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## Winter 2024 Newsletter

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### In this issue:

- TRAIL December Update Meeting Recap
- New TRAIL Members
- Annual Meeting - Hold the Date
- TRAIL Series Gap Fill Project
- Announcement - New Marketing Coordinator / Change in Communications Working Group Coordinator
- Processing Update
- Tech Report Highlight - Development of a Model for Human Performance Reliability
- Get to Know TRAIL Member: Bert Chapman

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## TRAIL December Update Meeting Recap

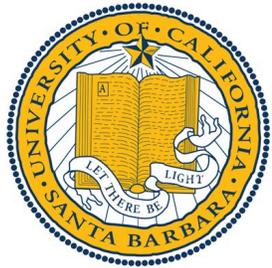
We held our midyear update webinar in early December and had 32 participants. Information shared included updates to suggestions from the Annual Meeting that TRAIL is currently working on such as a bylaws revision and an FAQ on how TRAIL and GPO work and relate to each other. There was also an overview of the TRAIL Member Survey results. The survey was helpful to TRAIL's Steering Committee as it provided us with how members want the organization to proceed with our projects. The summary showed that most

members want to continue the focus on digitization of all formats. We also had updates on the Gap Fills project and from the Processing Working Group.

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## New TRAIL Members

TRAIL is delighted to announce that it has added THREE new institutional members in the last 6 months. New TRAIL members (and member representatives) are: University of California, Santa Barbara (Karen Scott); University of Chicago (Jennifer Hart); and the University of Kansas (Gwen Wolf).



*Logos for University of California - Santa Barbara, University of Kansas, and University of Chicago*

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## Annual Meeting - Hold the Date

Harvard will host the 2024 TRAIL Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 15th - Thursday May 16th. The meeting will be scheduled from 9:00am-5:00pm (ET) for in-person attendees. Morning sessions will be recorded and will focus on content and update reports. Afternoon sessions will have online synchronous hybrid discussions.

Travel and hotel information can be found on the [2024 Annual Meeting page](#).

***Register if you're planning to attend!***

For folks with access to the CRL Workspace - fill in a line on the table on the [Annual Meeting page](#)

For those without access to the CRL workspace, register on this Google Form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLe\\_pgKUaJe0WHOltavjKDmUEw9i3r5t11X2vOyT7FwaM3vQ/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLe_pgKUaJe0WHOltavjKDmUEw9i3r5t11X2vOyT7FwaM3vQ/viewform?usp=sharing)



*Photo: Cabot Science Library, Lower level. Photo by Peter Vanderwarker.*

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## TRAIL Series Gap Fill Project

The TRAIL gap fill project moved from the U.S. Bureau of Mines to the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, with the first call for reports from 14 NBS series going out to TRAIL members in mid-October. Three TRAIL members offered content from those 14 series to a total of 109 reports. Because there are roughly two dozen NBS series where TRAIL holds at least some reports, and because the first call was for the relatively easy series, there will be at least two more calls for reports from other NBS series in the coming months.

