

USAIN President's Annual Report

May 31, 2023

Dear USAIN members,

I'm pleased to share this annual report highlighting our accomplishments during this past year (June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023). We continue to recover individually and collectively from the pandemic, with greater awareness and dedication to equity and inclusivity. Our organization has been active in meaningful ways this year, rebuilding our own community, especially involving newer members. We continue sharing our expertise through deepening partnerships with related organizations including AgNIC and USDA National Agricultural Library (NAL), and exploring new partnerships with Juno Evidence Alliance and the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries. Preparations for our first hybrid biennial conference have begun. We are developing our own Code of Conduct to ensure that all participants at USAIN events feel welcome and respected.

Thanks to all of you who volunteer your expertise and time to keep USAIN engaged and relevant!

It's been my honor to serve USAIN as President this past year. I look forward to working with incoming President Kiri DeBose and the Executive Council during this new business year.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Stapleton

USAIN Activity Highlights, 2022-2023

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

- **Membership.** USAIN membership is up 14% this year, with 20 new members who joined since June 1, 2022. There are 159 active members. Active members include 82 individuals plus 66 individuals connected to an institutional membership, 8 lifetime members, and 3 students. The membership committee recruited members and engagement of members with emails to USAIN listserv and the ALA STS listserv, and to members who joined since 2018 whose membership had lapsed. From these emails, members' interests in USAIN committees were identified and shared with committee chairs in May.
- **New Action Plan.** USAIN's Action Plan was reviewed and revised this year, as it is every three years. An Action Plan Working Group, comprised of Becky Miller (chair), Jason Keinsley, and Terra Rogerson, proposed revisions and solicited input from the EC and listserv. The new plan directs USAIN to increase member involvement, especially for new members, and to provide more transparency. In March 2023, the EC voted to approve the revised Action Plan, which will

be effective from June 2023 through May 2026. The [new Action Plan](#) is available on the USAIN Website's Governing Documents.

- Membership survey. The membership survey that was developed but not distributed last year was revised and distributed in fall 2022 to 152 active USAIN members plus 24 members whose memberships lapsed since January 2022. The survey included questions from Committees and the 2024 Conference Planning Committee to aid their work. There was a 35% response rate, with 58 surveys completed. A summary of the results was distributed to the listserv and the complete survey was shared with the EC and relevant committees (Professional Development, Membership, Communication, and the 2024 Conference Planning Committee).
- An orientation for leaders was offered for the second year in August, as one effort to strengthen membership. During this orientation for the EC, committee chairs and interest group conveners, a demonstration of the website was provided and shared records retention emphasized. Member profiles in the website were expanded to display pronouns, academic rank, and willingness to serve as an external reviewer. A recording and guide on how members can edit their own profiles was posted to the website and shared with USAIN members.
- Four Interest Groups (IGs) were also active during this non-conference year: Agricultural Economics Research, Information, and Education (AERIE), Agricultural Research Services (ARSIG), Animal Health Information (AHIIG) and Social Issues/Rural Information (SIRIIG). Some, such as ARSIG, focused on offering professional development events, while others, such as SIRIIG, met monthly to identify and research topics of shared interest. EC approved one IG funding request. Read individual IG reports below. Members can sign-up directly to join one or more Interest Groups at any time of year.

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

- USAIN hosted Paul Wester Jr., director of the USDA National Agricultural Library, in July for an online update on priority activities and programs at NAL. The session recording was made available afterward for those unable to attend.
- Three USAIN members were invited by USDA NAL to participate in the development of a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility strategic plan for NAL. The two four-hour participatory workshops in November and December were facilitated by Strategic Diversity Initiatives. Reflections on this work reported back to the EC in February by the 3 USAIN representatives (Suzanne Stapleton, Claudine Jenda, and Inga Haugen).

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

- USAIN Conference, 2024: EC voted in September to approve MSU's proposal to convert the USAIN 2024 conference into a joint conference with Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL). USAIN conference committees were formed and are starting to meet; one CBHL representative is invited to join each committee. The chairs of the conference planning

committee, Suzi Teghtmeyer and Andrea Kepsel, attended a few EC meetings. EC approved their conference budget. A conference announcement was shared with members and on website to save the date for the hybrid conference: May 6-9, 2024 in East Lansing, MI.

