National Agricultural Library

Paul Wester, Director
National Agricultural Library
USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
History

• Created in 1862 with the establishment of USDA
  • Started with 1,000 books in Secretary’s Office
    • 1920 – 150,000 books
    • 1956 – 1.05 million books
    • 1982 – 1.7 million books
    • Today – 8.1 million physical items, including 2.1 million books
• Designated a National Library in 1962
• Current tower building built in 1967 with collections re-located to Beltsville in 1969
Look to the Future

- World’s largest agricultural library
  - 8.1 million physical items dating to early 16th century
    - Over 2.5 million books
    - Over 3.5 million USDA reports
    - Over 19,000 journals, periodicals, and other series
  - Digitization for access and preservation
    - Member of the Biodiversity Heritage Library
    - Nearly 155,000 publications digitized
    - Over 7.2 million images digitized
  - USDA-funded Research Data and Research Artifacts
    - Ag Data Commons (data)
    - PubAg (scholarly publications)
Why Ag Data Commons?

To create a platform to harness the power of Digital Agriculture.
Ag Data Commons: The Platform

- Discovery Interface/Web Portal
- Catalog
- APIs
- Computational Tools
- Data Analytic Tools

Federal Repositories
University Repositories
Industry Repositories
Data Producers
Experiment Devices
Farm Equipment

Data Consumers

Publications
Patents
Grant Information

Ag Data Commons Knowledge Base
Ag Data Commons

**Main functions:**
- Catalog/registry for USDA-funded research data
- Repository for agricultural data not hosted elsewhere

**Services:**
- Metadata curation and DOI issuances (for data NAL hosts)
- Harvest metadata from other repositories for catalog of USDA-funded research data
- Connect USDA-funded research data to USDA-funded research artifacts for scientific integrity and reproducibility, and to support bigger, better science
Thank You!

Paul Wester
Director
National Agricultural Library

paul.wester@usda.gov
https://www.nal.usda.gov/

301-504-5248