# USAIN Membership Survey 2018

There were 57 respondents to the 2018 survey. The survey's purpose was to collect information and data about usage of the new USAIN website and features, participation and satisfaction in USAIN, communication preferences, open access and data management experiences, along with questions provided by the National Agricultural Library to gain further ideas for engagement with USAIN. What follows is the information shared by 30% of our membership (items with fewer than 57 responses noted). The Executive Council is investigating additional communication strategies to ensure all members have ample opportunity to respond to the survey going forward. Currently, USAIN has 187 members, including personal and institutional memberships.

## USAIN Website Usage and Engagement

USAIN Membership Profile: While 40% of members indicated that they have updated their membership profile on the website, the majority, 60% have not updated their profile (e.g., job titles, contact information, photograph).

Engagement within USAIN: Engagement with the listserv (74%, c. 42) remains the most used method, followed by attending the 2018 USAIN Conference at 72% (c. 41), and committee and interest group service at 58% (c. 33). While 23% (c. 13) of respondents are serving in leadership roles, we can provide an opportunity to expand experiences for our membership via special projects and other opportunities (Figure 1).
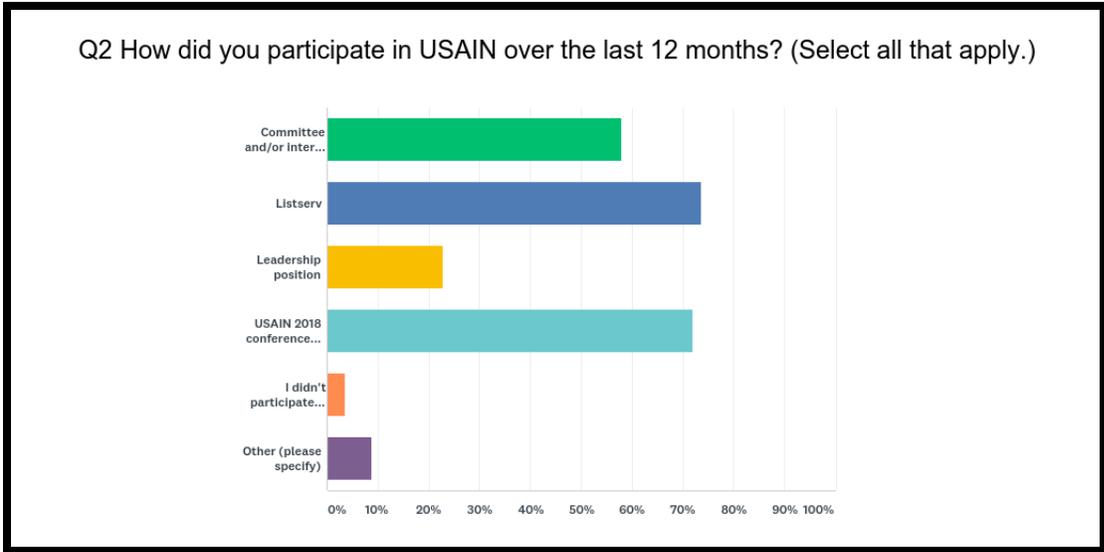
*Figure 1: USAIN member participation methods*

Satisfaction with USAIN: The majority of our membership 83%, stated that they are very satisfied (25%, c. 14) or satisfied (58%, c. 33) with their USAIN membership. Thirty-seven respondents contributed comments, many of which remarked on the quality of the conference, such as "The conference was a great opportunity to connect with colleagues." Others acknowledged the strength of USAIN is in the connections and collaborations that exist due to its membership, "I love having a peer group for my subject specialties." and "I enjoy the small, specialized nature of the group. I know I can turn to members when I need help. I also feel like, even though I have been to only one conference, I know members because of the email list."

**How can USAIN respond?**
An area that has been mentioned in previous membership survey reports, and still continues is the desire to engage with membership more during non-conference years. Members suggested follow-ups from conference presentations, encore presentations, and webinars. This is an area that USAIN will continue to pursue with assistance from the Interest Groups and Committees.

## USAIN Communications

Membership indicated that they were "likely" to read a membership newsletter, if that is an area that the communications committee wanted to pursue. Special projects (93%, c. 53), membership accomplishments (88%, c. 50), National Agricultural Library updates (86%, c. 49) were all of topics of interest for further communication. Fifteen respondents wrote-in comments, including highlights from conference sessions, updates on resources, calls for collaboration, highlights of work by colleagues, and updates on agricultural-related issues.

