

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06634408 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133507

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
FOR
WEB SCIENCE TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

Rothmans LLP
Chartered Accountants
Chilworth Point
1 Chilworth Road
Southampton
SO16 7JQ

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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WEB SCIENCE TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity was established to advance education of the public in the subject of web science and in particular; a) to promote the development of the discipline of web science by leading the development of a research agenda and roadmap in the emerging web science community worldwide; b) to promote and support the development of web science curricula at all relevant educational levels around the world; c) to provide organisational and financial support for activities such as conferences, workshops and symposia around the world on topics in web science; d) to support the creation of academic publication venues needed to enable scholarly communication in the global web science community; e) to engage government and private sector sources of science funding internationally to collaborate in providing financial support for web science research in education in premier research and teaching institutions; and f) to promote the development of a global network of premier web science research laboratories under the Web Science Trust aegis, by establishing legal and financial collaborations with research institutions including leading universities who wish to co-operate on the development of web science.

During the year, the administration of the charity was carried out on a voluntary basis by the trustees, with assistance from staff from the University of Southampton; the charity had no employees during the year. From 1st March 2010 the University of Southampton agreed to host the Web Science Trust.

WEB SCIENCE TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In February the Trustees met online (due to COVID-19) to review progress to date and to chart the way forward for the coming years.

The Web Science Trust continued to play a leading role in developing a worldwide research agenda. It continued to promote and develop Web Science in the following ways.

Outreach events took place in the early part of the year but, due to COVID, these were restricted. In February a Workshop on Web Science for Development took place at the International Institute for Information Technology, Bangalore, India (a WSTNet Lab). This was followed by a datathon and a deep-dive research colloquium with IIIT-B research students and visiting PhD students from the University of Southampton, UK. In September, the 7th NExT++ Workshop took place online with the theme "Integrating Social-Psychological Models and Computation Models for Misinformation Detection". This was hosted by the National University of Singapore (a WSTNet Lab).

During the year, the Web Science Trust continued to disseminate Web Science research. The annual ACM Web Science Conference was held in July in Southampton, UK. This was the tenth in a series of Web Science Conferences to be underwritten by the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). The conference was due to take place in person but, due to COVID, the decision was taken to run the event online. The Web Science Trust introduced "Spotlight Panels" at this conference, covering a range of Web Science topics and issues.

The Web Science Trust continued to sponsor the "Brave Conversations" events which took place in Gaza and Bangalore in February and as an online event in July (as part of the Web Science Conference). Further online Brave Conversations took place in Palestine, Israel and a further online event in Arabic and English. The events drew together people from academia, government, business, the media and the third sector to address some of the profound issues that are arising as human life becomes progressively entwined with the internet and the Web.

The Web Science Trust has continued to produce a range of significant scientific papers and publications in Web Science, including 30 papers in the Journal of Web Science (published by Now Publishers), an open access interdisciplinary journal with the aim of integrating computer and information sciences, communication, linguistics, sociology, psychology, economics, law, political science, and other disciplines. Foundations and Trends in Web Science has published 15 papers. All papers accepted and presented at the annual international ACM Web Science Conference appear in the Proceedings of the ACM and are held in the ACM's Digital Library.

The Web Science Trust initiated a new podcast series "Untangling the Web", which brings thought leaders from around the world to explore how the Web is shaping society and how society in turn is shaping the Web. The aim of the podcasts is to improve our understanding of the Web, promote the Web's positive impact on society - and change the Web for the better. The podcast is hosted by the SONIC Research Group at Northwestern University. 5 podcasts were recorded this year.

The Web Science Trust continued to sponsor and lead the development of an international curriculum for teaching Web Science and training Web practitioners and educators. Due to COVID, the Annual Web Science Summer School, which was due to take place in Caen, France, was cancelled.

The Web Science Trust has continued to provide thought leadership to the scientific community, the public, governments, public and private enterprises. This has been achieved through public engagement, and through direct influence on key figures and organisations in government and industry.