- USAIN Conferences, 2022: The final 2022 conference report was prepared and presented to the EC in September 2022. USAIN was charged for cancelled USAIN and AgNIC hotel reservations when the conference was converted from in-person to online format due to the pandemic. The four-day virtual conference drew 105 attendees from the US, Canada, and the Caribbean.
- Webinars were offered throughout this non-conference year by USAIN's Professional Development (PD) Committee and several Interest Groups and individual members. The activity level for professional development opportunities was unusually high.
 - ARSIG hosted *Historic Yields; Making Old Agricultural Data New Again* on Sept 28th (23 attended; 9 viewed recording).
 - ARSIG also offered *Impactful Librarianship: Research Services to develop Digital Scholarly Identity and Research Impact Visibility* on Jan. 25th (49 attended; 42 viewed the recording).
 - PD Committee organized and hosted a discussion on *Chat GPT/AI and DEI* on March 7th
 - PD Committee co-hosted a *Virtual Networking Event* with USAIN EC on April 12th. USAIN members and non-members were invited, with special invitations to CBHL members. Six co-hosts facilitated breakout rooms with a focus on building relationships as well as gaining skills, sharing research interests, and learning more about USAIN (32 attended). Evaluations were positive and participants requested that the event be repeated.
 - AHIIG hosted panel, *Disaster Preparedness with NC Cooperative Extension*, to address disaster preparedness with animals on April 3rd.
 - AERIE hosted a webinar, *agriRxiv and Ag Econ Search: Managing OA Repositories*, on April 27th (37 registered; 20 attended)
- Research Fellows Awards. One project funded in July 2023, *Economic Analyses of the Impacts of Seasonal Heat Stress on Dairy Production* (Kiri DeBose) and two projects awarded for 2023-2024, *The New Farmers of America Research Guide* (Inga Haugen) and *Using Digital Learning Objects for Instructional Support for Faculty in Agricultural Sciences: A Pilot Study* (Maggie Albro & Hanwen Dong), which will start this summer.
- USAIN began discussions of an emerging partnership with Juno Evidence Alliance to embed USAIN members in evidence-based synthesis research teams and further develop professional skills of USAIN members to conduct and contribute to systematic reviews, scoping reviews, and other evidence-based synthesis research.
- Project Ceres – was on hiatus this year at the request of Center for Research Libraries
- Communicated related professional development opportunities to USAIN members (e.g. AgNIC Data Carpentry Workshop, USDA NAL Wikipedia Edit-a-thons)

Organizational Business

- Budget Committee, chaired by Val Minson, conducted the annual audit, finalized the 2022 budget and prepared the 2023 budget. A new line item was added to clearly identify AgNIC conference expenses in the future. Committee worked with lawyers to file revised Articles of

Incorporation in the State of Ohio and to prepare application for 501c3 status. This status offers better stewardship, opportunities for endowment, and business cloud-based storage for USAIN records which is better for multiple leaders.

- Bylaws Committee, chaired by Megan Kocher, revised USAIN Bylaws and Procedures & Rules. Proposed changes incorporated recommendations from lawyers to clarify USAIN purpose and include dissolution language to support 501c3 application. EC voted to approve revisions of both governing documents. USAIN membership (43% of all eligible voters) voted to approve these changes to Bylaws. New [Bylaws](#) and [Procedures & Rules](#) are posted on the USAIN website.
- A Code of Conduct was drafted by the Bylaws Committee to be used at all USAIN events (virtual and in-person), after review of similar codes by other organizations. The EC reviewed the proposal and recommended that a working group finalize the code and pilot its use at, or before, the USAIN 2024 conference. Thanks to Erica Johns for leadership on this effort.
- Nominations & Elections Committee, chaired by Megan Kocher, recruited a strong slate of candidates for five open positions: President Elect, Treasurer, and three Directors. All positions had multiple candidates. The election was open from March 15-April 12th and results announced through the listserv. 50% of all eligible voters participated.
- Communications Committee focused their efforts on USAIN social media presence this year, Facebook, Instagram (USAIN_ORG), Twitter (@USAIN_ORG), and LinkedIn. The group recommends revising USAIN Listserv from an opt-in to an opt-out feature of Wild Apricot.
- EC created USAIN Google Calendar to avoid conflicts when planning activities and events.
- Business Records Task Force, (Suzanne Stapleton, chair, Kiri DeBose, and Kendra Spahr), was formed to review, organize, and share business records of USAIN, using Google Drive. Randa Morgan provided access to USAIN Google Drive folders to USAIN EC members. EC voted to form Business Records & Archive Committee as a standing committee that incorporates archivist responsibilities and establishes policies for retention and access to records.
- Website committee, chaired by Kiri DeBose, reviewed webpages, contributed to cleaning up files and website, fixing broken links, and setting standards to preserve information about USAIN past events and keep Resources pages current.

