

IASSIST US Regional Secretary Report

June 2025 – May 2026

Maggie Marchant | Regional Secretary

Membership Numbers

US region membership has remained steady over the past several years. Of the 276 current members in the US, 47 (17%) joined since June 2025.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
US Membership	262	275	271	262	nd	276

Engagement

US region members are actively involved within IASSIST and the broader data services landscape. At the IASSIST 2026 Virtual Conference we convened a meeting for regional membership, which may lead to additional connections and engagement in the region. Continued participate and collaboration with other data-centric professional organizations and events (e.g., RDAP, Midwest Data Librarian Symposium) in the US may also increase engagement.

Awards/Achievements

Many members in the US region have been recognized for their contributions. A selection of these awards are listed below.

- Jim Church – [GODORT James Bennett Childs Award](#)
- Lynda Kellam – [Library Journal Movers & Shakers 2026—Community Builders](#)
- Jenny McBurney – [ACRL Politics, Policy and International Relations Section \(PPIRS\) Marta Lange Award](#)
- HD McKay – [BRASS Research Grant Award](#)
- Sarah Young – [ACRL University Libraries Section \(ULS\) Outstanding Professional Development Award](#)

Issues of Interest

Precarious Public Data

Since 2025 the risk of loss or change in federal government data has become a major concern in the United States. Data professionals are working to these issues.

The [Data Rescue Project](#) has rapidly responded to preserve vital and at-risk public data in the United States. They organize volunteers and coordinate disparate projects. This massive effort is a collaboration between IASSIST, RDAP, and the Data Curation

Network. IASSIST members Lynda Kellam and Mikala Narlock are on the steering committee and received the ALA GODORT “Documents to the People” award.

America’s Data Index (dataindex.us) tracks changes to government surveys or forms. They consolidate information on opportunities to provide official comments or change requests so data professionals can advocate for best practices in data quality and availability.

Research Data Management Landscape

In February 2026, the [National Institutes of Health](https://www.nih.gov) announced simplified requirements and structured questions for Data Management Plans associated with grant applications. While this new format may ease the workload for researchers and librarians at the grant writing stage, it does not change the overall requirements for data management and sharing for NIH grant-funded projects.

On June 16, 2026, ResearchDataGov.org will close. Requests for access to restricted federal government data will move to a new [Standard Application Process \(SAP\) Portal](#) intended to increase user support and functionality.