TRAILS Development Timeline

2004-05

The Institute for Museum and Library Studies (IMLS) funds the Institute for Library and Information Literacy Education (ILILE) at Kent State. As an ILILE partner, the Libraries begin design of an online tool to assess high school student information literacy skills. The decision is made to use the 9th grade standards outlined in AASL's *Information Power* and Ohio's Academic Content Standards. Consultants define information literacy skill categories, write learning objectives and items. Development continues with item field-testing, Web interface design, and item database creation. Ohio library media specialists and high school teachers provide feedback.

2005-06 Academic Year

KSU Libraries introduces TRAILS-9 at the 2005 OELMA annual meeting. The online tool goes live in January 2006, and by the end of school year there are over 900 registered users. System modifications and item revisions are made in summer 2006.

2006-07 Academic Year

Refinements to the online system and items continue. By summer 2007 there are more than 2,800 users, representing 50 states and 41 countries. Funding is obtained to develop a 6th grade version of TRAILS.

2007-08 Academic Year

TRAILS-6 undergoes field testing in January 2008. Library media specialists in over 100 schools nationwide participate in testing items with more than 7,500 students.

2008-09 Academic Year

TRAILS-6 goes live in fall 2008. Overall, TRAILS is administered to more than 180,000 students. Item revision and system enhancement is undertaken. Work begins to develop TRAILS-12 following receipt of a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

2009-10 Academic Year

TRAILS-12 is field-tested. LSTA grant provides for TRAILS-3 development and revision of TRAILS-6 and TRAILS-9 items. Standards used now include AASL *Standards for 21st Century Learners*. National and state benchmarks for TRAILS-9 are provided for the first time. "Choose all that apply" items replaced by single response items. Download capability extended to student codes and in reports to student percentage scores. TRAILS has now been administered to over 290,000 students.

2010-11 Academic Year

Both TRAILS-3 and TRAILS-12 assessments go live in fall 2010. New TRAILS feature allows users to select the item delivery option of "Ordered" to present items in the same sequence to all students to aid in classroom work. On Dec. 15, 2010, TRAILS reaches the milestone of cumulative assessment administrations to more than 500,000 students.

2011-12 Academic Year

Martha Holden Jennings grant provides for adding images to TRAILS-3 and building stronger connections between TRAILS-12 and the Transitioning to College website (https://libguides.library.kent.edu/t2c). Capability for a class review session introduced. National and state benchmarks for all TRAILS grade levels provided for the first time. This year over 3,300 new accounts created by school librarians and teachers, and more than 203,000 students take TRAILS assessments.

2012-13 Academic Year

Doctoral student begins work with focus group volunteers to validate select TRAILS items. In February, TRAILS reaches the milestone of its assessments having been administered to over one million students.

2013-14 Academic Year

All TRAILS items aligned with the appropriate Common Core State Standard. TRAILS represented on Twitter and Facebook. OELMA proclaims TRAILS as "The Blue-Ribbon Information Literacy Assessment for Ohio Students."

2014-15 Academic Year

Major project undertaken to review all learning objectives and items using input from users. TRAILS assessments administered to more than 338,000 students in over 16,000 sessions.

2015-16 Academic Year

TRAILS is 10 years old! Updated assessments for all TRAILS grades made available for this school year. Over 11,000 sessions administered to more than 243,000 students; 1,700 new accounts.

2016-17 Academic Year

Item revision made based on user input. Over 8,000 sessions administered to 184,000 students; 1,600 new accounts.

2017-18 Academic Year

Item revision undertaken, guided by user comments.

2018-19 Academic Year

Due to budgetary and staffing pressures, Kent State University Libraries announced that TRAILS will cease being available as an interactive tool as of June 30, 2019. Over its fourteen-year history, TRAILS registered 31,000 users who administered over 126,000 assessments to nearly 2.5 million students.

July 2019 and Beyond

TRAILS items and assessments continued to be available to K-12 librarians and teachers as an open educational resource (OER) at TRAILS-Archive.org through the generous support of Carrick Enterprises.