Full reports from Committees and Interest Groups appear below the list of members.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2022-2023

President: Suzanne Stapleton (University of Florida), 2022-2023

Past-President: Megan Kocher (University of Minnesota), 2022-2023

President-Elect: Kyrille DeBose (Virginia Tech University), 2022-2023

Treasurer: Valrie Minson (University of Florida), 2019-2023

Secretary: Randa Lopez Morgan (Louisiana State University), 2022-2024

Directors, 2021-2023: Michael Cook (Cornell University), Patricia Hartman (Auburn University), Becky Miller (University of California - Berkely), Livia Olsen (Kansas State University)

Directors, 2022-2024: Erica Johns (Cornell University), Jodee Kuden (University of Alaska - Anchorage), Kendra Spahr (Kansas State University)

National Agricultural Library Representative (ex officio): Kristina Adams (succeeded Jill James)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Advocacy and Action Committee

Co-Chair: Erin Eldemire (Cornell University), 2022-2023

Co-Chair: Claudine Jenda (Auburn University), 2022-2023

Awards and Honors Committee

Chair: Kiri DeBose (Virginia Tech University), 2022-2023

Budget Committee

Chair: Valrie Minson (University of Florida), 2019-2023

Kiri DeBose (Virginia Tech University), 2022-2023

Megan Kocher (University of Minnesota), 2021-2023

Necia Parker-Gibson (University of Arkansas), 2022-2023

Suzanne Stapleton (University of Florida), 2021-2023

Bylaws Committee

Chair: Kristen Mastel (University of Minnesota), 2022-2023

Erica Johns (Cornell University), 2022-2023

Communications Committee

Co-Chair: Patricia Hartman (Auburn University), 2018-2023

Co-Chair: Becky Miller (University of California Berkely), 2022-2023

Dana Boden (University of Nebraska – Lincoln), 2019-2023

Randa Lopez Morgan (Louisiana State University), 2022-2023

Jason Keinsley, Listserv administrator (University of Kentucky), 2019-ongoing

Conference Planning 2024

Co-Chair: Andrea Kepsel (Michigan State University), 2022-ongoing

Co-Chair: Suzi Teghtmeyer (Michigan State University), 2022-ongoing

Membership Committee

Co-Chair: Patricia Brandes (University of Hawaii), 2022-2023

Co-Chair: Helen Smith (Pennsylvania State University), 2022-2023

Nancy Marshall (South Dakota State University), 2018-2023

Mary Taylor (Southern Illinois University Carbondale), 2019-2023

Nominations and Elections Committee

Chair: Megan Kocher (University of Minnesota), 2022-2023

Livia Olsen (Kansas State University), 2022-2023

Jessica Page (The Ohio State University), 2022-2023

Lutishoor Salisbury (University of Arkansas), 2022-2023

Preservation and Digital Library Committee

Co-Chair: Jamie Flood (USDA National Agricultural Library), 2022-2023

Co-Chair: Gwen Short (The Ohio State University), 2022-2023

Professional Development Committee

Co-Chair: Britt Foster (California State University – Fresno), 2022-2023

Co-Chair: Kristen Mastel (University of Minnesota), 2022-2023

Brad Brazzeal (Mississippi State University), 2019-2023

Andrea Kepsel (Michigan State University), 2022-2023

Luti Salisbury (University of Arkansas), 2019-2023

Kelly Weigand (Auburn University), 2022-2023

Website Committee

Chair: Kiri DeBose (Virginia Tech University), 2022-2023

Valrie Minson (University of Florida), 2019-2023

Randa Lopez Morgan (Louisiana State University), 2022-2023

Jessica Page (The Ohio State University), 2017-2023

Helen Smith (Pennsylvania State University)

INTEREST GROUP CONVENERS

AgNIC

Rob McGeachin (Texas A&M University), 2012-2023

Carolyn Jackson (Kansas State University), 2022-2023

Agricultural Economics Research, Information, and Education (AERIE)

Livia Olsen (Kansas State University), 2021-2023

Kendra Spahr (Kansas State University), 2019-2023

Agricultural Research Services (ARSIG)

Maggie Albro (University of Tennessee – Knoxville), 2022-2023

Sarah Williams (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), 2022-2023

Animal Health Information (AHIIG)

Hillary Fox (North Carolina State University), 2022-2023

Tisha Mentnech (North Carolina State University), 2022-2023

Collection Management

Jodee Kuden (University of Alaska Anchorage), 2009-2023

Emily MacKenzie (McGill University), 2016-2023

Social Issues/Rural Information (SIRIG)

Leyla Cabugos (California Polytechnic State University), 2022-2023

Technology Trends

Mylene Pinard (McGill University), 2019-2023
Luti Salisbury (University of Arkansas), 2013-2023

Committee Reports

Budget Committee

Val Minson (Chair)

The Budget Committee met via conference call on November 30, 2022 to discuss the audit, establish a 2023 budget, and establish application process to become a 501c3.

