

IAMCR PhD Ambassador Application - Strategic Plan

Identification Name and Surname:

David I. Stokes

Country/Region:

North America/United States of America/West Coast/Los Angeles, CA

Affiliation:

UCLA

Position:

Ph.D. Candidate

Years that this Strategic Plan Covers*: Have you been an IAMCR Ambassador before?

2023 - 2026

Type of Ambassador that this Strategic Plan Covers:

IAMCR PhD Ambassador

2. Motivation: Please briefly explain why you wish to become (or continue to be) an IAMCR Ambassador.

I want to become an IAMCR Ambassador to:

1. Serve and assist IAMCR as a contact person for this region
2. Foster opportunities to collaborate and advance scholarship
3. Network to shop ideas of my research and to assist others with their work
4. Travel and experience different people, places, and cultures

3. Activity Plan

These are the eight ambassador tasks:

1. Communicating the existence of IAMCR to the outside world and promoting its activities
2. Communicating with IAMCR members
3. Organizing at least one regional/national IAMCR event per year
4. Actively contributing to IAMCR membership increase and retention
5. Connecting IAMCR to relevant regional/national associations
6. Collaborating with other ambassadors where possible
7. Reporting relevant information to IAMCR entities

8. Planning and reporting ambassador activities

Please describe the regional/national IAMCR events you plan to organize yearly (Task 3) for your appointment as IAMCR ambassador. Mention the time frame, possible themes, and how the events will be financed.

At least one annual academic webinar in which IAMCR members and non-members can participate and attend will be organized. With a prospective end-of-summer or fall date, this regional and national IAMCR event will vary by theme each year based on current trending topics and submissions from IAMCR community members. Formats (e.g. online, in-person, panel discussion, poster presentations) and target audiences (e.g., doctoral student colloquium, emerging presenters, new faculty, senior faculty) will also vary.

I may be the sole host of the event the first year, however, I plan to co-host and co-create future events with other IAMCR Ph.D. or faculty ambassadors. Additionally, I will look to other organizations I am a member of to inquire about partnering on this webinar. For this annual event, I can also recommend faculty, students, researchers, and activists from my current institution or previous institutions for which I have been a member or provide colleagues I have met worldwide the opportunity to present.

It is also possible for this event to receive funding or sponsorship, as I will look to other people and organizations for financial (in addition to content) support. However, typically, webinars are free, so more than likely, no monetary cost will be associated.

Please describe how you seek to contribute to IAMCR membership increase and retention (Task 4), for the duration of your appointment as IAMCR ambassador.

Growth and sustainability often come down to frequent and high-quality engagement. I seek to contribute to IAMCR's increased membership and retention by creating my communication channel on an application (e.g., Whats App, Facebook) or a mailing list and practicing frequent and quality-filled engagement. The channel will promote events and news to current members in hopes that they will share the updates from their universities and field studies, as I will be doing myself, which can help promote and invite non-members. This channel is for visibility, and I intend to provide consistent communication on it and connect with people via pre-established IAMCR channels with general members and board members or IAMCR officers.

Within these channels and outside of them, I seek to be a contact point for other members in the region, especially during conference time when trying to find opportunities for collaboration. I will also be the contact person to answer questions, especially those from non-members via email or social media. I will utilize IAMCR entities (Executive Board, Ambassadors' Network Coordinator, Executive Secretariat etc.) and other resources that we may have but are not openly available or not known by everyone.

Please describe how you will realize the remaining 6 Ambassador Tasks (1-2 & 5-8)

The remaining six ambassador tasks will be actualized by: Partnerships, collaborations, opportunities to promote and network, and reporting.

Essential and primary tasks for me are to collaborate and partner with emerging and established committees and conferences (e.g., IAMCR sections, working groups, early career scholars, and senior faculty) to provide opportunities for graduate students to engage in scholarship and socialize. I will contact large institutions, school departments, and academic individuals within communications and media-related fields. Moreover, if the research is relevant, I will reach out to people outside of those fields who may be able to provide research complementary to the topic at hand.

In addition to communicating the existence of IAMCR to the outside world and promoting its activities, I will do it regionally to represent us at local association events and participate in their conferences as an IAMCR ambassador. Looking for new ways to establish memorandums of understanding while promoting IAMCR conferences and other options for people to present and build relationships.

Visibility is most important, and networking is one of the ways to ensure we stay visible. If invited to a conference, I will attend and be considered an IAMCR representative; this could be in addition to presenting in some cases. It will pay it forward by publicizing the work of IAMCR. I will look at other strategies to ensure I am on par or staying competitive with the other ambassadors. This will ensure IAMCR stays on the cutting edge of knowledge and in the market, given that other associations conduct research in this field.

Each year, I will compile a report that will show what was and could be done and provide any general amendments so that others can help promote the events. Planning and reporting ambassador activities by generating a report on academic events and membership on an annual basis in which I will seek input from others within IAMCR regarding relevant information to IAMCR entities (EB, IC, C/TF/C, S/WG, ...) will ultimately showcase my progression in this role and advancement of this organization.

Bio

David I. Stokes, MLIS, is a PhD candidate in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA, one of two departments in the School of Education and Information Studies. With a goal of improving the well-being and social conditions of vulnerable or minoritized populations, he researches collaboration and human interactions with information, technology, and policy. Specifically, he investigates how knowledge is negotiated among leaders (as well as everyday citizens) in scientific, technological, and cultural institutions whose published recommendations influence policies, affect personhood, and shift industry paradigms. He is the Principal Investigator of an IRB-approved dissertation study that is the culmination of his extensive experience and knowledge of cultural, administrative, and scholarly research environments.

Mr. Stokes holds a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington's Information School, where he studied information and communication technologies and was Co-President of the student chapter of the American Library Association. He also holds an International Development Policy and Management certificate from the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

Mr. Stokes has worked in the US Departments of Commerce and Interior libraries, where he received nominations for Library Journal's Movers and Shakers Award as a professional librarian. At the Library of Congress, he received the Certificate for Special Achievement and Incentive award as an intern. He has a proven track record for excelling via a Program of the Year award for a General Election event and dozens of patron surveys lauding his expertise and professionalism. Mr. Stokes has also received world-class training at the ACLU and has been recruited/employed by Lockheed Martin.

Currently, Mr. Stokes is an active member of IFLA, IAMCR, ICA, and ASIS&T (among others). He also currently occupies board member positions, is Co-Chairing a symposium, and has an appointment with ALA. He conducts and receives invitations to present research globally for preeminent conferences, events, colloquia, and other engagements. Mr. Stokes assists with graduate and undergraduate courses, in-person and remote, from 30-90 students. Additionally, he is a recent Graduate Council Diversity Fellow at UCLA and a Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.