

Blazing a TRAIL: Digitizing and Preserving Legacy U.S. Government Technical Reports

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University of Washington

Depository Library Council Meeting
30 March 2011 – San Antonio, TX

Charge

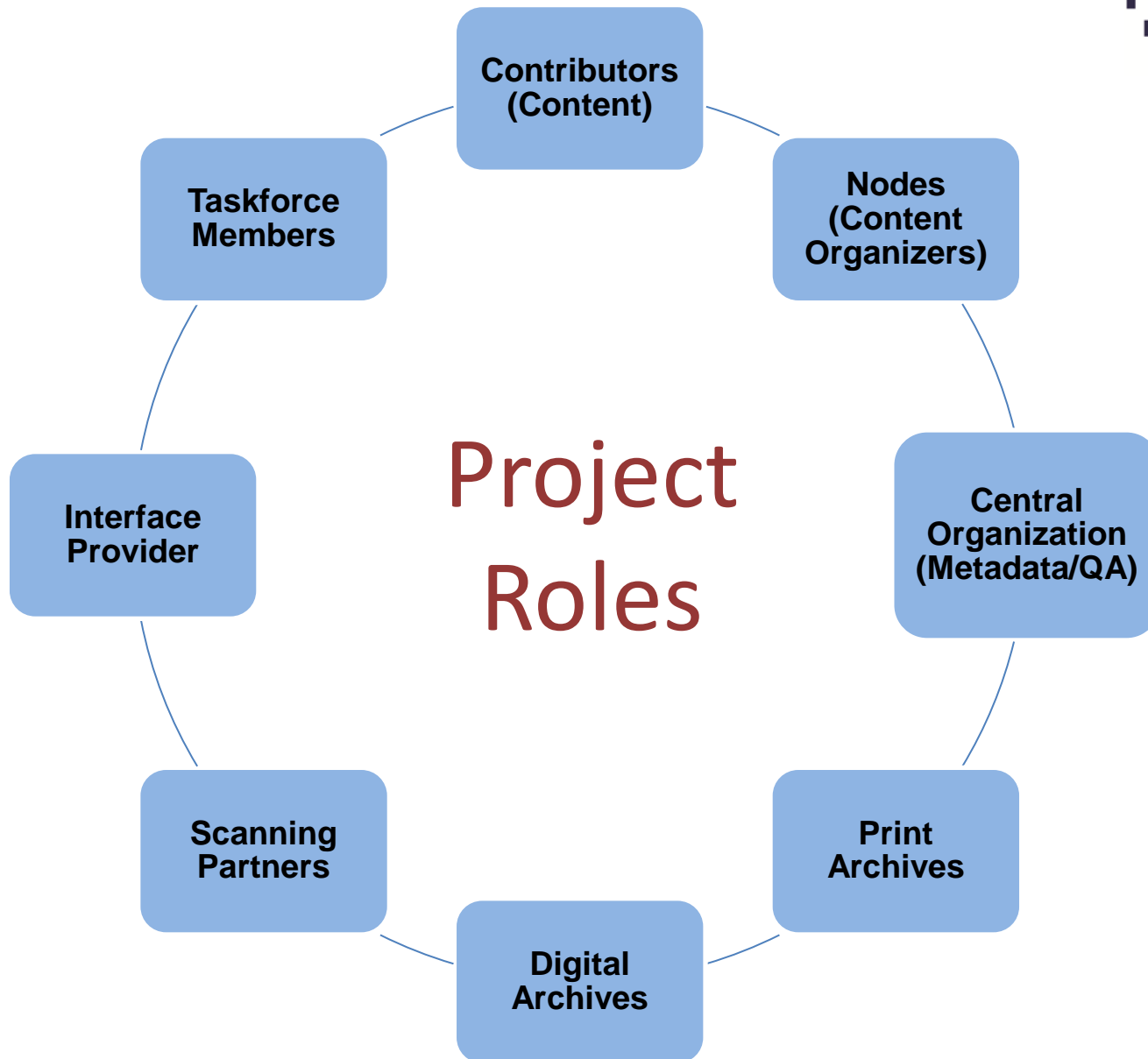
Develop a collaborative project with the Center for Research Libraries to identify, digitize, archive, and provide persistent and unrestricted access to federal technical reports issued prior to 1975.

