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Winter 2021 Newsletter

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TRAIL Member Information/Update Meeting

Over 40 people attended the TRAIL member information/update meeting on Dec. 9, 2020. Three TRAIL Steering Committee members offered a snapshot of current TRAIL activities and short-term plans. Even though the presented content ran only 35 minutes, leaving almost half the scheduled time for questions, there were still so many questions from attendees that the session ran 10 minutes past its scheduled 60 minute window. TRAIL will plan to do such a session on a regular basis going forward.

TRAIL Annual Meeting - save the date

The TRAIL 2021 annual meeting will again be virtual and is scheduled for May 12th-14th (9-1 PT, 10-2 MT, 11-3 CT, 12-4 ET). Last year's meeting was scheduled for 5 hours per day (to accommodate attendees' time zone differences) over 2 days, which led to not being able to hold all of the different types of sessions that would normally be offered at an annual meeting. Therefore we decided to spread the meeting out over three days this year, but with one fewer hour per day, which gives us two extra hours of meeting time overall to work with. More specifics will be forthcoming closer to the meeting dates.

Zoom Link: [https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/93729382370?
pwd=d2JmNWxwZ0hNN1NLcjJjZjNQV0UvZz09](https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/93729382370?pwd=d2JmNWxwZ0hNN1NLcjJjZjNQV0UvZz09)

Meeting ID: 937 2938 2370

Passcode: 778987

Call-IN: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

TRAIL@15!!

Celebrate with us on our fifteenth anniversary. Driven by a vision to make federal technical reports more visible and accessible, in the early-2000s a handful of engineering librarians brainstormed how that might happen. In 2006, the Greater Western Library Alliance funded a digitization pilot project to address these issues. In 2007, the pilot project morphed into the Technical Report Archive & Image Library (TRAIL), an ongoing effort that identifies, acquires, catalogs, digitizes and provides unrestricted access to federal agency technical reports. We also celebrate and thank all of the member institutions and personal members that have been a part of TRAIL over the years and continue to make TRAIL successful.

Since we cannot celebrate in person - we present the brand spanking new TRAIL@15 video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I5ZYaWdkyg&feature=youtu.be>, and offer a special thank you to Kari Kozak at the University of Iowa, who made the video happen.



screen shot from TRAIL's video celebrating 15 years of activity

Processing Update

The processing of TRAIL materials continues to be significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. “Central” staff at the University of Arizona continues working from home with occasional trips to pick up and distribute boxed technical reports for processing. “Central” staff are very close to completing a second pallet while working remotely.

The Google digitization center at the University of Michigan is still closed, and it appears will stay closed until early Spring or Summer of 2021, so there will be significant processing delays. While Central can accept pre-approved (by the TRAIL Collections Working Group) and pre-arranged (by Central) shipments of print material for future processing, those sending boxes are working under their own strict or closed building guidelines. Some materials will be shipped or delivered most likely this summer to Central.

Metrics Update

TRAIL tracks metrics of processing and use at 6 month intervals, generally reported in January and July each year.

Cumulative statistics

Number of TRAIL reports in HathiTrust Digital Library	58,528
Number of TRAIL records in Univ. of North Texas Digital Library	28,863
Total number of TRAIL records	87,391

July-December 2020

Number of technical reports processed for digitization	0*
Usage of TRAIL content at UNT	237,246
Number of TRAIL search interface sessions	2,282
Number of TRAIL search interface users	1,899

Current membership

Number of institutional members	51
Number of personal members	12

* Digitization was impacted by closures due to the coronavirus pandemic (July 2020 -). Due to continued scanning center closure, Central did not process a shipment to Michigan in the first half of the FY21. They have prepared 28 boxes of a normal 40 box shipment as of January 2021.

Microcard Scanning Update

The University of North Texas (UNT) delivered the first ten boxes of microcards to the selected vendor for scanning in mid-November 2020. Simultaneously at the University of Arizona (AZ), “Central” has been working with the 1000 reports from the microcard pilot project to convert UNT metadata, which uses a customized version of Dublin Core, to MARC so the microcard records can be contributed to WorldCat. Approximately 900 plus records have been converted. These records were originally created by Central in 2019-2020 and includes descriptive metadata, LC subject headings, series statements, etc..

Most recently, UNT has created a microcard processing workflow plan in anticipation of “plowing through the cards.”