USAIN 2022 Budget & Audit

Committee successfully performed audit and no issues were identified.

The budget was finalized for 2022. There was a budget surplus of \$5,960.06 (we expected a loss), primarily due to conference income (late arriving sponsorship on a non-conference year). Due to COVID-19 and limited travel, the 2022 budget experienced lower expenses than projected.

USAIN 2023 Budget

The committee created extra line items (Temporarily Restricted Net Assess 360/Income and 560/Expenses) to track future AgNIC conference income.

The 2022 conference hotel confirmed USAIN owed \$10,035 (USAIN) and \$4,130 (AgNIC) for the hotel contract. This amount is based on 50% cancellation 179-60 days in advance.

Line items were also decreased/adjusted as appropriate:

Reductions:

- Conference Expenses (line 505), non-conference year,
- President's Contingency Fund (530), project ending,
- Business Management (565), 501c3 process increased this line for 2022 and we shifted costs to (564) for 2023. Monthly costs for Ehlers will result in a general monthly increase,
- Scholarships and Awards (570, 571, 572, 575), non-conference year,
- Project Ceres Project (573), project on hiatus,
- Preservation & Digital Library Project (577), ending projects.

Increases:

- Merchant PayPal fees (567), while expected to be reduced in 2023 we increased due to higher 2022 fees,
- Survey Subscription (536), price increase,
- Legal/Financial Fees (564) to cover ongoing costs of applying to become a 501c3 and potential \$600 IRL filing fee (if required). In a typical year, legal fees are around \$200. This year we may need this higher amount.

501C3:

- Treasurer & Budget Committee worked with lawyer (Endecott) to develop a 501C3 application.

- We should be able to continue to do the 990N tax form and Ehlers confirmed she can do taxes as long as it is the 990N form.
- For that submission, we now include Dissolution language in our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- Endecott is ready to submit 501C3 application when completing their final review.

Future Steps:

This year there will be a transition to a new Treasurer. The outgoing Treasurer will ensure all files will be migrated entirely to Google Drive. Additionally, all documentation will be updated with responsibilities.

Additionally, the incoming Treasurer should consider the best investing options for the organization, assuming a change to 501c3.

Bylaws Committee

Megan Kocher (Chair)

The USAIN Bylaws Committee undertook three projects this year:

1. Procedures and Rules revisions: The Bylaws Committee proposed a [set of revisions](#) to the P&R that clarified language around conferences, various committee functions, and dissolution in alignment with our plan to apply for 501(c)3 status. These revisions were voted on and accepted by the USAIN EC.
2. Bylaws: The Bylaws Committee proposed a [set of changes](#) to the USAIN Bylaws that included language updates, and an update to the dissolution clause in alignment with our plan to apply for 501(c)3 status. These changes were approved by the EC and then voted on by the membership and accepted.
3. Code of Conduct: The Bylaws Committee proposed devising a code of conduct for use at all USAIN events (virtual and in-person.) The committee then drafted a code of conduct and brought it to the EC for feedback. This draft will be used by a working group in the next year to develop a finalized code of conduct to pilot at the USAIN 2024 conference.

Communications Committee

Patricia Harman (Co-Chair) and Becky Miller (Co-Chair)

We researched other comparable groups' social media policies / guidelines and made plans to draft social media guidelines specific to USAIN.

We brainstormed ways to be more engaging on USAIN's social media - [Facebook](#), Instagram (USAIN_ORG), [Twitter](#) (@USAIN_ORG), and [LinkedIn](#) - and developed a timeline of events / ideas for posts (e.g., annual events like holidays, commemorative days, dates relevant to USAIN and libraries, etc.). We also talked about assessing our social media engagement in some way.

We started planning Facebook posts a few months at a time with Facebook scheduler. We hope to link Instagram to it, so both could be updated automatically through one platform.

We discussed how to better use LinkedIn, and considered discontinuing an active presence on LinkedIn.

We discussed transitioning USAIN-L away from our current email list set up, which we feel is unsustainable since it is reliant on a USAIN member who is not necessarily part of the Communications Committee or USAIN leadership. Because Wild Apricot does not have a good email list option, we suggest something like a Google group that could be managed centrally. We also talked about how to improve the process of adding new members to USAIN-L and whether we could move from an opt-in model to an opt-out model.

