiscal year.

We've also created several social media graphics (sample below) with suggested text for you to download to promote TRAIL at your institution.

All of which is accessible on our Media Kit webpage https://www.crl.edu/trail-media-kit.

Example of Graphics Available for Use

Processing Update

As noted in our last newsletter issue, the processing of TRAIL materials has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtually every organization associated with the processing of TRAIL content has been closed to staff for months at this point, with most still closed and off-limits to staff. However, "Central" staff at the University of Arizona have been processing materials again, at home, for at least two months.

The University of Arizona (UA) was able to ship 30+ boxes of microcards to UNT (see update below) and 40 boxes of print reports to the University of Michigan (UM) / Google in mid-May. Unfortunately, the Google digitization center at UM is still closed at present, and it appears will stay closed until after the start of 2021, so there will be a significant delay in having those reports digitized. While "Central" staff are still working from home, they are now allowed to make scheduled trips into the UA Library to pick up and drop off material. As a result, "Central" can now start accepting pre-approved (by the TRAIL Collections Working Group) and pre-arranged (by "Central" staff) shipments of print material for future processing.

Microcard Scanning Update

The deadline for vendor bid submission for the TRAIL microcard project RFP, issued by the University of North Texas (UNT) Library, was in mid-September. Selection of a successful bidder was recently made, although no details can yet be shared on that front since contract signing is still pending. We can say that the successful bidder is a company with whom UNT has had a positive working relationship in the past. As a reminder, this vendor will be entrusted with digitizing over 30,000 reports on roughly 50,000 microcards. Once the contracts are finalized, arrangements will be made to

ship those microcards from the UNT Library to the vendor to begin the digitization process.

TRAIL Promotion

People associated with TRAIL have been busy presenting about it over the last few months. Links to all presentations are included below.

This summer Tom Rohrig of the Membership Working Group and Laura Sare of the Communications Working Group presented on TRAIL at three conferences:

- *TRAIL - Digitizing and Cataloging Technical Data for Permanent Access* poster.   Coalition for Advancing Digital Research and Education (CADRE) conference. April 16, 2020. (https://osf.io/2vjm5/)
- *TRAIL: Providing Open Access to Grey Literature* poster. United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) conference. July 22, 2020. (https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/72605)
- *Accessing and Preserving Texas Information in TRAIL* presentation. Cross Timbers Library Collaborative (CTLC) conference. August 7, 2020. (https://twu-ir.tdl.org/handle/11274/12410)

In October, Daureen Nesdill and Isabel Altamirano of the Communications Working Group and Zac Painter of the Collections Working Group created a 25 minute video for their presentation at the 2020 Annual SLA Conference.

- *Best Practices for Collaborating with Colleagues, Industry and Information Seekers; The TRAIL Story.* 2020 Annual SLA Conference. October 5-16, 2020. (http://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/63784)

If you want to do a presentation on TRAIL, contact anyone from the Communications Working Group for slides and material so you don't have to start from scratch.

Tech Report Highlight

Investigation of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Walkways Collapse http://www.technicalreports.org/trail/detail/130826/

This National Bureau of Standards technical report published in 1982 has been accessed **over 32,000 times** since it was added to the TRAIL Collection in the UNT Digital Library in 2012. In March 2018 this report was accessed 838 times following the Florida International University pedestrian bridge collapse, and reached an even bigger usage peak with 980 uses in April of 2019 when the Hyatt collapse was a spotlight on the "My Favorite Murder" blog https://myfavoritemurder.com/170-habeas-delicious/.

Photo by Dr. Lee Lowery, Jr, P.E. As of July 18, 1981 from
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hyatt_Kansas_City_Collapse.gif