



Winter 2023 Newsletter

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2022 TRAIL Fall Update - Meeting Summary

The December 7, 2022, TRAIL Member Update session was attended by 26 people. TRAIL Steering Committee members offered a brief overview of the organization. The main portion of the update was spent on providing a status update from the May 2022 TRAIL Annual Meeting and discussing the new Gap Fill and Distributed Cataloging projects. The highly recommended ideas from the Annual Meeting were provided in 2 lists: those that were currently being examined and those that are not (generally with a reason why they were not being pursued).

The TRAIL Series Gap Fills project is currently focused on obtaining U.S. Bureau of Mines publications missing from the TRAIL library. This project already has resulted in acquiring over 600 reports. Finally, the Distributed Cataloging Project is underway with two member-institutions working with the

University of Arizona to catalog TRAIL's digitized microcards. Undergraduate students from Stanford and graduate students from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have provided cataloging for about 400 microcard titles. The presentation included supervisors' and student's reflections about the project. It is a win-win project – TRAIL is getting its collections cataloged **and** the students, especially the graduate students, are enjoying and learning with their project participation.

To see the PowerPoint presented at the meeting, see the 2022 December update at <https://workspace.crl.edu/display/TRAIL/Fall+Update+Meetings>

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendars

TRAIL Annual Meeting - Save the Date (June 7- 8)

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 or online. Deadline for the hotel block at the Graduate Hotel is May 6th. Continue to stay tuned to the annual meeting page for more information.

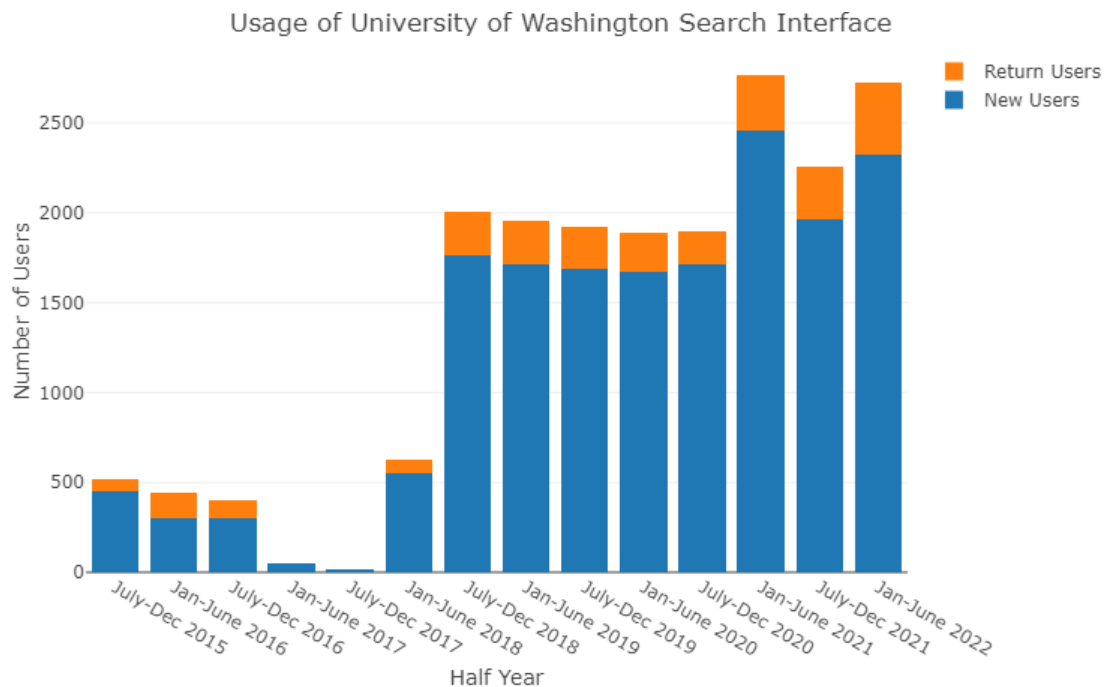


TRAIL Series Gap Fill Project

The series gap fill call (number three of three) for the final set of report series from the U. S, Bureau of Mines went out to the TRAIL email list last fall, with a deadline for members to contact us about content of January 13th of this year. The final numbers are not yet in (two member institutions were still checking remote storage locations for whether particular reports were there or not, as of when this text was drafted), but over the course of the three gap fill calls for Bureau of Mines content, TRAIL members have contributed well over 700 missing reports, and from all sources to date TRAIL has received over 800 missing reports.