Membership Committee

Helen Smith (Co-Chair) and Patricia Brandes (Co-chair)

Met every other month to address USAIN membership issues. The USAIN Membership Committee has been active in the 2022-2023 term, with a focus on updating and streamlining the membership process, as well as exploring strategies for recruitment and retention of active members. We sent emails to the USAIN-L, STS, listserv to invite them to join to highlight the benefits of membership.

Members who had joined since 2018 were emailed about the networking event in April and encouraged to renew their membership had they lapsed. Several members renewed their membership as a result. In order to increase committee membership, members were emailed in early May requesting their committee preferences. Results will be sent to committee chairs at the end of May.

The committee spent some time discussing various options for engaging retired members, including a reduced dues and conference fees. It was decided that a reduced rate for conferences makes the most sense. Our proposal is as follows:

Retired Members Conference Fees proposal.

The USAIN Membership Committee recommends that policy be established that Conference fees for retired members of USAIN be set at the same price as student members.

Rationale: Retired members often have reduced income and also no longer have travel funds from their institutions. Yet many may want to continue with their professional activities and have important historical perspectives on current agricultural information issues. Providing a reduced conference fee allows retired members to continue to contribute to the organization.

Throughout the year, the committee held regular meetings via Zoom and moved all documents/forms/templates to the USAIN Membership Committee's Google Drive.

Member statistics as of May 10, 2023:

159 total members

82 individual members and 66 individuals connected to an institutional membership. 8

lifetime members

3 student members
20 new members since June 1, 2022

Nominations and Elections Committee

Megan Kocher (Chair)

The committee convened in November 2022 and began soliciting nominations for five open positions. These were President Elect, Treasurer, and three Directors.

The committee compiled a strong slate of candidates with all positions being contested. Nominations, acceptances, contacts, and results were tracked in a spreadsheet in the USAIN Google Drive. The election took place from March 15th through April 12th, 2023 and the results were announced via the USAIN listserv. The winners were:

President Elect:	Melody Royster
Treasurer:	Hope Jansen
Directors:	Patricia Hartman
	Jeremy Kenyon
	David Luftig

Preservation & Digital Library Committee

Jamie Flood (Co-Chair) and Gwen Short (Co-Chair)

The Preservation and Digital Library Committee have been discussing and working on a guide to releasing rights and prepping digital items (and items up for digitization) for inclusion in repositories like HathiTrust, Digital Public Library of America, Internet Archive, Wikimedia Commons, etc. Many institutions have large collections of digital items, particularly research series. Our hope for this project, is to increase access to digital items, and help other repositories access series or serials that they may be missing from their collection.

Next year, we hope to have the guide completed and shared via the USAIN website (or other host site) and present the guide and how to use and access it. We hope to work on a microfilm rescue project and work with institutions who need to digitize and preserve microfilm from going to vinegar.

Professional Development Committee

Kristen Mastel (Co-Chair) and Britt Foster (Co-Chair)

The Professional Development committee was active in offering professional development opportunities for members, often in partnership with other USAIN organizations, throughout the 2022/2023 year. In addition, the PD committee also promoted a number of other professional development opportunities offered by partner organizations, such as ACRL's Science and Technology

Section (STS), the National Agricultural Library, and the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL). Below is the list of PD opportunities offered by or in partnership with, USAIN PD:

- ChatGPT/AI and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: March 7, 2023
- USAIN CoLab (supporting USAIN president Suzzane Stapleton): April 12, 2023

The committee also completed a minor revision of the USAIN Research Fellows application and rubric, to take into consideration the membership's desire to publish in Open Access publications. This year two applications were received for the Research Fellows Award.

Future work on the Research Fellowship award will be to continue promoting the award to increase the number of applications, as well as addressing indirect costs required by grantee's institutions and the issue of multiple awards within a set number of years.

Goals for the next year will include continued professional development offerings, including a webinar on Understanding Historic U.S. Department of Agriculture Publications, to be offered by Helen Smith and Jen Kirk; AGRICOLA/USDA SEARCH and CABI Digital Library training; conference year planning and preparation; and continuing the DEI article club discussion group on topics of current interest to the membership.

Website Committee

Kiri DeBose (President Elect, Chair)

Other contributors to work completed this year:

- Suzanne Stapleton (President)

Completed projects

The Business Records Task Force (Suzanne Stapleton, Kiri DeBose, and Kendra Spar) looked at the files held in Wild Apricot. Some decisions were made regarding what should stay on the website and what should be archived in USAIN's Google Drive (e.g. see the [budget committee & reports](#) page; files). Files have been restored to the website if broken links were reported for content members needed to have access to if there was not a statement where the information was also archived in Google Drive.

