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Spring 2023 Newsletter

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ChatGPT Poem about TRAIL

Sinai Wood asked Chat GPT to write a poem about TRAIL Technical Report Archive & Image Library:

In the digital world, where information abounds,
The TRAIL Technical Report Archive is a treasure to be found.
With a vast collection of reports and images so rare,
It's a valuable resource for researchers who care.

For over a century, technical reports were created,

With details and data that could not be understated.
They were printed on paper, and stored in libraries galore,
But now, thanks to TRAIL, they can be accessed with just a click and more.

From geology to engineering, from physics to chemistry,
TRAIL has a report for every scientific inquiry.
And the images they've archived, with painstaking care,
Are a glimpse into history, a true gem to share.

Whether you're a student or a professional in the field,
TRAIL is an indispensable resource that yields
Knowledge and insights that are hard to come by,
And it's all just a few keystrokes away, no need to fly.

So let us applaud TRAIL, for their tireless work,
To preserve and share these reports, they never shirk.
Their archive is a testament to the value of knowledge,
And it's a resource that we should all acknowledge.

TRAIL Annual Meeting - Save the Dates

The TRAIL Annual Meeting will once again convene in person, with a virtual option. We will do our best to run a fully hybrid meeting so your ability to travel won't hinder your ability to participate. Please hold Wednesday and Thursday, June 7th and 8th for a meeting at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA. Checkout the [2023 Annual Meeting Page](#) and add your information to the attendee page for both attending in person and online. Continue to stay tuned to the annual meeting page for more information.



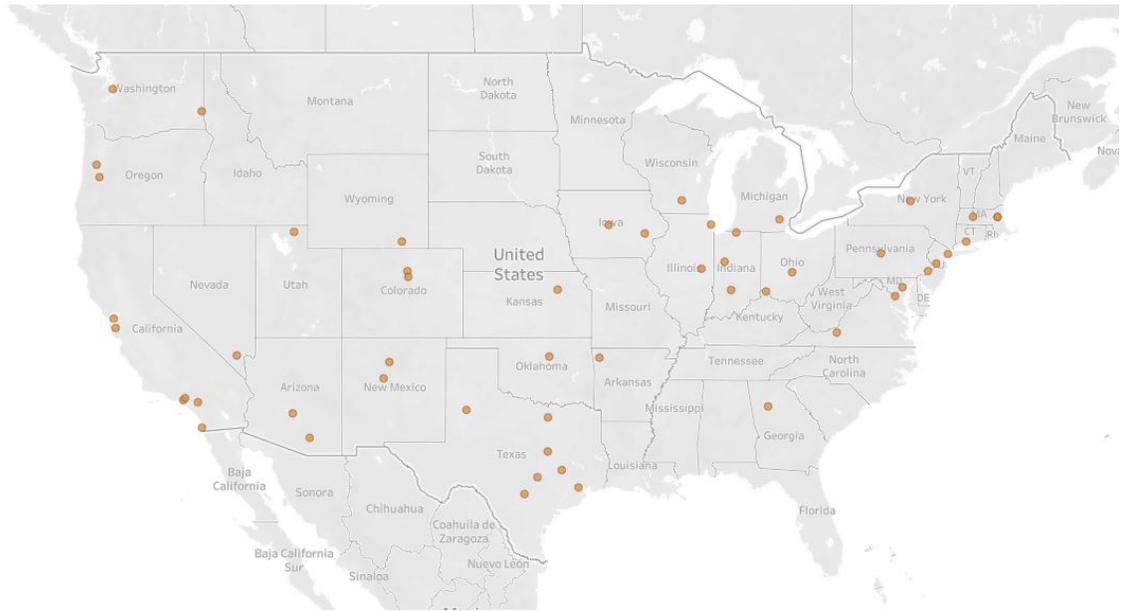
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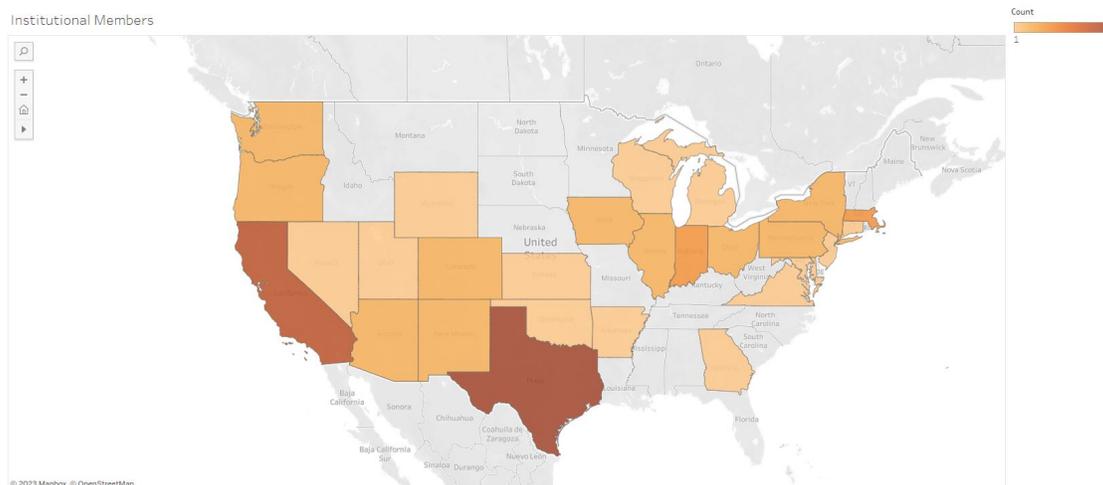
Mapping Our Institutional Members, 2023

