

SPARC Innovation Fair Abstracts

Poster File for:

004. Blazing a TRAIL: A Shared Vision and Collaboration Lead to Digitization, Open Access and Preservation of U.S. Government Technical Reports

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Blazing a TRAIL: A Shared Vision and Collaboration Lead To Digitization, Open Access and Preservation of U.S. Government Technical Reports

TRAIL Members

- Arizona State University
- Baylor University
- Brigham Young University
- California Institute of Technology
- Colorado State University
- Harvard University
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Rice University*
- Stanford University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Arizona
- University of Arkansas
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Houston
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas
- University of Massachusetts – Amherst
- University of Nevada – Las Vegas
- University of New Mexico
- University of North Texas
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- Utah State University
- Washington State University

Goals

TRAIL is a grassroots initiative, now based at the *Center for Research Libraries* but which originated within the *Greater Western Library Alliance*, which, in cooperation with other interested supporting agencies, works to identify, digitize, archive, and provide persistent and unrestricted access to federal technical reports issued primarily prior to 1976.

Background

Most research libraries across the country have sizeable collections of technical research reports produced by U.S. government agencies. These collections frequently number a million or more for major research libraries and several thousand for smaller institutions. These technical reports range in length from several pages to several hundred pages and encompass content in hundreds of different subject disciplines.

While availability and access to more recent technical report literature has greatly improved through electronic delivery, most technical reports, particularly older ones, still remain elusive to users.

Challenges

The challenges posed by these collections are: 1) the diverse nature of distribution and collection development practices across institutions; 2) variability in selection and acquisition methods used, resulting in incomplete series, confusion in depository status, lack of information as to what constitutes a "complete collection," and 3) the lack of access points to collections that are not cataloged or are represented only by a series record. These problems, coupled with the need to free up valuable collection/user space in libraries, created a strong case for establishing the Technical Report Archive & Image Library (TRAIL), collectively maintained by the library community.

Recipe for a Collaborative Resource...

- ❖ Take one shared vision: digitization, preservation, and open access of U.S. government technical reports
- ❖ Fold in a collaborative team of engineering and government document librarians from across the country
- ❖ Stir in support and participation from CRL, GWLA, OCLC, the Universities of Michigan and North Texas, Google, government agencies and other contributing schools

In support of the effort, libraries at public and private universities as well as for-profit and non-profit organizations stepped forward offering to share their resources and seeking greater project involvement.

As TRAIL developed so too did a national meta-community founded by a gift-culture that solves problems by emphasizing each participant's willingness to give towards achieving the shared vision.

❖ Blend well

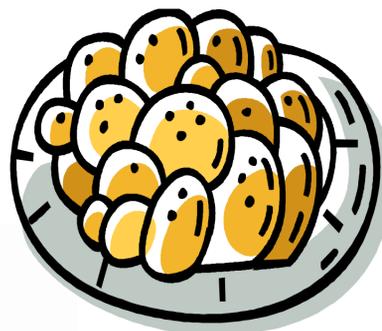
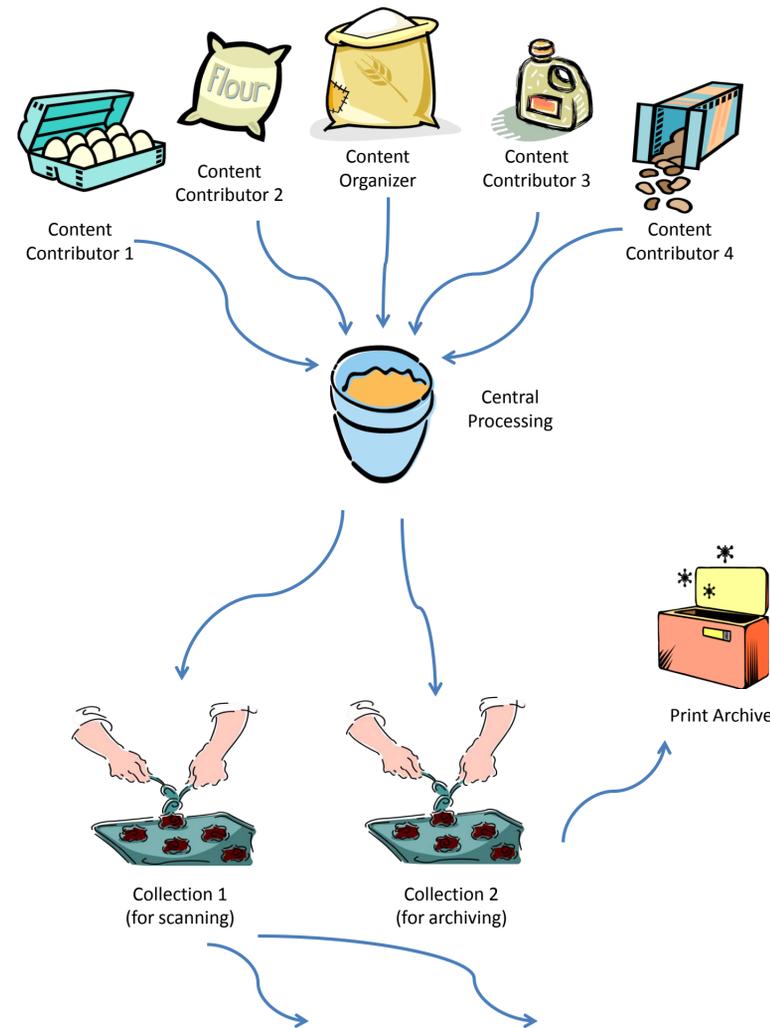
By capitalizing on the strengths and contributions of each institution overall project costs have been kept to a minimum while allowing institutions to participate in ways that have best matched their strengths, resources and institutional priorities.

❖ Result: Technical Report Archive and Image Library (TRAIL)

The collaborative project activities have yielded physical and digital Technical Report archives by providing participatory opportunities to libraries regardless of geographic location and by allowing participants to self-determine roles including the ability to choose more than one role while simultaneously matching institutional priorities.

❖ Serves: Everyone!

❖ And frees up valuable collection & user space!



	Microwave Method (Univ. of Michigan & Google)	Oven Method (Outsourced Digitization Vendor)
Use for:	Good quality normal-sized items appropriate for sheet-fed scanning; Items must be single volumes (bound) or disbound	Special handling: anything with maps fold-outs; items that are delicate, oversized, borrowed or inappropriate for sheet-fed scanning
Cooking Time:	1-2 day scanning time	1-2 month scanning time

Recipe Reviews...

"Thank you so much for your help...The 25 year old copy of the monograph that I have was destroyed by water....finding it online makes me very happy!"

"Please pass on my great appreciation to all those who have put together this very valuable service."

Give us your review on our recipe....