



UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL
INFORMATION NETWORK

June 2, 2022

Dear USAIN Members,

We have reached the end of another USAIN year (June 2021 - May 2022), and I am so pleased to submit this annual report of all that we have accomplished as an organization this year. I want to give a special shout out to our conference organizers who had to shift from planning an in-person conference to an online one this year. The 18th USAIN Biennial Conference was outstanding and while we missed getting to visit over meals and take in the beautiful Arkansas scenery, it truly embodied the spirit of USAIN in showcasing the work of our members, creating new collaborations, and challenging us to grow in our understanding of the work we do as agriculture librarians.

It has truly been an honor to serve as USAIN President this year and I look forward to what comes next under the leadership of incoming President, Suzanne Stapleton.

Respectfully,
Megan Kocher

USAIN Highlights 2021-2022

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

- Membership in USAIN remained stable this year with 153 active members including 8 honorary/lifetime members, 60 institutional members (representing 37 institutions), 80 personal members and 5 student members.
- The Membership Committee worked hard to re-establish connections with members in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic by reaching out to lapsed members, creating a more welcoming message for new members, and adding an “exit survey” for non-renewing members. They also worked to promote USAIN through ALA accredited graduate schools and ALA Connect.
- The Membership Committee developed and implemented a survey to identify potential new committee members and shared the results with committee chairs.
- The USAIN Oral History Project conducted one interview which is in the process of being approved and added to the archive.

- The Awards & Honors Committee approved two award recipients, Julie A. Kelly for Service to the Profession and Joshua Oren for Student Conference Scholarship. They also added a new stipulation this year that conference scholarship recipients must provide a written reflection of their experience to be shared on USAIN's website and social media.
- The Website Committee added more fields to member profile displays on the USAIN Website: pronouns, academic ranks, committee & interest group membership. These will assist members in communicating with each other and finding reviewers for promotion and tenure.
- The Communications Committee launched a new USAIN Instagram account, and refreshed our presence on other social media channels. They are coordinating with the membership committee on strategies to recruit new members.

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

- The USAIN Legislative & Government Relations Committee was renamed the Advocacy & Action Committee for Agricultural Libraries and given a new charge
- In June 2021, the USAIN Executive Council approved and issued a letter to members of the House and Senate appropriations committees in support of President Biden's proposed FY2022 Budget which provided an 18% increase in funding for the National Agricultural Library.
- In February 2022, in the wake of a wave of threats toward historically black colleges and universities in the US, USAIN issued an open letter of support to our colleagues and members at HBCUs.
- In May 2022, the USAIN Executive Council approved a letter to be sent to the president of Texas A&M University in response to their decision to transition their university library to a service unit and remove all tenured librarians from this unit. This letter argues for a reconsideration of this decision and supports our TAMU members.

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

- This year, the Professional Development Committee began to offer DEIA + Agricultural Librarianship meetings. Two meetings were held in the last year to focus on different readings and the committee is working to continue offering these on a regular schedule.
- In July, Erin Eldermire was the 2021 USAIN Research Fellow Awards recipient for her project "Closing the gaps in agricultural evidence syntheses: Addressing grey literature, global information, and capacity development needs." She was granted \$3900 to support her research project.
- Members of the Professional Development Committee sent notices out to the USAIN listserv to announce upcoming conferences that might be of interest, either due to topics in agriculture, or in topics related to librarianship.

- The USAIN 2022 Biennial Meeting was held virtually April 4-7, 2022. Thank you to conference co-chairs Necia Parker-Gibson, Jodee Kuden, and Maggie Albro! Some session highlights included:
 - The AERIE Interest Group hosted panel discussion for librarians who work with agricultural economics students and faculty
 - A CoLab session that allowed members to meet and talk about potential collaborations
 - Keynote speaker, Dr. Kara Young-Ponder on The Importance of Including Race in the Study of Food
 - Contributed paper and poster sessions
 - And much much more
- The USAIN Project Ceres Subcommittee in collaboration with CRL and AgNIC funded three applications for digitization grants for a total \$32,923.40.
- The Preservation and Digital Library Committee took some initial steps in identifying agricultural trade journals as a subject for a potential preservation project, using Virginia and Virginia Tech as a test case. They plan to use the information gleaned in this process to scope and implement a digitization project in the future.

Organizational Business

- Treasurer Val Minson led the EC in some initial exploration of converting the organization from a 501(c)6 to a 501(c)3. It was determined that the changes needed to do this would be minimal and USAIN is moving forward with pursuing this.
- Using the President's Contingency fund, USAIN made two donations this year:
 - \$2000 to North Carolina Central's MLIS program scholarship fund. This donation was made in recognition of retiring USAIN member, Julie Kelly, who established this fund to support the only MLIS program at an HBCU.
 - \$500 to Lucie's Place, a non-profit supporting TLGBQ+ youth experiencing homelessness in Arkansas. This donation was made in recognition of the fact that the USAIN meeting was to be held at the University of Arkansas in 2022 and that state enacted laws discriminating against transgender youth in 2021.
- The Nominations Committee chaired by Jessica Page put together a stellar roster of candidates for this year's election. Voting was conducted electronically, and the Executive Council will welcome USAIN's new president-elect, Kiri DeBose, along with Secretary, Randa Lopez Morgan, and Directors, Erica Johs, Jodee Kuden, and Kendra Spahr for the 2022-2023 year.
- The EC approved the 2022-2023 budget which added extra funds to line item (Conference Expenses - 505) to cover the costs of the cancelled hotel contract for both USAIN and AgNIC and to continue funding for the Oral History initiative. Additional increases included the survey subscription line item (536) and Legal/Financial Fees (564) to cover costs of applying to become a 501c3.
- Due to the timing of the 2022 conference and the potential change to USAIN's incorporation, the Bylaws Committee did not meet this year. The Bylaws Committee

chair did submit some suggestion changes to be made once it is decided whether USAIN will convert to a 501c3.

Executive Council 2021-2022

President: Megan Kocher

Past President: Jessica Page

President-Elect: Suzanne Stapleton

Secretary: Suzi Teghtmeyer

Treasurer: Valrie Minson

Directors: Michael Cook, Kiri DeBose, Patricia Hartman, Jodee Kuden, Becky Miller, Livia Olsen, Kristen Cooper

Outgoing Executive Council Members: Jessica Page (Past President), Suzi Teghtmeyer (Secretary), Kiri DeBose (Director), Jodee Kuden (Director), Kristen Cooper (Director)

Incoming Executive Council Members: Kiri DeBose (President-Elect), Randa Lopez Morgan (Secretary), Erica Johns (Director), Jodee Kuden (Director), Kendra Spahr (Director)

Committee Chairs 2021-2022

Advocacy & Action: Vacant

Awards and Honors: Suzanne Stapleton

Budget: Valrie Minson

Communications: Patricia Hartman

Membership: Helen Smith & Randa Lopez Morgan

Nominations & Elections: Jessica Page

Preservation & Digital Library: Inga Haugen

Professional Development: Kristen Mastel & Kiri DeBose

Website: Suzanne Stapleton

Interest Group Conveners 2021-2022

AERIE: Becky Miller, Livia Olsen, & Kendra Spahr

AgNIC: Rob McGeachin

Agricultural Research Services: Maggie Albro & Sarah Williams

Animal Health: Kiri DeBose & Patricia Brandes

Collection Management: Jodee Kuden & Emily MacKenzie

International Agriculture: Vacant

Social Issues/Rural Information: Marianne Stowell Bracke & Melanie Gardner

Technology Trends: Luti Salisbury & Mylene Pinard