History 1

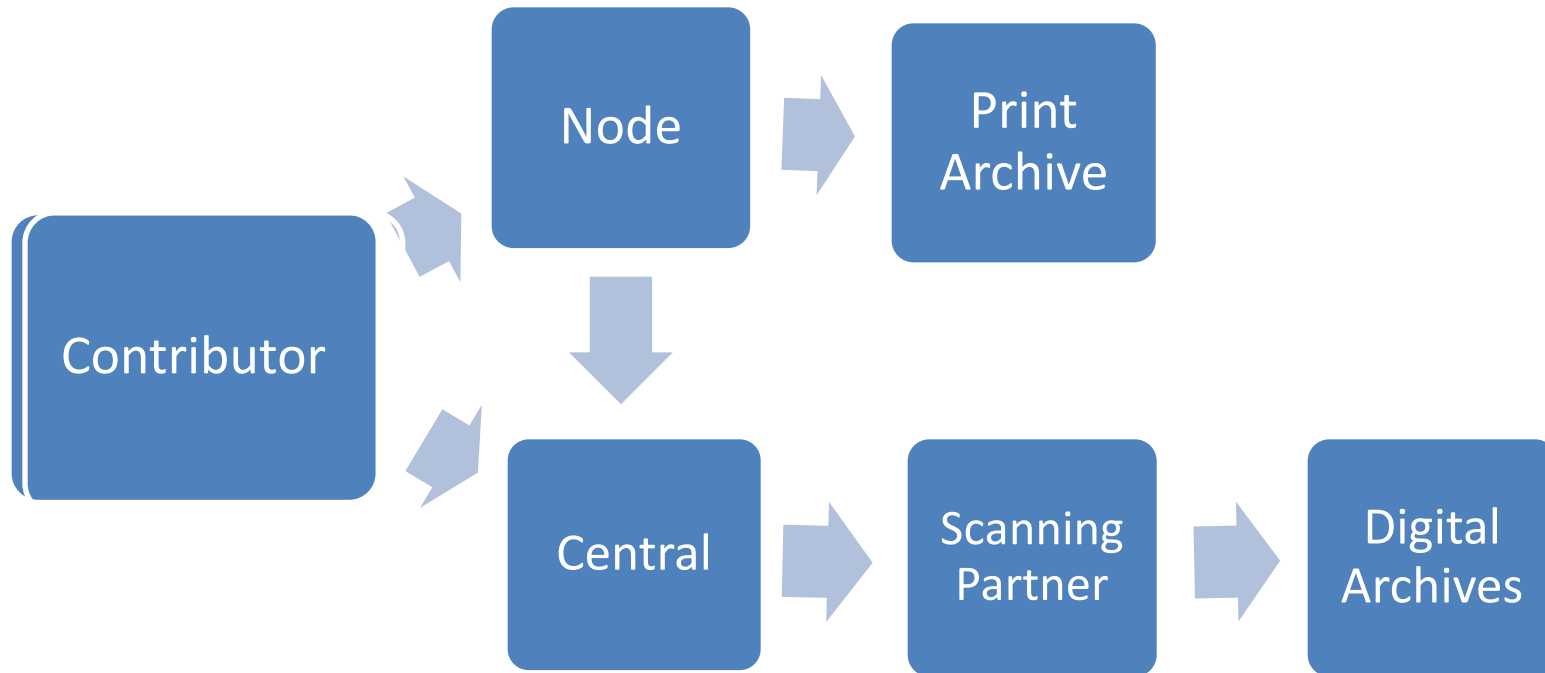
- Idea began with Maliaca Oxnam at the University of Arizona – grew out of frustration of engineering librarians at how difficult it was, especially for end users, to find individual technical reports
- Initial support from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and the University of Arizona
- Accepted as a Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) digital initiative
- TRAIL project formed - 2006
- Realized we needed greater government document librarian input – added government document librarians to the group
- Pilot site created at the University of Hawaii -- Manoa
- Funding an issue – almost all scanning initially had to be paid for – also cataloging costs