## USAIN Interest Groups & Committees

When asked what members would like to see Interest Groups pursue, we had 15 write-in ideas.

- Again, additional professional development and webinars were reinforced by responses in this section.
- More updates from Interest Groups via the listserv and other communication avenues.
- Small projects that members could contribute to, e.g. outreach materials, exhibits, collaborations with other organizations, core lists of texts and serials, public policy, indexing publications, opening access to publications
- Curating and updating info/resources of interest to members, e.g. new ag data policies; digital collections or databases; ag literacy; standards and practices

Members were given an opportunity to express interest in presenting a professional development opportunity. We had 14 responses, but only two that were topic suggestions.

**How can USAIN respond?**

- The professional development committee will follow-up on the suggested topics.

## Open Access at USAIN Institutions

The Executive Council was interested in the current state of open access at our member's institutions (Figure 2). The library was indicated as the entity that promotes open access to researchers and scholars around campus the majority of the time (83%, c. 44). A very distant second is individual authors at 32% (c. 17). The Office of Vice President of Research, Provost's Office for Academic Affairs, and University Senate were seldom indicated as to being an active promoter of open access. Nine wrote in other offices or groups, such as OER Working Group and the Scholarly Communications Task Force, University Press, Outreach College, and Office of Scholarly Communication. This indicates that our work around open access is not done, and that libraries could possibly benefit from further strategizing and messaging with central academic units.
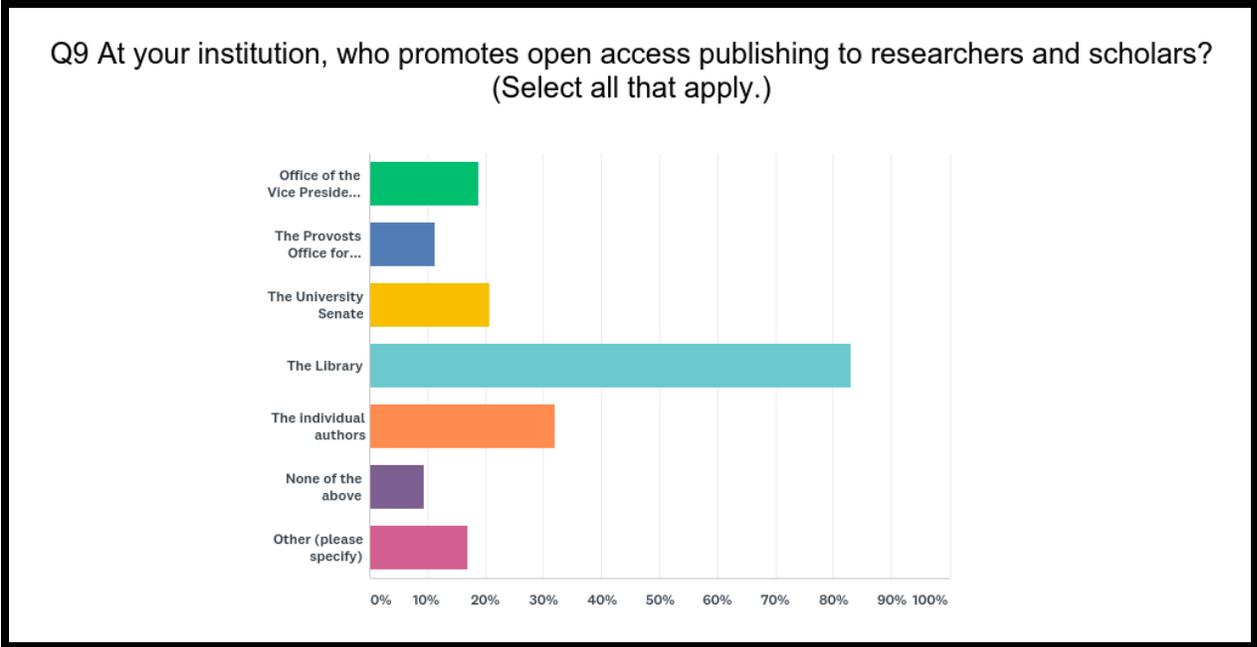
Q9 At your institution, who promotes open access publishing to researchers and scholars? (Select all that apply.)

