

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the New Horizons Foundation (NHF) origination in 2001, it has performed valuable research and produced project management processes and tools that have advanced the sheet metal and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) industry. Given the size of the sheet metal and HVAC industry's body of knowledge, a well-defined information structure is needed for practitioners to find and access NHF research products, and utilize the research database to its fullest potential. This research project was performed with the objective of organizing and facilitating access to NHF research products, which can ultimately lead to increased implementation of NHF research findings and practices.

The sheer volume of available reports and tools and the difficulty with finding the “right practice” can sometimes hinder implementation of NHF products. Developing the NHF Digital Library (also called Resource Library) is intended to solve this problem, and is discussed in this document. The Digital Library organizes all NHF research products according to a structure that consists of three knowledge areas, themselves divided into 14 focus areas, which cover 50+ research products, such as research reports, websites, and white papers.

The NHF Digital Library is a key asset for industry practitioners. It can support their work by increasing accessibility to successful practices and tools published in NHF products. The Library will support the Foundation's research program by providing a snapshot of the current published body of work, while also providing groundwork for the NHF leadership to study trends and identify future industry needs and required updates. This work also served as a foundation to revamp the NHF website.