A new field was added to the profile, "Would you be willing to be contacted to serve as an External Reviewer?" to help identify possible external reviewers for both USAIN members and respective committees looking to find possible external reviewers from within the USAIN membership. Jessica Page had given a tutorial on how to update member profiles and Suzanne (President) added the instructions on how to update member profiles to the website (They are accessible from the text on the Directory page, <https://usain.org/directory>, "Learn how to update information displayed on your USAIN Member Profile here"). The [PDF instructions](#) include a link to a [4 min video](#) excerpt from our Convener orientation this year that was given by Jessica (the files and video are restricted to members). Suzanne also uploaded the new Action Plan (2023-2026) and revised Bylaws (2023)

We also assigned committee members to the following tasks:

- Helen:
 - Tracked down the interactive timeline (<https://usain.org/Timeline>) and made updates. Still need to find pictures, but the site now works again

- Updated links and content on the page <https://usain.org/Links-for-Agricultural-Librarians>
- Jessica:
 - Archived the 2022 conference site (moved to past conference page) and removed extraneous links from "past conferences" that appeared when hovered over the link (now on own page, <https://usain.org/Past-Events>)
 - Updated links and content for the page <https://usain.org/Access-to-Extension-and-Experiment-Station-Publications>
- Jessica & Randa:
 - Created conference templates within the Wild Apricot site that can be used going forward (set to private until 2024 organizers are ready to start populating the pages and releasing content)
- Kiri:
 - Put sched, the interactive timeline, and other 3rd party domains identified that use JavaScript on our Wild Apricot whitelist so those services will continue to work going forward
 - Updated links and content for the page <https://usain.org/Resources-for-Librarians-in-Developing-Countries>
- Val:
 - Added links for committees and IGs on the home page (previously could only access those using the hovering menus)
 - Updated links and content for the page <https://usain.org/Getting-Started-Ag-Librarian/>

For the four pages that were updated (linked through the “Resources” option on the navigation bar) added who last updated the page. Only one page included who originally created the content, the rest have space holders in case we are able to determine the original creator of those pages.

Future work

Recommendations for maintaining Conference Pages

The USAIN Website Committee makes the following recommendations in regards to ensuring the Past Conferences webpage is up-to-date: <https://usain.org/Conferences>

All conference host sites submit within their conference report the following details:

- Registration costs for different members
- Cancellation policy for registered attendees
- Additional content they feel important to preserve long-term
- Separate PDF of the full conference program (title, time, speaker names, etc.) downloaded from Sched or the tool utilized by the conference host
- Items (1-3) will be saved in the Google Drive and be made available upon request, to future conference hosts. The availability of those materials to future hosts should be included on this page: <https://usain.org/Conference-Hosting-Criteria>
- The Website Committee will then post on the past conference page the dates, conference year, location, and (#4) a link to the PDF program document.

Recommendations for capturing IG events

The EC started using USAIN’s Google Calendar to list out events (and help the Professional Development Committee keep track of when things were taking place to IG’s don’t schedule webinars or other activities at the same time). However, right now the only thing that is captured consistently are the

biennial conferences on the “[past conferences](#)” page. As more IG’s are hosting events in non-conference years, recommend going forward that the “[past events](#)” page (created this year) include these activities. The name of the event should include the year, though may also want to separate the page out by IG and other events rather than by year to help with organization as the information grows for past events.

- Options for what to retain
 - Link to the original news item (repeats what is already on the site in another area, but also provides a way for these activities to be highlighted (see 2020 Big Data Workshop)
 - Creating a designated page in Wild Apricot for archival purposes and asking IG conveners to provide a blurb about the event and any video/recordings/handouts to be linked here as well (see 2019 AgNIC Annual Meeting)

Recommendations for “Resources” pages

During the review of the 4 resources pages that were updated this year, two had quite a bit of overlap in content (Links for Agricultural Librarians & Getting Started as an Agricultural Librarian) and very little has been put on the website with resources for Ag librarians working on specific sectors, such as Data Mining, Systematic Reviews, etc. Additionally the Access to Extension and Experiment publications is a misnomer as most of the links on that page *don’t actually provide access to extension or experiment station publications*. JOE is for articles, SARE is a USDA research program, and eXtension has been absorbed into a committee the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities (it still has its knowledge base here: <https://ask2.extension.org/open.php>). Perhaps put out a call for individual state’s collections for this page as that is useful information and in line with what the title of the page provides access to.