The Web Science Trust has continued to develop relationships with the Internet Archive, the Library of Congress, the Research Data Alliance and the W3C, an international community that develops open standards to ensure the long-term growth of the Web. The Web Science Trust has also continued its strong link with Web Science Australia and the ANZOG Project, which with the South Australian Government is focussing on the aging population.

In 2010 the Web Science Trust established a Network of Laboratories (WSTNet) to bring together some of the world's leading academic researchers in Web Science to address key research challenges and develop new academic programmes that will enhance the growing influence of Web Science. The total number of WSTNet members is 19. The annual meeting of the WSTNet took place online in July.

The Web Science Trust has continued to increase its Web presence, in particular its social media presence, blogging and the new podcast series.

WEB SCIENCE TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As indicated on the Statement of Financial Activities on Page 6, during the year the company received income of £41,298 (2019: £43,805).

Income of £41,279 (2019: £43,771) was received by way of grants, donations, sponsorships and events income during the year. Total expenditure in the year was £51,009 (2019: £69,105) for various expenses as detailed in the accounts. The company is seeking to develop sponsorship with a range of commercial companies and other organisations.

The directors/trustees will seek to build up the reserves of the charity to provide it with sufficient resources to carry out its activities; at this stage no decision has been made on the level of reserves which will be required for that purpose. The current level of reserves is £171,988 (2019: £181,699).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The size of the charity means that it does not have a formal arrangement for the appointment of new Trustees. If the existing Trustees consider that additional Trustees are required to improve or add skills, an informal approach is made to suitable candidates. The induction and training of new Trustees is overseen by existing Trustees. No person external to the Charity is entitled to appoint Trustees to the Charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

06634408 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1133507

Registered office

C/O Skadden Arps Slate Meagher Flom UK
LLP 40 Bank Street
Canary Wharf
London
E14 5DS

Trustees

Professor Noshir Sarosh Contractor
Professor Dame Wendy Hall DBE FRS FREng
Professor James Alexander Hendler (Chairman)
Mrs Joanna Lewis
Professor George Metakides
Mr Jayaprakasa Rangaswami
Professor Sir Nigel Richard Shadbolt FRS FREng
Mr John Graham Taysom
Dr Daniel Jacob Weitzner
Ms A E Rowland-Campbell

Company Secretary

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
(Corporate Services Ltd)

Independent Examiner

Rothmans LLP
Chartered Accountants
Chilworth Point
1 Chilworth Road
Southampton
SO16 7JQ

Solicitors

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP London

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In managing the company the directors/trustees have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on20-9-21..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Professor Dame Wendy Hall - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEB SCIENCE TRUST

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Web Science Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts (financial statements) in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.



Lisa Wilson FCA
Rothmans LLP
Chartered Accountants
Chilworth Point
1 Chilworth Road
Southampton
SO16 7JQ

Date: 20 September 2021

WEB SCIENCE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

| | Notes | 2020 Unrestricted fund £ | 2019 Total funds £ |
|--|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM | | | |
| Donations and legacies | | 41,279 | 43,771 |
| Investment income | 3 | <u>19</u> | <u>34</u> |
| Total | | 41,298 | 43,805 |
| EXPENDITURE ON | | | |
| Fundraising and marketing expenses | | 7,878 | 10,830 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | | |
| Education | | 43,131 | 58,275 |
| Total | | <u>51,009</u> | <u>69,105</u> |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) | | (9,711) | (25,300) |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | <u>181,699</u> | <u>206,999</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | <u><u>171,988</u></u> | <u><u>181,699</u></u> |

The notes form part of these financial statements

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

**BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2020**

| | Notes | 2020 Unrestricted fund £ | 2019 Total funds £ |
|--|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors | 8 | 953 | 3,032 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>175,698</u> | <u>182,403</u> |
| | | 176,651 | 185,435 |
| CREDITORS | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 9 | (4,663) | (3,736) |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>171,988</u> | <u>181,699</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 171,988 | 181,699 |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>171,988</u> | <u>181,699</u> |
| FUNDS | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | <u>171,988</u> | <u>181,699</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | <u>171,988</u> | <u>181,699</u> |

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2020.