History 2

- Enter the University of Michigan, Google, and the Hathi Trust – 85% of scanning now done at no cost to the project
- 15% of scanning still to vendor - that content now stored at the University of North Texas
- Early 2010, TRAIL moves entirely to CRL as newest Global Resource Network – now a member organization
- New set of funding issues – with library budgets depressed, fewer schools than expected became members – less funding currently than when a GWLA initiative
- 2010 – domain name acquired and new user interface developed
- Late 2010, new user interface debuts – www.technicalreports.org



Process



Accomplishments

- Completed an inventory of all defunct federal agencies and report series that were issued by those agencies
- 17,575 page-views of the pilot site in the first year (~ 200 reports available)
- Over 23,000 items cataloged & scanned; over 2.2 M pages scanned
- Establishing collection sets of MARC records in OCLC
- Digital archives at Michigan / Hathi Trust and at the University of North Texas
- Print Archive (Oklahoma State)
- Inventory control for all documents
- Award winning project



COLLABORATIONS

TRAIL

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+ Working Groups



TECHNICAL REPORT
ARCHIVE & IMAGE LIBRARY

[Invitation to join TRAIL](#)

The **Technical Report Archive & Image Library (TRAIL)** is an initiative led by the University of Arizona in collaboration with CRL and other interested agencies to identify, digitize, archive, and provide access to federal technical reports issued prior to 1975. The TRAIL project began under the auspices of the [Greater Western Library Alliance](#).

Technical reports communicate research progress in technology and science; they deliver information for technical development to industry and research institutions contributing to the continued growth of science and technology. These highly detailed reports contain valuable information serving specialized audiences of researchers. While availability to more recent (1994–current) technical report literature has greatly improved with Internet access, legacy technical report documents remain elusive to researchers. Most large research libraries across the country have sizeable collections of federally funded technical research reports—frequently a million or more ranging from several pages to several hundred pages.

An example of some report series digitized includes:



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- Dec 10 2010
TRAIL Search Interface Now Available
- Dec 1 2010
TRAIL Project Information Session at ALA Midwinter 2011
- May 24 2010
TRAIL Poster at ALA 2010 Annual
- May 24 2010
TRAIL Receives 2010 Documents to the People Award

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Search U.S. government technical reports issued primarily prior to 1975 and digitized by the TRAIL Working Groups.

KEYWORD SEARCH

Enter your search term(s):

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Examples: Bureau of Mines; Information Circular; Smith, John

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Title contains AND

Title contains AND

Title contains AND

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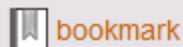
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Synthetic fuel from coal for supersonic aircraft

Author:	Schlesinger, Martin D.
Additional Authors:	Hiteshue, Raymond W.
Year:	1961
Document Type:	BMRA
Issuing Agency:	U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Mines,
SUDOC:	I 28.23:5902
Series:	Report of investigations / United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines ;
Report Number:	5902
Subjects:	Coal Jet planes--Fuel
Link:	http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015078529917

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SYNTHETIC FUEL FROM COAL FOR SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT

By M. D. Schlesinger and R. W. Hiteshue

* * * * * report of investigations 5902

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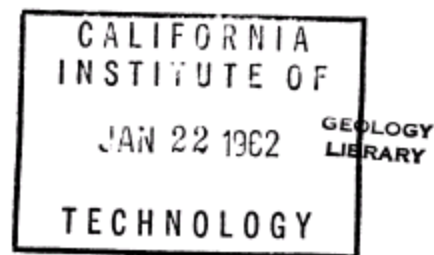
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SYNTHETIC FUEL FROM COAL FOR SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT

By M. D. Schlesinger and R. W. Hiteshue



Useful Info

- ANY institution can join TRAIL – don't have to be a member of CRL
- Institutions that are project members have a vote on content, project direction and priorities, can serve on project committees and task forces, etc.
- Non-members can still contribute content, either for digitization or for the print archive, if needed
- TRAIL project site - www.crl.edu/grn/trail
- User interface – www.technicalreports.org

Thank you! Any questions???