

TRAIL: Providing Open Access to Grey Literature

The problem:

Accessing series of technical reports, especially historical reports, can be a difficult, time-consuming, and even impossible task for the everyday user. This is due to changes in series designations, agency name changes, agency closures, government shut downs, and many other reasons.

The Solution:

Millions of pages of elusive technical reports are now discoverable, thanks to the collaborative effort of TRAIL members.



www.technicalreports.org

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Learn more at <https://www.crl.edu/programs/trail>

Value of Technical Reports to Researchers

A technical report is a document that describes the process, progress, or results of technical or scientific research or the state of a technical or scientific research problem. It might also include recommendations and conclusions of the research.

The U.S. government publishes technical reports to communicate progress in government research in technology and science

They deliver information for technical development to industry and research institutions contributing to the continued growth of science and technology

They contain valuable information serving specialized audiences of researchers

Who Are TRAIL?

53 Institutional Members
13 Personal Members

TRAIL members are from all around North America, including universities, government agencies such as the Government Publishing Office (GPO), and many personal members.

TRAIL is funded by member organizations, and works under the administration of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL).

How TRAIL Works

Strong collaboration between government document librarians, subject librarians in academia, and many partner organizations that support digitization workflows (e.g., University of Michigan Google Book Project scanning) and donate technical reports for digitization.

Identify, acquire, catalog, and digitize U.S. government technical reports

Provide unrestricted access to these digitized technical reports through TRAIL's search interface and search engines

Identify & investigate the long-term preservation possibilities of this unique body of literature. This includes print, microfiche and microcard formats

New Members and Volunteers are Welcome!

Acknowledgements



In FY2019 TRAIL Had:	
3959	Users accessing technicalreports.org
81,840	Reports available online
591,841	Times TRAIL documents were used in UNT TRAIL collection
16,880	Uses of Cobalt-60 Bulk Grain Irradiator: Study Report (a TRAIL top 20 report)

