

**USAID – President’s Annual Report
For the period 1 June 2017-31 May 2018**

Hello, USAID colleagues:

On behalf of the Executive Council (EC), I respectfully submit this report of our activities during the period 1 June 2017-31 May 2018. Where applicable, the context for these activities is the *USAID Action Plan, 2017-2020* (available at <https://usain.org/Action-Plan>).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President; it was an honor to work with so many dedicated volunteers. As Past-President, I look forward to a productive year under the capable leadership of President Kristen Mastel.

Best wishes,
Leslie M. Delslerone
USAID President, 2017-2018

USAID Highlights, 2017-2018

Goal 1. Strengthen membership and increase participation in USAID by members and other food and agricultural information professionals

Objective 1. Retain present members and broaden membership base

- USAID’s membership currently stands at 164, up from 148 in 2017. Thanks to all who promoted USAID to colleagues, and to all of you for your ongoing commitment.



- An EC task force (Claudine Jenda, Kristen Mastel, Amy Paster, Leslie Delslerone) reviewed USAID’s mission statement, as presented on the website. Using information from the membership survey results, we updated the mission statement to reflect the breadth of agriculture and USAID’s focus on its members (see <https://usain.org/>).

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- We recognized an outstanding member, and awarded conference scholarships to a student and those new to the profession.

- **Service to the Profession: Debbie Currie**

Debbie is currently the Collections & Research Librarian for Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the NCSU Libraries. She arrived at NC State in 1997, after leaving her first professional position as the Agriculture Reference Librarian at Louisiana State University. An undergraduate degree in agriculture along with over ten years of experience as an equine genealogist in the renowned Kentucky Thoroughbred horse industry left her well placed to pursue a career in agricultural librarianship.

For the past 25 years, Debbie has dedicated herself to advancing the field of agricultural information through active participation in three key agricultural information organizations: USAIN, the Agriculture Network Information Collaborative (AgNIC), and the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD). She served three terms on the USAIN Executive Council and co-chaired the 2001 USAIN Biennial Conference, was IAALD Officer and Editor for 10 years, and served three terms on the AgNIC Executive Board. She led or contributed to many activities and initiatives associated with one or more of these organizations, including: chairing the 2018 USAIN Conference Contributed Papers & Posters Committee; Project Ceres, a collaboration among USAIN, AgNIC, and the Center for Research Libraries to support the retention and preservation of at risk print historical agricultural serials; and joint USAIN/IAALD conferences in 1997 and 2005.

While many colleagues wrote testimonies of support, a few stand out. Amy Paster stated, “Debbie Currie has been a member of USAIN since 1995 when she was awarded a Conference Scholarship for Members New to USAIN or Agricultural Information. Currently she is an active member of the Preservation and Digital Library Committee... Debbie is also the Chair of the USAIN 2018 Contributed Papers and Posters Committee... Debbie prefers to work behind the scenes and quietly get things done.” Hilary Davis, Head of Collections at NCSU, wrote about the innovative and important work Debbie is doing around citizen science and data management: “These are both significant emerging areas for libraries to engage and make impact in the research community and Debbie has been at the forefront of both.” Kris Alpi, the director of the Veterinary Medicine Library at NCSU says, “Debbie has made tremendous efforts to have libraries seen as a key partner with other science outreach and extension efforts in helping practitioners and the public access current and historical agricultural information.”

- **Student conference scholarship: Janis Joyce Shearer**

Janis is currently enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota and plans to graduate in Spring 2019. Janis has a Master of Agriculture in Horticulture degree, and has been volunteering at the Andersen Horticultural Library, University of Minnesota. She hopes to apply this horticultural information knowledge, research

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and interest in social justice to work in an agricultural governmental or academic library setting.

- **New to the profession conference scholarship:** Kendra Spahr
Kendra began her position as an Academic Services Librarian at Kansas State University in 2016, where she currently serves as liaison to the Department of Agricultural Economics in the College of Agriculture. Previously she was the business and economics librarian at the University of Northern Colorado. Though experienced in the area of business librarianship, Kendra is new to both the area of agricultural information and to USAIN. She currently is working on a proposal with her department for a literature review for the Pet Food Sustainability Working Group.
- **New to the profession conference scholarship:** Renae Watson
Renae began her position as Science Liaison Librarian at Colorado State University in August 2017. She serves as the liaison to the College of Agricultural Sciences’ Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, and Soil and Crop Sciences departments. Her interest in agricultural librarianship was piqued when she worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Kentucky’s Agricultural Information Center. Not only did it familiarize her with agricultural resources, she also had the opportunity to engage in train-the-trainer information literacy programs for first-year Biology and Agriculture courses. In addition to her MLIS, Renae holds MAs in English Composition and in Education.
(Biographies supplied by the Awards and Honors Committee: Kristen Mastel, chair; Patricia Hartman, Emily MacKenzie, and Lisa Vallen)

- Given positive feedback from the membership, the EC began discussions about (1) how USAIN might provide financial support for members to attend the USAIN conference, but who are ineligible for the existing awards, and (2) conference awards that would foster diversity and inclusion.