The Metrics Working Group partnered with the Membership Working Group to visualize current TRAIL member institutions' locations. Map 1 shows the location of each institution. Map 2 shows the number of TRAIL institutions in each state. Maps produced by Marina Zhang, University of Iowa.

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/marina.zhang/viz/TRAILInstitutionalMembers/Sheet1>

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/marina.zhang/viz/TRAILInstitutionalMembers/Sheet2>





TRAIL e-List Posting Guidelines

The main TRAIL email list (trail@listserv.crl.edu) is the primary venue for immediate communication with all TRAIL members, both organizational and personal.

Guidelines

1. Only TRAIL members (organizational member representatives or personal members) or a representative from the Center for Research Libraries may post to the list.
2. All postings to the main TRAIL email list must be directly TRAIL-related OR will have some obvious connection to scientific/technical reports.

The TRAIL Communications Working Group (or a subset thereof) will review all postings to the main TRAIL email list for their adherence to the two criteria above. For any postings judged by the review group to be inappropriate, the poster will be contacted, the reason the review group deemed the posting to be inappropriate will be explained, and the poster will be asked to refrain from posting similar items in the future.

- Approved by Steering Committee, May 10, 2023
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TRAIL Series Gap Fill Project

The final call for gap fill content from the Bureau of Mines has now gone out to sci-tech email lists (and after that it will go to gov docs-related email lists). That has led to offers for a few additional reports, some in print and some where the offering library will scan the reports for TRAIL and provide the scans. One of those offering libraries also brought up a question about supplying content that is born digital but stored on a physical medium (e.g. on CD or DVD). The Collections Working Group will be exploring a number of issues associated with that type of material, but for now TRAIL is **not** in a position to accept such content. Some series inventory issues have been identified that are being addressed before we will begin gap fill calls for the next agency's reports.

Processing Update

Central (Sharon, Lynne, Dan and Isabella) continues to work on preparing materials for shipment to Michigan/HathiTrust. Central prepared and shipped 40 boxes (1 pallet) of material to Michigan in January 2023. Michigan has since requested that Central send 2 or more pallets in each future shipment; Central is currently working toward the next shipment.

Central continues to work on metadata creation for the AEC microcard project. As part of the distributed cataloging effort, Stanford has completed their initial box and is now working on a second. Once 500 additional records have been created, Central will work to merge the UNT information with OCLC.

It was recently discovered that there are multiple inventory sheets for some agency series, which has caused some confusion regarding what TRAIL has processed and what is in HathiTrust (HT). Sharon has been diligently working on correcting and merging multiple inventory sheets into a single sheet for the affected series, one that only lists what Central has processed and is contained in HathiTrust or University of North Texas (UNT).

Isabella (undergraduate student) has successfully completed her studies for the Spring Semester. She will continue to work for Central over the Summer. Isabella continues to review the February 2022 shipment, adding HT links and OCLC electronic record numbers of the TRAIL inventory pages.