*Figure 2: Who promotes open access publishing at members' institutions*

Libraries use a variety of methods to promote and support open access (Figure 3). Institutional repositories where authors can deposit works (83%, c. 45 of 54 responses), seminars on copyright (65%, c. 35), a dedicated scholarly communication librarian (63%, c.34), presentations on open access to faculty and graduate students (54%, c.29), and 41% (c. 22) pay open access fees on publications were the top four indicated services and efforts. Building on this, only 39% (c. 19 of 49 responses) of respondents indicated they had a campus-wide open access policy. Eighteen respondents provided a link to their policy or explained that a policy was under consideration.
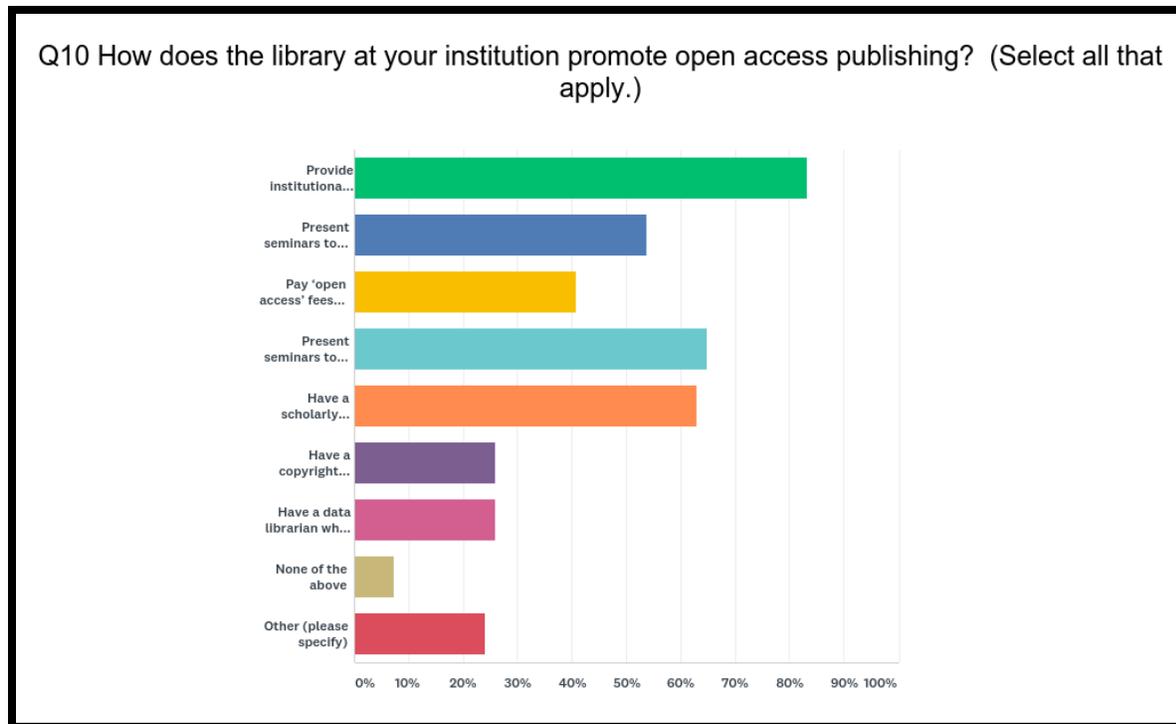
*Figure 3: How do members' promote open access publishing at their institution*

When asked where authors deposit their open access publications, the majority 85% (c. 45) indicated their institutional repository, and 64% said academic journals (c. 34 of 54 responses). There were fifteen write-in responses that included national and subject- specific repositories like NAL, PubMed Central, AgriXiv, and even ResearchGate.

Assessing progress turned out to be a difficult question to respond to. While 68% (c. 29) indicated that they were making good progress adopting open access scholarly practices, 33% (c. 14) said they were not making any progress at this moment. Of the nineteen write-in responses most indicated that they were making "some" progress. This shows that ongoing outreach efforts and continuing programs that support open access are still very much needed at USAIN institutions (43 total responses).

