IASSIST was founded in 1974 as an organization to support research and teaching in the social sciences. Data are larger than the social sciences. We want to leverage our unique expertise in the social sciences to help benefit all data professionals and support open science.

Our 300+ members work in information technology, libraries, data services, research & higher education, government, non-profit and private research sector to discover data, curate it, make it available, and keep it available. We are working together to advocate for responsible data management and use, to build a broader community surrounding research data, and encourage the development of data professionals.

As an organization IASSIST strives to:

- Foster and promote a network of excellence for data service delivery
- Advance infrastructure in the social sciences and beyond
- Provide opportunities for collegial exchange of sound professional practices

IASSIST Quarterly (IQ) is one of the few peer-reviewed open access journals dealing with social science information, data services, technology, and knowledge management.

Annual conference

Each spring the annual conference provides data professionals a variety of opportunities to participate in discussions about data sharing and management, data access and repository tools, metadata for research data, best practices for preserving data, global resources for information, new technologies professional development and much more.

The conference consists of

- Workshops focused on the profession, new technologies, data and metadata management, and data access & preservation
- Stimulating paper, panel, poster, and plenary sessions
- Networking opportunities with peers from around the world
- International conference venues reflect our membership base and typically rotate to a different region each year.

Membership benefits

IASSIST welcomes new members and offers an array of benefits:

- Peer to peer support within an international network of data professionals.
- Participation in the organization's email discussion list.
- Opportunities to serve and lead on various committees and action groups.
- Opportunities to participate and lead interest groups developing collective knowledge about a topic relevant to broader IASSIST community.
- Access to the IASSIST Membership Directory and Intranet