These three pages could use a major overhaul in organization, purpose, and to ensure support for new and long-time agricultural librarians is supported. If these are restructured and renamed, it would also be helpful to include who developed the page(s) and include who updated the pages (e.g. [bottom of this page](#)) and review pages/content on a fixed schedule (e.g. every two years) so broken links/outdated content is updated frequently enough to keep the pages current.

Interest Group Reports

[Agricultural Economics Research, Information, and Education \(AERIE\) Interest Group](#)

Livia Olsen (Co-Convener) and Kendra Spahr (Co-Convener)

From June 2022 to May 2023, we planned organized one professional development webinar, titled *agriRxiv and AgEcon Search: Managing OA Repositories*. Representatives from AgEcon Search and agriRxiv gave overviews of their products and discussed the behind-the-scenes work that goes into managing them. Our speakers were Linda Eels, Shannon Farrell, and Erika Newton. The webinar was on 4/27/2023. We had about 20 attendees and 37 registrants.

In May, we started recruiting a co-convener to take over for Kendra, who has been a co-convener for over four years now.

Agricultural Research Services Interest Group (ARSIG)

Maggie Albro (Co-Convener) and Sarah C. Williams (Co-Convener)

This was our (Maggie & Sarah) second year as co-conveners of ARSIG. We continued the half-hour, monthly co-convener meetings to keep ourselves on track. Erica Johns was our USAIN Executive Council liaison.

2022-2023 Activities

We organized 4 ARSIG activities this year.

“Historic Yields: Making Old Agricultural Data New Again” webinar

September 28, 2022

Our “Conducting an Agricultural Data Interview” webinar last year generated quite a bit of questions and discussion about historic or analog data, so Sarah reached out to an Illinois colleague, Sandi Caldron, who has extensive experience with historic, analog agricultural data from her work at Purdue and Illinois. We announced the webinar on the USAIN listserv and on USAIN social media. After the webinar, we shared the slides and recording (only available for 30 days) via the listsev. We had 23 people attend the live webinar. 7 individuals viewed 30+ minutes of the recording, and an additional 2 individuals viewed 10+ minutes of the recording. There were many other short views.

“Impactful Librarianship: Research Services to Develop Digital Scholarly Identity and Research Impact Visibility” webinar

January 25, 2023

Last year’s survey of ARSIG members showed a strong interest in scholarly identity and research impact, so we engaged in a discussion with Carolyn Jackson (Kansas State University) to arrange a webinar. Carolyn agreed to speak in conjunction with her Texas A&M colleague, Bruce Herbert. Once logistics were arranged, we announced the webinar on the USAIN listserv. Following the webinar, we distributed slides and a recording link through the listserv. We had 49 people attend the live webinar, and 42 people viewed the recording (with 4 views lasting over 5 minutes). 4 people downloaded the recording as well.

ARSIG Informal Get-Together

April 18, 2023

Since 2023 is a non-conference year, we thought ARSIG members might appreciate a chance to get together informally. We were going to start the 45-minute gathering with a poll of 5 topics, have 2 breakout rooms to chat with each other about the 2 topics with the highest votes, and then come back together for networking and general conversations during the last half of the time. Only 4 people (including the co-conveners) joined the get-together, so we did not worry about the poll or breakout

rooms and just had a nice time talking amongst ourselves. Attendance might have been reduced since the USAIN-wide networking event happened the week before. Even though so few attended, it was still worthwhile to organize since it required minimal preparation.

ARSIG Member Survey

April 18 – May 3, 2023

Since last year's survey on topics of interest was so helpful in planning ARSIG events, we decided to distribute another survey to our members. The survey contained questions asking about topics of interest for future events, preferred format for interest group conference programming, and satisfaction with this year's quantity and quality of programming. We also provided free-text space to provide additional feedback and comments for the co-conveners. When the survey closed, there were 12 responses. We plan to use the results of the survey to inform the planning of ARSIG programming in the 2023-24 year.

Future Plans

Maggie has agreed to stay on as a convener of ARSIG for the 2023-24 year, while Sarah will be stepping down to focus her energies on other USAIN activities. As such, we are seeking an additional convener for next year, and we have announced our need to current ARSIG members, but have not received any responses.

We plan to use the results of the ARSIG member survey conducted in April/May to inform our programming for next year. We would like to host a webinar or online workshop in the fall on a topic of member interest. We will use another topic of interest to inspire our USAIN Conference session, which we will seek to arrange in a panel format, as that was what the overwhelming majority of survey respondents preferred.

As of the end of April 2023, ARSIG has 54 members.