## Data Management Practices at USAIN Institutions

Libraries are making progress on data management services and messaging through a variety of avenues (Figure 4. When asked to indicate how our members are involved in data management, most indicated attending training and professional development opportunities on current trends and tools in research data management (72%, c. 36 of 50 respondents total). Half of our members (50%, c. 25) are providing information about data management planning resources and training opportunities, along with messaging through various communication channels. Offering training (24%, c. 12) and consultations on data management (28%, c. 14) were other avenues librarians are offering their expertise around campuses. Seven respondents

wrote-in additional information, including having dedicated staff that work on data management education and outreach, along with referral systems to dedicated staff. The majority of respondents had an institutional repository or data repository to support data management efforts (79% or 42 of 53 responses).
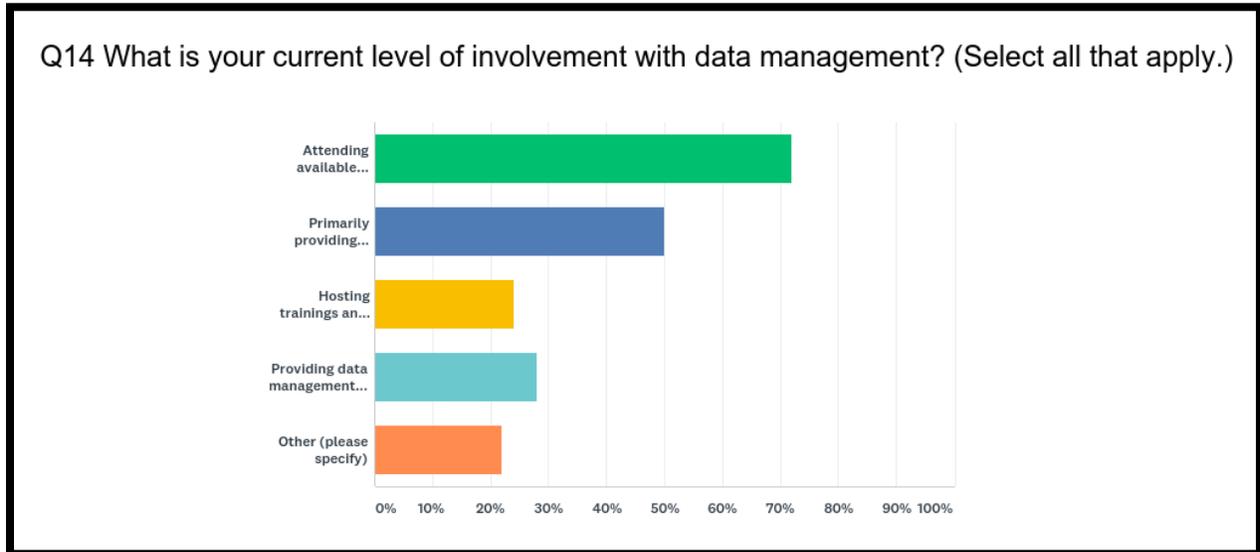


*Figure 4: USAIN member involvement with data management*

While institutional repositories are a good support mechanism, sometimes another subject-specific repository is a more appropriate place to deposit work, or an option for those that do not have their own institutional repository. Respondents indicated that they do support the preparation and curation of data to outside repositories (64%; 50 respondents). Twenty-four people responded to the open text listing repositories that they most often support or refer to. These include PubMed, CTSI, Biorepository, Zotero, Ag Data Commons, Agricola, Dataverse, ICSPR, Dryad, GenBank, FigShare, ChemArchive, and journals.

## National Agricultural Library

We asked the National Agricultural Library (NAL) if they had any questions they would like our members to respond to. USAIN and NAL are looking for additional opportunities to further each other's work and the education of our members.

USAIN has been one of the first lines of communication and testing of the latest NAL venture, the Ag Data Commons. Ag Data Commons is a data repository for federally-funded USDA research. When asked if they have used the Ag Data Commons site (52 responses), only 33% (c. 17) said they had, and 57% (30) said no, and 10% (c. 5) were unsure. When asked about the quality of data found in Ag Data Commons respondents indicated favorably, listing both favorably (47%, c. 8) and neither favorable or unfavorable (47%, c.8), but only 17 members responded.

Respondents were given an opportunity to suggest opportunities for collaborating on resources, services, or opportunities that would help librarians and information professionals like you or the audiences you serve for USAIN and NAL. Members made the connection that agricultural issues are increasingly tied with health, so can we see more NLM and NAL collaborations. Membership would like to see more leadership in trend areas, such as data management, sharing, open access, and updating metadata schemas. More updates, announcements and education were reoccurring comments in order for membership to be informed and advocate on agriculture-related issues.

**How can USAIN respond?**
- This shows that members may not have much experience with the Ag Data Commons and other NAL initiatives and further training and awareness could benefit both parties.
- Further communication through the continuation of quarterly calls and partnerships of USAIN, NAL and AgNIC executive committees to work on common issues and initiatives.


We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2020 USAIN Conference in Lubbock, TX at Texas Tech University. Save the date for April 25-30, 2020!

Respectfully submitted,
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2/18/19