Objective 2. Increase participation of membership and improve communication within USAIN

- The new USAIN website launched in August 2017. Many thanks to the initial website team (Valrie Minson, chair; Chris Cole; Kristen Cooper; Megan Kocher; Jessica Page; Amy Shannon), which evaluated several candidates before recommending the Wild Apricot platform for implementation. The Website (Special Projects) Committee (comprised of the President-elect, Treasurer, and chairs of the Communications and Membership Committees or their designees) continues refining and troubleshooting the membership database and renewals processes.
- Please log in to the website, update your profile and include a photograph. Detailed profiles are available only to USAIN members; your public USAIN profile is limited to name and organization.

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- The membership received the USAIN membership survey and its associated report. Thanks to Florian Diekmann, Suzanne Stapleton, and Sarah Williams for their contributions and assistance with the survey.

Goal 2. Advocate for public policy, legislation, and institutions that support agricultural research and information communities

Objective 1. Advocate for the National Agricultural Library (NAL) as the leading U.S. resource for agricultural information

- Beginning in the Summer of 2017, there were joint quarterly meetings and/or conference calls among the leadership of NAL (Scott Hanscom, Jill James, Paul Wester), USAIN (Kristen Mastel, Sarah Williams, Leslie Delserone), and AgNIC (Brad Brazzeal, Mary Ochs, Livia Olsen), to “encourage communication” and “avenues of cooperation” (<https://usain.org/Action-Plan>).

Goal 3. Provide educational and professional development opportunities for members and others

Objective 1. Promote biennial USAIN conference

- About 80 USAIN members gathered in the lovely Palouse region (Washington State University, Pullman) for the 16th Biennial Conference, 13-16 May 2018. It was an interesting and enjoyable experience, with many opportunities for new and returning members to present and to network. Thank you to Lara Cummings, Joel Cummings, and Jodee Kuden, conference planners.
- Debbie Currie (Chair, Contributed Papers and Posters Committee) facilitated the archiving of the conference presentations in Cornell University’s repository.
- We’re looking forward to the 17th Biennial Conference (2020), hosted by Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas (Innocent Awasom and Jack Becker, chairs)!

Objective 3. Co-sponsor preservation and digitization programs

- USAIN continued its collaboration with the Center for Research Libraries’ Project Ceres, initiated in 2012 (see <http://www.crl.edu/collections/global-resources-partnership/global-resources-agriculture-partnership>).

Objective 4. Develop members’ skills so they continue as leaders in the creation, dissemination, and organization of food and agricultural information

- USAIN created and launched a pilot of its Fellows Program this year. In an effort to give back to the membership, the EC budgeted funds for research support for one or more of our members. A task force (Jill James; Claudine Jenda; Julie Kelly; Kristen Mastel; Jessica Page; Sarah Williams) developed the process and procedures for this initial year.

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Members of the Professional Development Committee will review applications and recommend funding.

Objective 5. Develop programming to meet the research and teaching needs of food and agricultural faculty and researchers

- During the recent conference, there were presentations about institutional changes based upon the results of the Ithaca S+R study.
- The Agricultural Research Services Interest Group (see <https://usain.org/ARSIG>) exists to promote further discussion and programming.

Organizational Changes

- The EC reviewed USAID’s existing business management and financial services practices, and recognized the need to update USAID’s management to current best practices. After a review of several bids, the EC voted to engage Ehlers Accounting & Tax Services, P.C. for USAID’s bookkeeping and related business services.
- The EC is ‘onboarding’ newly elected officers and directors, by inviting them to join the May meeting or conference call prior to the beginning of their terms.
- The Nominations and Elections Committee (Sarah Williams, chair; Florian Diekmann; Suzanne Stapleton) developed a robust slate of candidates for USAID officers and directors, with 62% of the membership voting. Thanks to all who were willing to serve.

USAID Leadership, 2017-2018

Executive Council

President: Leslie M. Delserone

Past-President: Sarah C. Williams

President-elect: Kristen Mastel

Secretary: Claudine Jenda

Treasurer: Jessica Page

Directors: Florian Diekmann, Megan Kocher, Necia Parker-Gibson, Amy Paster, Melody

Royster, Suzanne Stapleton

NAL representative: Jill James

Outgoing Executive Council members: Megan Kocher (Director), Amy Paster (Director), Sarah C. Williams (Past-President)

Incoming Executive Council members: Cristina Caminita (Secretary), Claudine Jenda (President-elect), Noel Kopriva (Director), David Kruger (Director), Necia Parker-Gibson (Director)

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Committee Chairs

Awards and Honors: Kristen Mastel

Budget: Jessica Page

Bylaws: Sarah C. Williams

Communications: Inga Haugen & Jean Ruenger-Hanson

Conference Planning: Lara Cummings, Joel Cummings, & Jodee Kuden

Legislative & Government Relations: Ashley Shea

Membership: Amy Shannon & Natalie Waters

Nominations & Elections: Sarah C. Williams

Preservation & Digital Library: Emily Lin & Adam Siegel

Professional Development: Kiri DeBose

Interest Group Conveners

AgNIC: Brad Brazzeal & Rob McGeachin

Agricultural Economics Research, Information, and Education (AERIE): Innocent Awasom & Linda Eells

Agricultural Research Services: Valrie Minson & Necia Parker-Gibson

Animal Health Information: Kiri DeBose & Sandra Weingart

Collection Management: Jodee Kuden & Emily MacKenzie

International Agriculture: John Cruickshank

Social Issues/Rural Information: Nicole Juve & Randa Lopez Morgan

Technology Trends: Netta S. Cox & Luti Salisbury