HathiTrust "Mapping the Elephant" Member Webcast Series

TRAIL: HOW A GRASSROOTS DIGITIZATION EFFORT BECAME THE HATHITRUST'S 24th LARGEST CONTENT CONTRIBUTOR

PRESENTERS

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WHO ARE WE?

The Technical Report Archive and Image Library (TRAIL) is a collaborative effort to make one category of underutilized grey literature – scientific/technical reports – much more accessible.

Our mission is to ensure preservation, discoverability, and persistent open access to government technical publications regardless of form or format.

TRAIL is part of

the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) Global Resources Network.

TRAIL has 52 current institutional members, plus 13 personal members.

TRAIL INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Arizona State University	Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Stanford University
University of Arizona	**U.S. Government Publishing Office**	University of New Mexico	Syracuse University
University of Arkansas	Harvard University	University of North Texas	Texas A&M University
Baylor University	University of Houston	Northwestern University	Texas Tech University
Brigham Young University	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	University of Notre Dame	University of Texas, Austin
California Institute of Technology	Indiana University	Ohio State University	University of Texas, San Antonio
University of California, Berkeley	Iowa State University	Oklahoma State University	Utah State University
University of California, Los Angeles	University of Iowa	Oregon State University	Virginia Tech
University of California, San Diego	Johns Hopkins University	Pennsylvania State University	Washington State University
University of Cincinnati	Kansas State University	University of Pennsylvania	University of Washington
Colorado School of Mines	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Princeton University	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Colorado State University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	Purdue University	University of Wyoming
University of Colorado	University of Michigan	Rice University	Yale University

We are driving and supporting change in the research ecosystem through our

- Open access mission
- Grassroots collaboration
- Partnerships with well-known & trusted repositories

We rely on partnerships, like our partnership with the HathiTrust, to make our work cost-effective, efficient, and sustainable.
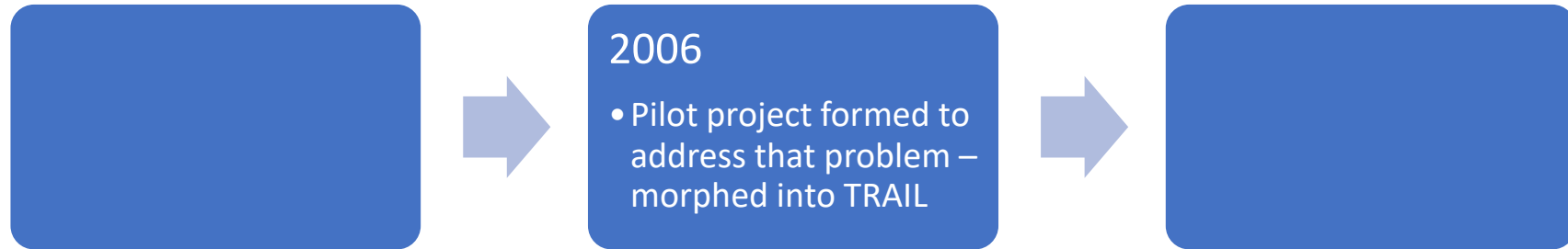
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

2000s

- librarians lamented large underutilized collections of technical reports in their libraries

Technical reports collections were largely print runs with at best series level cataloging -- no author/title access, no end-user discovery at all.

Maliaca Oxnam at the University of Arizona decided to do something about that. She and her Dean submitted a proposal to the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) to fund a technical report digitization pilot project.

2006

• Pilot project formed to address that problem – morphed into TRAIL

Seven GWLA institution librarians and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) formed the pilot project which became the Technical Report Archive and Image Library (TRAIL) in 2007. TRAIL moved from GWLA to CRL in 2010.

2007

- crossroads---pay for all digitization or partner with University of Michigan/Google

In late 2007, TRAIL recognized an opportunity to partner with the University of Michigan.

A subset of TRAIL content (reports that have a uniform page size for the entirety of the report) would be shipped to Michigan with UM barcodes and fed into the Google digitization stream. Copies of the digitized files would end up in the **HathiTrust**.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BENEFIT OF THE HATHITRUST PARTNERSHIP?

LET'S MAP THE ELEPHANT

COST SAVINGS

In its early years TRAIL was receiving support from each GWLA institution, but having to pay for ALL cataloging and digitization meant TRAIL was significantly limited in the number of reports it could afford to process each year.

Partnering with the University of Michigan, a HathiTrust member, TRAIL does not pay for the digitization of the content that is sent to Michigan and through their Google digitization stream.

MORE DIGITIZATION – MORE CONTENT

Tens of thousands more reports have been cataloged and digitized because of the partnership with University of Michigan/Google/HathiTrust.