Animal Health Information Interest Group (AHIIG)

Hillary Fox (Co-Convener) and Tisha Mentnech (Co-Convener)

The Animal Health Information Interest Group (AHIIG) was led this year by co-conveners Hillary Fox and Tisha Mentnech, both from NC State University Libraries. Most of the year was spent working behind the scenes as new conveners for USAIN as a whole as well as for AHIIG. Work included reviewing documents shared by previous AHIIG conveners (Kiri DeBose and Patricia Brandes), meeting with Kiri and Patricia to facilitate the transition to new leadership, and planning professional development/continuing learning opportunities for AHIIG and related affiliates.

In April 2023, AHIIG hosted a webinar titled, *Disaster Preparedness with NC Cooperative Extension*. The webinar was a Q&A style panel session with four Cooperative Extension professionals from NC State University who all had experience with the disaster management of animals. Attendees had the

opportunity to learn what aspects are considered in disaster preparedness, how communities can help with livestock management during these times, animal biological hazards to consider, and how information is disseminated. Feedback and a post-webinar survey indicated that attendees were pleased with this session. We had 19 participants from across AHIIG and some discipline specific faculty from USAIN member institutions.

AHIIG will host at least one more virtual professional development event before the end of the calendar year. As co-conveners, we will review areas of interest expressed by interest group members and develop opportunities based on those interests.

For the biennial 2024 USAIN conference, the co-conveners are exploring areas of study unique to the conference site and are planning a virtual and/or in-person event for AHIIG to gather.

Collection Management Interest Group

Jodee Kuden (Co-Convener) and Emily MacKenzie (Co-Convener)

We are in the early stages of planning our 2024 CMIG conference session. We are planning to engage our interest group members to determine their top priorities and interest for the coming year. We are tentatively planning a zoom information session for July or August to garner ideas for the conference session.

International Agriculture Interest Group

This interest group was inactive this past year.

Social Issues/Rural Information Interest Group (SIRIIG)

Leyla Cabugos (Convener)

Persistent Zoom link: <https://calpoly.zoom.us/j/2078064280>

Shared folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cDOLallmyYXVBXLOEvYHpOjv6ANfLeU9?usp=sharing>

Monthly interest group meetings are regularly attended by roughly ten members, none of whom had previous experience with the IG, with the exception of its 2015 convener and current EC Liaison. Meeting notes are shared with our 66 members through a shared document.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/131gwkIK-j8X7jWODllqVUCVDZ9jFzzgAKS6W1rg_K_c/edit

In addition to announcing professional development opportunities and other resources during monthly meetings, members have expressed interest in, and begun to contribute background research on several themes to date. These include:

Indigenous communities' land dispossession in the establishment of the Land Grant system and ongoing inequities.

Britt Foster initiated a shared library of resources on the topic in Zotero, which is public and welcomes additions. Britt and Leyla met to identify some key articles for potential programming, such as focused reading and discussion, webinars with presenters, and/or a conference track. [Zotero Library: Land-Grant/Land Grab](#)

Cannabis horticulture

- What are impacts of *Cannabis* legalization on rural economies/communities?
- Are there initiatives to address disproportionate enforcement of drug laws through support for cannabis businesses?
- Where do cultivators get information/ support?

Service to Cooperative Extension

Several of the group's interests relate to Cooperative Extension. In an effort to explore the professional development needs/interests/offerings of CE personnel, we obtained approval from the USAIN EC to fund membership for two IG members to join a national extension professional development organization, such as [National Association of Extension Program & Staff Development Professionals](#) to explore opportunities to collaborate on trainings and/or inform our engagement with extension personnel. Kimberly Gay joined the [National Association of Extension Program & Staff Development Professionals](#) and represents us on their Professional Development Committee. She will lead the exploration of a possible librarian presentation at their upcoming spring unconference. SIRIIG members have shared research guides/other resources for Cooperative Extension as examples of what we might offer. IG members have also explored recorded or upcoming NAEPSDP webinars and posted links to programs of interest to share with USAIN members through our listserv. Kimberly is also compiling a draft libguide showcasing resources at the city, county, state and national levels of Cooperative extension resources for academic librarians who work with cooperative extension agents.

The SIRIIG maintains awareness of groups with dovetailing interests. Leyla reached out to the Invited Speaker Committee to learn whether they had identified a theme or potential presenters, in order to develop complementary programming. One IG member is also a member of the USAIN Professional Development Committee and will coordinate our efforts with those of the PD Committee's social justice article club as appropriate. One IG member participates in an email list for librarians at HBCU's (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) and can cross-promote opportunities or seek engagement between our groups.

Technology Trends Interest Group

Lutishoor Salisbury (Co-convener) and Mylene Pinard (Co-Convener)

This interest group was inactive this past year.