

USAIN – United States Agricultural Information Network

<http://usain.org/>

2009-2010 Highlights

The United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) is an organization for information professionals that provides a forum for discussion of agricultural issues, takes a leadership role in the formation of a national information policy as related to agriculture, makes recommendations to the National Agricultural Library on agricultural information matters, and promotes cooperation and communication among its members.

Two USAIN members participated in the search for a new National Agricultural Library Director. Simon Liu was named director in February 2010.

A letter was written in support of the National Agricultural Library in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.

The current membership of USAIN is 150.

2010 Election Results

President-Elect - Mary Ochs, Cornell University

Directors:

Connie Britton, The Ohio State University

Valrie Davis, University of Florida

Claudine Jenda, Auburn University

2010 Conference:

The USAIN 12th Biennial Conference was held May 9-12, 2010 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. The theme was “Agriculture without Borders: Creating Knowledge and Partnerships across Disciplines and Across the World.”

The conference opened on Sunday the 9th with two pre-conferences. (1) Research without Borders: Open Access Strategies for Librarians. Presenters: Jennifer McLennan, Director of Communications, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) and Charles Watkinson, Director of Purdue University Press. (2) Introduction to Digital Curation presented by Melissa Cragin, Research Assistant Professor, Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois. There was also an afternoon session on exploring e-Data collections with curation profiles presented by Jake Carlson, Data Research Scientist, and D. Scott Brandt, Associate Dean of Research, Purdue University Libraries.

The keynote address was presented by Dr. Kevin McNamara, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University. Plenary panel topics included “Negotiating Local Changes in Globalized Agriculture;” “Removing the Borders: Using Information Technology to Affect Change;” “Heifer International’s Approach to Sustainable Community Development;” and “Local Food – Revolution and Reality.” The closing session “Traditional Botanical Knowledge Meets Modern Science: and the Mystery of the Crystal Skull” was presented by Dr. John Arnason, Professor, Department of Biology, University of Ottawa.

In addition to the invited speakers there were also presentations by the various USAIN Interest Groups, poster sessions, contributed papers, committee updates, a business meeting, field trips and time to visit the exhibits.

Conference presentations are available on the conference website.

<http://usain.lib.purdue.edu/>

The 2012 conference will be held April 29 May 2 and hosted by the University of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Submitted by:

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