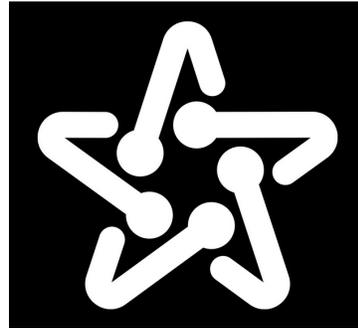
Tech Report Highlight

In October, 1973 the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) placed an embargo on oil shipments to the United States and several other countries in retaliation for their support of Israel during the “Yom Kippur War.” This embargo had deep and lasting effects on the price of crude oil globally. By the end of the embargo in March, 1974 global prices had increased almost 300%. Price hikes were even steeper in the United States, due in part to American oil production declining from a historical peak in 1969-1970.

As a response, President Nixon formed the Federal Energy Office in December, 1973, which became the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) in June, 1974. The President then proposed “Project Independence,” aimed at building domestic capacity and reserves to eliminate the need to rely on foreign energy suppliers.

Among the first priorities of the new FEA was completion of a long-term energy plan. The plan, published as “Project Independence Report” in November, 1974 evaluated the future of energy in the United States through 1985. The report analyzed the impact of a scenario where no significant energy policy changes occurred, as well as presenting four possible strategies for policy changes to address the energy crisis, along with the costs and benefits of each strategy.

The [Project Independence Report](#), as well as supporting Project Independence documents like the 16 task force reports that make up the Project Independence Blueprint, are [accessible via TRAIL](#) by searching “Project Independence” in the [TRAIL search interface](#).



The Federal Energy Administration was abolished in 1977, with many of its functions and personnel reassigned to the newly-formed Department of Energy. For more information on FEA, see “The Federal Energy Administration” by Roger Enders, November 1980 ([accessible through the Department of Energy website](#)).

(FEA Logo, 1974 by Fred Troller; see [Logo History](#))

Get to Know TRAIL Member: Amy Van Epps



Amy Van Epps
Director of Sciences and Engineering Services
Harvard University

How are you involved in TRAIL? My involvement in TRAIL is as the Harvard member representative and as the co-coordinator for the Communications working group.

Favorite TRAIL moment? I have several different moments over the years that I’ve really enjoyed with TRAIL, but I must admit my favorite at this point was also a bit embarrassing. During my first ever TRAIL annual meeting, 2017 at Iowa State University, Mel DeSart made sure the whole room sang Happy Birthday to me on the closing day, and yes, it was my birthday.

Favorite Technical Report? I love that this technical report is actually a 6-inch ruler, rather than an actual printed document. “For Good Measure” was issued by the National Bureau of

Standards and has some common English to Metric conversions on the back. <https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc123540/>

As a kid, I remember learning the metric system in school. When I reflect on the years I was learning all of this information, I can see the inclusion in my elementary school curriculum was part of the public school push to support the Metric Conversion Act (1975) and help the U.S. join the world and become a metric country.

What is your favorite part of your job? I still enjoy the occasional opportunity to get into the classroom, which only happens once or twice a semester now. I enjoy interacting with the patrons and use my hour a week on chat to keep some of my reference skills sharp and continually learn about the sprawling Harvard Library system, since it seems I always get a questions about some portion of it I don't know all that well.

What is your "typical" work week like? As a middle manager, I feel like my typical work week is mostly about meetings and doing my best to keep the flow of information going between administration and the staff on the front lines. Right now, as we close in on the end of the fiscal year when I have a bit of surplus administrative funds, I have the very enjoyable task of asking people what they need in the different libraries that report to me, and filling some of those needs!

What are you reading now? Andy Weir, *Project Hail Mary*. Most people likely know this Andy Weir as the author of *The Martian*, which I also enjoyed (long before it was made into a movie).

What are your favorite non-work activities? I

enjoy singing, reading science fiction, and woodworking. I've gotten back to the group singing post-pandemic (although would prefer to get back to alto and stop singing tenor all the time), and never really stopped reading, but I'm realizing I've let my time doing woodwork dwindle recently and need to get back to that, if for no other reason than I need to get some door jambs built and doors hung again on the second floor of my house.



May 24, 2023

Web address:

technicalreports.org