Tech Report Highlight

Summary of Airfoil Data

<http://www.technicalreports.org/trail/detail/108331/>

This National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) technical report was published in 1945, but it has seen consistent use via the UNT Digital Library since it was first uploaded in 2011. As of February 2021, it has been viewed over 40,000 times with more than 160 views in the past 30 days. “Summary of Airfoil Data” continues to be cited in literature in 2021. TRAIL continues to work on NACA technical reports improving their catalog records through expertise contributed by the Colorado School of Mines.

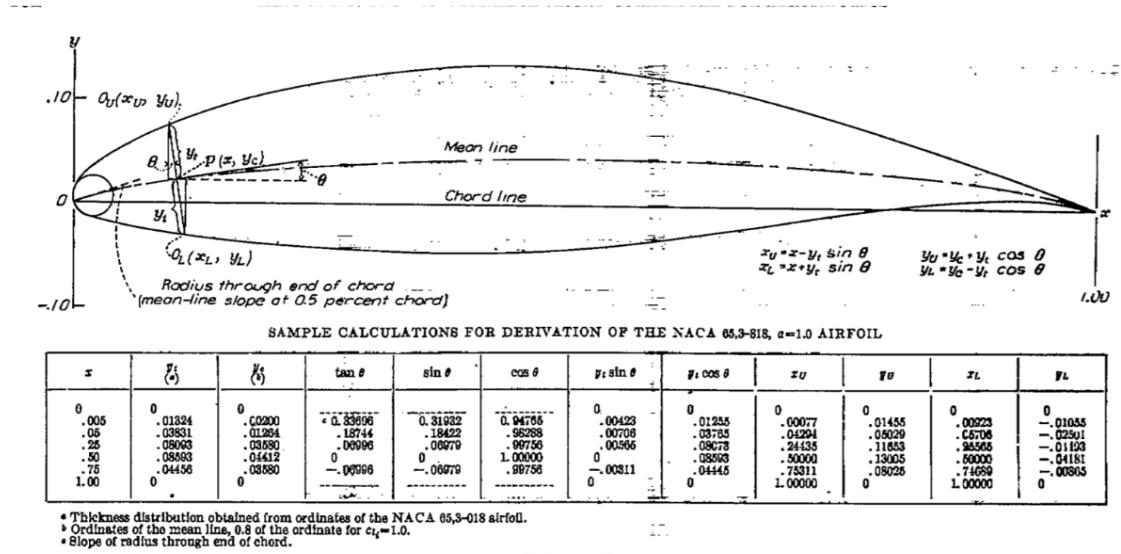
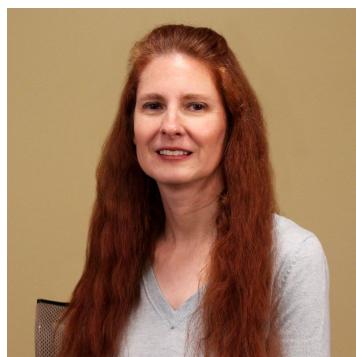


Figure I from Summary of Airfoil Data, Report No.: NACA-TR-824

Get to Know TRAIL Member: Laura Sare



Laura Sare

Government Information and Data Librarian
Texas A&M University

How are you involved in TRAIL? I started out in the Communications Working Group in 2014. In

2017 I became the Coordinator of Communications where I organized our biweekly meetings, oversaw updates to the CRL TRAIL web pages, and oversaw the creation of our TRAIL brochure and infographics. Then I became the TRAIL Marketing Facilitator in 2019. In this position I created our social media graphics and oversaw the creation of TRAIL Media toolkit – check it out – <https://www.crl.edu/trail-media-kit>

Favorite TRAIL moment? The annual meeting dinners. I am ready for the COVID vaccine so that we can resume having annual meetings at various TRAIL member libraries and getting to know each other better. These are a lot of fun, we are very productive, and everyone is so friendly.

Favorite Technical Report? “Location of a Lunar Base” by the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory. It was published in 1961, years before the astronauts set foot on the moon. <http://technicalreports.org/trail/detail/118190/>

What is your favorite part of your job? Helping a patron find information that was really challenging to locate, and of course, working with everyone in TRAIL.

What is your “typical” work week like? Lots of meetings! Not only am I on TRAIL, but I am also currently a member of the Depository Library Council, and I am on a couple of subcommittees with that group. I also recently became a full professor and now serve on our library’s promotion committee. In between the meetings I answer government information questions, and teach census workshops and research data management workshops. I am also the

institutional contact for the Texas Data Repository, where I help researchers deposit their data to make it openly accessible.

What are you reading now? Martha Wells' Murderbot Diaries.

What are your favorite non-work activities? I am an avid birder, and when I am not birding I am gardening or working on a quilt.



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