

USAIN Action Plan 2023 - 2026

The mission of USAIN is to provide a forum for discussion of agricultural issues; to take a leadership role in the formation of a national information policy as related to agriculture; to make recommendations to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) on agricultural information matters; and to promote cooperation and communication among its members.

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

Objective 1. Retain present members and broaden membership base.

	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
	1. Review the USAIN mission for accurate reflection of the breadth and depth of the field of agriculture information.	Executive Council	Every 3 years
	2. Develop membership recruitment and retention strategies to diversify and broaden the membership base.	Executive Council, Membership Committee	Annual
	3. Provide new member onboarding that supports new members with opportunities like mentorships, new member networking events, or affinity groups.	Executive Council, Membership Committee	Ongoing
	4. Continue recognition programs for outstanding individuals in, or supporting the field of, food and agricultural information	Awards & Honors Committee	Conference years
	5. Encourage new librarians or information professionals, graduate students, or librarians representing HBCU or tribal serving institutions with conference scholarships	Awards & Honors Committee	Conference years

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

	1. Provide a website with informative content about USAIN and a platform for member participation	Website Committee	Ongoing
	2. Manage and assess communication tools and plan in order to expand virtual participation.	Executive Council, Communications Committee	Ongoing

	3. Conduct membership surveys	Executive Council, Membership Committee	Annual
	4. Review and update the Action Plan, using a process that includes feedback from members	Executive Council, appointed working group	Every 3 years
	5. Review the role and activities of Interest Groups	Executive Council, Interest Groups,	Ongoing
	6. Guide and coordinate the work of Committees	Executive Council, Committees	Ongoing
	7. Recruit new members of Committees and Interest Groups via an annual call.	Executive Council, Membership Committee	Annual
	8. Plan and hold a non-conference year virtual membership meeting or event to promote engagement and transparency. This event could include things like: updates from USAIN leadership and/or committee and interest groups; lightning talks; or other networking and learning opportunities.	Executive Council (appoint a committee / task force if needed), Committees	Non-conference years

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

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

	1. Act as an authoritative and influential advocate for NAL	Executive Council, Advocacy and Action Committee	Ongoing
	2. Promote member activism in regard to legislative and executive actions that impact NAL	Executive Council, Advocacy and Action Committee	Ongoing
	3. Encourage communication between NAL and USAIN regarding programs, services and avenues of cooperation	Executive Council, NAL Representative, Members	Ongoing

Objective 2. Foster collaboration between member institutions and with other strategic organizations.

	1. Promote liaisons and reciprocal memberships with other food and agricultural information organizations	Executive Council, AgNIC liaison Membership Committee	Ongoing
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	2. Create and strengthen partnerships with other library or food and agricultural information-related organizations	Executive Council	Ongoing
Objective 3. Enhance the visibility, credibility and favorable resolution of issues affecting food and agricultural information at federal, state, and local levels.			
	1. Lead efforts to open the access to digital historic agricultural publications through legal and policy coordination (development) across partner organizations (i.e., Hathi Trust)	Preservation and Digital Library Committee	Ongoing
	2. Promote initiatives that provide equal and open access to publicly funded research, including data, and born and reborn digital land-grant publications, especially extension and experiment station publications	Members	Ongoing

Goal 3. Provide educational and professional development opportunities for members and others			
Objective 1. Promote and plan biennial USAIN conference.			
	1. Ensure opportunities for members to present at conference	Conference Committee	Conference years
	2. Archive conference presentations in Cornell's repository	Conference Committee and Cornell University	Conference years
	3. Determine best model and technologies for virtual and/or in-person conference offerings (i.e, blended, all virtual, etc.)	Executive Committee, Conference Committee, Conference Host	Conference years
Objective 2. Facilitate knowledge of professional opportunities in ag librarianship.			
	1. Announce opportunities to membership using USAIN listserv	Communications Committee, Professional Development Committee, Members	Ongoing
	2. Bring a stronger awareness to the membership concerns of social parity for agricultural information	Executive Committee in consultation with Social Issues/Rural Information Interest Group and Committees	Ongoing
	3. Identify "sister" or relevant organizations for collaborative information sharing and/or shared programming.	Committees and Interest Groups	Ongoing
Objective 3. Co-sponsor preservation and digitization programs.			

	1. Promote and support collaborative print preservation programs	Executive Council, Preservation & Digital Library Committee	Ongoing
	2. Promote and support participation by USAIN institutions in efforts to digitize the agricultural and food-related information produced by their institutions	Executive Council, Preservation & Digital Library Committee	Ongoing
Objective 4. Develop members' skills so they continue as leaders in the creation, dissemination, and organization of food and agricultural information.			
	1. Develop and utilize the USAIN website and listserv as platforms for content delivery, communication, and skill sharing	Communications Committee, Website Committee, Interest Groups	Ongoing
	2. Demonstrate innovation and motivate members to adopt/adapt new and improved practices	Technology Trends Interest Group, Executive Council, Members	Ongoing
	3. Encourage USAIN committees and interest groups to host online events in order to discuss or learn about current trends and/or follow up on conference themes	Executive Council, Professional Development Committee, Interest Groups	Ongoing, but especially during conference off years

Approved by the USAIN EC on 4/14/23