



EXPANDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

ARS maintains effective stewardship of agricultural data, literature, and other information resources through the National Agricultural Library (NAL), the world's largest collection of agricultural information. As the library of the USDA, NAL provides public access to scholarly literature and data funded by the Department and digitized access to special collections. The following FY 2020 milestones demonstrate how NAL supports fact-based, data-driven decision-making.

Expanding access to nutrition-related information.

In collaboration with major industry partners, ARS hosts FoodData Central (www.fdc.nal.usda.gov/), a public-access online reference containing entries for more than 358,117 different foods and 6.17 million food nutrients. Combined, the FoodData Central platform and the legacy Food Composition Database generated nearly 20 million pageviews and more than 2.7 million user sessions in FY 2020. Application developers made nearly 255 million application programming interface (API) calls against these two data products in FY 2020, making these APIs among the most popular in government.



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Global document delivery and interlibrary loan services continue throughout the pandemic. NAL continued to provide document delivery and interlibrary loan services during the pandemic to other libraries across the United States and around the world, reaching 8,600 document deliveries/interlibrary loans for the fiscal year. NAL joined a volunteer project sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations to support resource sharing to relieve library service disruptions caused by the pandemic. NAL emerged as a Top Ten worldwide supplier of content in July 2020.

Expanding public access to scholarly literature and research data. PubAg (www.pubag.nal.usda.gov/) is the NAL search system for USDA-funded agricultural literature. In FY 2020, NAL increased the full-text corpus publicly accessible through PubAg by nearly 88,000 articles, totaling more than 300,000 articles. Ag Data Commons (www.data.nal.usda.gov/) is a Federal research data catalog and repository that promotes the sharing and discovery of USDA-funded research data. FY 2020 improvements increased data submitters by 20 percent and increased the number of datasets cataloged and downloaded.

Digitizing historical agricultural research information and delivering it online in an easy-to-discover manner. To make the content of the world's largest agricultural library more accessible, NAL is digitizing its physical collections not under copyright protection. In FY 2020, NAL digitized and created citation information for 11,778 items (455,555 pages), bringing the total number of digitized items to 172,763 (8,147,629 pages). Until all mass-digitized publications are migrated to NAL web services, public access is available at www.archive.org/details/usdanationalagriculturallibrary.