Metrics Update

The Metrics working group is finalizing our statistics and hope to have a full update for the next newsletter. For now here is a sneak peak of the usage of our TRAIL search interface (<http://www.technicalreports.org/>) from July 2015 to June 2022.



Processing Update

We are keeping busy at the University of Arizona Libraries. Some highlights:

We are in the midst of boxing up another shipment of materials to send to the Google Scanning Center. Google has let us know that they'd like two 40-box shipments at a time so we'll be holding onto this one until we've got our second completed. We generally do two shipments per year. Speaking of shipments, there was a backlog at Google due to the COVID pandemic that disrupted productivity. Once the Center reopened they started working through the backlog but not necessarily from oldest to newest. Thus, TRAIL's March 2020 shipment (the oldest of three shipped to the Center during the time they were closed) has been languishing in the backlog for some time. We are happy to report that, after searching a sample, we believe there is about 75% completion.

In other news, we continue to manage our distributed cataloging project with our partner institutions on describing microcard images digitized and ingested in the University of North Texas Library's Digital Library. UNT is working exclusively on the microcards until at least August 2023. As a result, Central continues to hold back content that would normally be sent to UNT. We have about 100 boxes of material, much of it uncataloged, held aside for when UNT is ready for it. Much of it is Environmental Impact Statements from various government agencies.

Tech Report Highlight

In 1962, Rachel Carson brought to public attention the environmental dangers caused by the use of the pesticide DDT in her well-known book *Silent Spring*. Within the next calendar year, the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service published *Effects of Chemicals on Earthworms: A Review of the Literature*. Report author Stuart P. Davey notes that the agency "...has been especially interested in earthworms because of their importance as food



for woodcock, robins, and other animals, and because reports from workers trying to control earthworms indicated that worms were surprisingly resistant to chemicals and thus were very likely to become dangerous carriers.” This report, No. 74 in the Special Scientific Report – Wildlife series, provides a review of published research on botanical pesticides as well as both common inorganic and organic chemical pesticides, with a short discussion and concluding section.

Effects of Chemicals on Earthworms is accessible via TRAIL at <http://www.technicalreports.org/trail/detail/140236/>

Get to Know TRAIL Member: Larayne Dallas



Larayne J. Dallas
Engineering Librarian
University of Texas at Austin

How are you involved in TRAIL? I am the TRAIL contact for UT-Austin and serve on the Collections Working Group.

Favorite TRAIL moment? My favorite TRAIL moment was a whole conference. It was the 2017 TRAIL Annual Meeting, held at Iowa State University. It was great --- both educational and fun. I tell everyone about the beautiful Iowa State campus, the hospitality was exceptional, and I got to know TRAIL people.

Favorite Technical Report? is [The Caproni](#)

[Seaplane](#), by Max Munk (NACA-TN-57, 1921). I learned of this title while working on a project for TRAIL. In a single short report, we discover a brilliant researcher, the work of a wild-eyed Italian aviation pioneer, and an astonishing airplane that would never fly. And there's the Youtube video: A Monmouth of the Air, from British Pathé: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQBxgtP5IMw>.

What is your favorite part of your job? My very favorite thing is helping library users find things and especially when it involves a difficult verification.

What is your “typical” work week like? I am at the Engineering Library (a small branch library). In a typical week, I will help with questions about industry standards, select books using Gobi, work on something for an ALA committee, cover library chat, maintain LibGuides, help with a patent question, provide instruction (formally or informally), have meetings over Zoom, and help a little at the circulation desk.

What are you reading now? I have several books started but am focusing on the STS Reading Club selection, *Memory thief and the secrets behind how we remember: a medical mystery*, by Lauren Seeley Aguirre. *Among the others: Made in America* : an informal history of the English language in the United States, by Bill Bryson, plus *And there I stood with my piccolo*, by Meredith Willson.

What are your favorite non-work activities? I'm part of the Austin Branch of American Association of University Women; I

like to sew and to work on other craft projects;
and I enjoy gardening.



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