Some TRAIL-supplied content has not been contributed by any other HathiTrust partner or member - a win-win for TRAIL and HathiTrust.

HATHITRUST BRAND

Instant name recognition in academia and among researchers has been valuable for TRAIL.

Partnering with a trusted repository helps with attracting and recruiting new TRAIL members.

RESULTS-ORIENTED COMMUNICATION

TRAIL communicates directly with HathiTrust staff to address issues and solve problems related to reports, access, and copyright.

Problem-solving led to the discovery of a MARC field flag issue. TRAIL catalogers changed their processing routine and now HathiTrust staff can readily identify TRAIL-supplied, public domain content.

Working together has led to more content being made openly available more quickly and to TRAIL being a top-25 content provider even though TRAIL is not a member of HathiTrust.

LIKE-MINDED OPEN ACCESS MISSION

ALL researchers with an internet connection can access content that TRAIL is providing to HathiTrust, regardless of their location, means, or affiliation because these technical reports are in the public domain.

Because of our partnership researchers have better discovery and access to far more digitized technical report literature than existed ten years ago.

ALL freely available.

FUTURE PLANS

Continue close cooperation and communication between TRAIL and HathiTrust on collection, access, and copyright issues.

Continue to add thousands of items to the HathiTrust collections.

Continue to offer researchers improved access to content.

For TRAIL, this means eliminating barriers to technical report content caused by format.
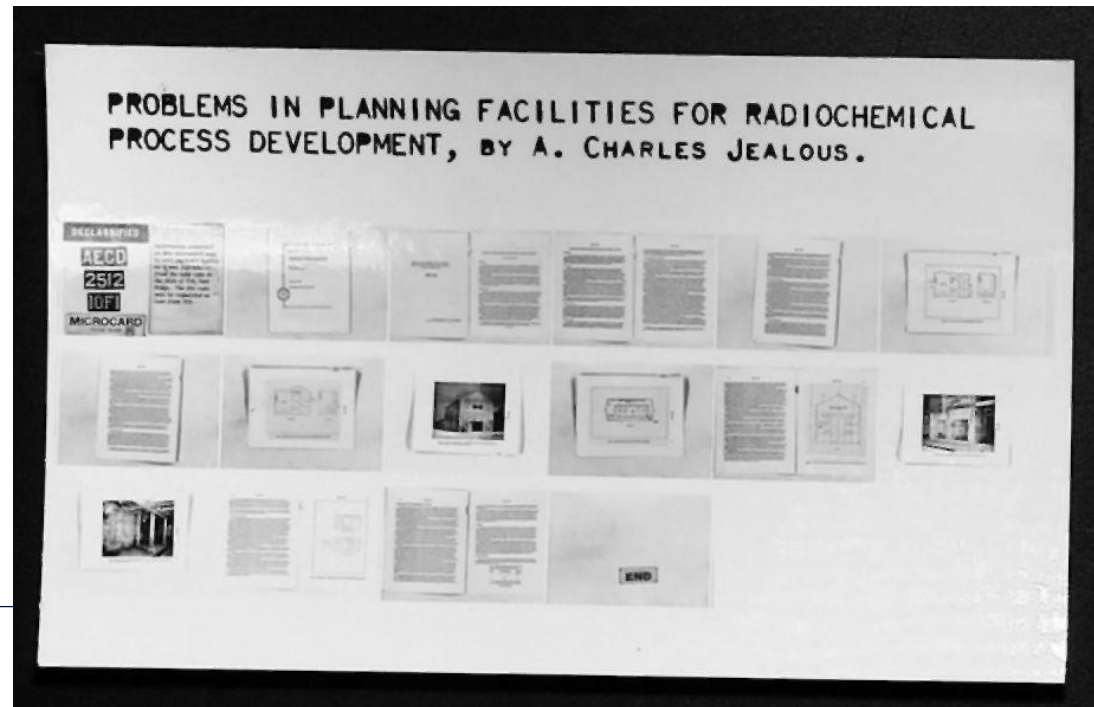
MICRO-OPAQUE CARDS

- Hundreds of library collections have them.

- Very few libraries have working equipment that allow researchers to view the content.

- Only a small number of institutions can turn the content of a microcard into a digital file.

TRAIL is preparing to send out for digitization over 33,000 reports on approximately 50,000 microcards.

It will take YEARS of cataloging person time to create MARC records for those reports once they have been digitized!

We know we have our work cut out for us moving forward. Oh, by the way, if anybody out there wants to assist with that cataloging, please let us know – we'd very much appreciate the help.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION

QUESTIONS

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