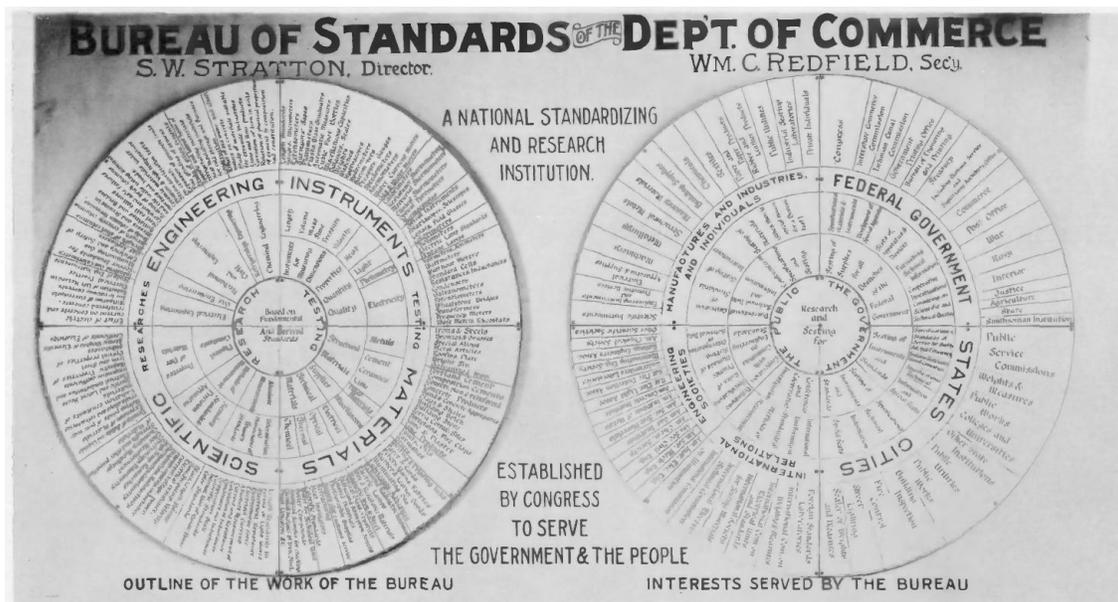


Chart of NBS activities, 1915

## Announcement - New Marketing Coordinator / Change in Communications Working Group Coordinator

Starting after the annual meeting in Boston, TRAIL will have a new Marketing Coordinator - Kari Kozak, from the University of Iowa! Kari is currently co-coordinator for TRAIL Communications and will continue to serve as a member of Steering in her new role. Amy Van Epps will take over as the sole coordinator of TRAIL Communications. If you have any ideas on marketing or outreach or would like to volunteer to help Kari with any projects, email Kari ([kari-kozak@uiowa.edu](mailto:kari-kozak@uiowa.edu)).

The Marketing Coordinator organizes marketing activities and outreach efforts for TRAIL as a whole, meaning they ensure the activities of each Working Group is promoted to TRAIL members, as well as making sure TRAIL reaches a broader audience outside of TRAIL members. The marketing coordinator is a member of the Communications Working Group and helps ensure marketing materials are incorporated into all of TRAIL's outreach activities.

## Processing Update

As usual, the processing working group has been productive.

We are preparing to receive a multi-box shipment from new TRAIL member UC Santa Barbara and have reviewed six offer lists from them. The majority of materials are AEC but also include Navy, Army, Water Resources Scientific Information Center, Nuclear Regulator Commission, and USGS. We are anticipating 1000-1200 individual publications with this shipment.

We continue to make progress in describing digitized microcard reports through our volunteer-distributed cataloging process. Karen Pfiffner, from the Colorado School of Mines, has asked for another spreadsheet to start working on since she and her student are nearly finished with what Central sent them last summer.

Lastly, we are just now beginning to work with the University of North Texas (UNT) to restart sending print material for digitization. This was put on hold for several years while UNT worked through TRAIL's microcard processing. We have 52 boxes of print material cataloged and ready to ship to UNT.

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## Tech Report Highlight

### Development of a Model for Human Performance Reliability

In the Aerospace Medical Research Laboratories technical report “Mathematical Modeling of Human Performance Errors for Reliability Analysis of Systems” ([AMRL-TR-68-93](#)), William B. Askren and Thaddeus L. Regulinski conducted experiments to determine whether or not a mathematical model of human performance errors could apply to applications like predicting the reliability of “man-machine systems”. Now known as “human-machine systems,” this is a late 1960s study of a system where the functions of both a human operator and a machine are combined to produce a result, and it would be advantageous to predict performance reliability. Human-machine systems as a field of study differs from the more well-known field of “human-computer interaction,” but there are certainly parallels between the two.

Researchers Askren and Regulinski (and as an aside, is there a better surname for a reliability researcher than “Regulinski?”) created a laboratory test to study mean-time-to-first-human-error (MTTFHE). Fifty-one test subjects, male and female college students and Air Force personnel performed a vigilance test that required them to observe a clock-light display and respond to the appearance of a failed light in the display by pressing a hand-held switch. The 30-minute

test also required the subjects to wear headphones and listen to a white noise generated at a medium volume. Data acquired included the time to the first human error in the subjects' performances.

Results fit well with a Weibull probability distribution, and the researchers believe that this mathematical model of human performance reliability in the time domain would generalize to other types of tasks that require continuous human monitoring and interaction with a machine interface.



**Figure 1. The Experimental Vigilance Task**

## Get to Know TRAIL Member: Bert Chapman



**Bert Chapman**  
**Government Information & Political Science**  
**Librarian/Professor of Library Science**  
**Purdue University Libraries & School of**  
**Information Studies**

**How are you involved in TRAIL?** I am the

member representative for Purdue University and participate on the Collections Working Group.

**Favorite TRAIL moment?** Hearing news of TRAIL developments at other institutions

**Favorite Technical Report?** Hard to pick a single report, but anything dealing with national security policy is fine such as this 1959 Atomic Energy Commission report, Electric power supply and national security: a study in public policy. (HathiTrust link: <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015086433490>)

**What is your favorite part of your job?** Learning about new and informative government information resources every day on domestic and international levels.

**What is your “typical” work week like?** It varies and includes conducting research, collection development, answering reference questions, and trying to keep track of useful govt. information resources for users by reading/scanning multiple U.S. and international newspapers.

**What are you reading now?** Theodore Corbett. *No Turning Point: The Saratoga Campaign In Perspective*. University of Oklahoma Press.

**What are your favorite non-work activities?** Travel, hiking, church activities, spending time with my wife Becky.

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*February 27, 2024*

**Web address:**

[technicalreports.org](https://technicalreports.org)



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