The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20-9-21 and were signed on its behalf by:



 Professor Dame Wendy Hall - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Web Science Trust is charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Report of the Trustees.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts also comply with the Charity's governing documents.

These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, as there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

The trustees' have reached this conclusion based on the nature of the funding, contracts for which have been agreed for the foreseeable future.

Web Science Trust (Limited by Guarantee) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary income by way of donations that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

SHORT TERM DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Debtors and creditors receivable and payable within one year or upon demand are recorded at transaction price whether or not a rate of interest is charged on the balance.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

SHORT TERM DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

VOLUNTEERS

As stated in the Trustees report, during the year the administration of the charity was carried out on a voluntary basis by the Trustees, with assistance from staff from the University of Southampton.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Deposit account interest | <u>19</u> | <u>34</u> |

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

| | Direct Costs (see note 5) £ | Support costs (see note 6) £ | Totals £ |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Education | <u>33,276</u> | <u>9,855</u> | <u>43,131</u> |

5. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Insurance | 920 | 877 |
| WSTNet support costs | 424 | 2,794 |
| Website costs | 2,626 | 2,777 |
| Project costs | 7,862 | 10,553 |
| Workshops and conferences | 20,496 | 20,204 |
| Subscriptions | <u>948</u> | <u>942</u> |
| | <u>33,276</u> | <u>38,147</u> |

6. SUPPORT COSTS

| | Finance £ | Governance costs £ | Totals £ |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Education | <u>709</u> | <u>9,146</u> | <u>9,855</u> |

Included within governance costs is an amount of £1,902 which relates to work completed by the independent examiner in respect of accountancy services and an amount of £360 was payable in respect of the independent examination.

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

6. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

FINANCE

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| | Education | Total |
| | £ | activities |
| | £ | £ |
| Bank charges | <u>709</u> | <u>560</u> |

GOVERNANCE COSTS

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Education | Total |
| | £ | activities |
| | £ | £ |
| Professional assistance | 2,813 | 4,938 |
| Insurance | 552 | 521 |
| Trust board meeting expenses | 3,160 | 10,305 |
| Bookkeeping | 145 | 190 |
| Accountancy | 1,902 | 2,202 |
| Other expenses | <u>574</u> | <u>1,412</u> |
| | <u>9,146</u> | <u>19,568</u> |

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

During the year the Trust reimbursed travelling, accommodation and associated expenses to two Trustees amounting to £220 (2019: three Trustee's reimbursed £828)

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepayments | <u>953</u> | <u>3,032</u> |

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | - | 1,500 |
| Accrued expenses | 2,163 | 2,236 |
| Deferred income | <u>2,500</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>4,663</u> | <u>3,736</u> |

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2020.

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS | | |
| Donations and legacies | | |
| Donations | 41,279 | 43,771 |
| Investment income | | |
| Deposit account interest | <u>19</u> | <u>34</u> |
| Total incoming resources | 41,298 | 43,805 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Raising donations and legacies | | |
| Fundraising and marketing | 5,252 | 5,553 |
| Website costs | <u>2,626</u> | <u>2,777</u> |
| | 7,878 | 8,330 |
| Other trading activities | | |
| Bad debts | - | 2,500 |
| Charitable activities | | |
| Insurance | 920 | 877 |
| WSTNet support costs | 424 | 2,794 |
| Website costs | 2,626 | 2,777 |
| Project costs | 7,862 | 10,553 |
| Workshops and conferences | 20,496 | 20,204 |
| Subscriptions | <u>948</u> | <u>942</u> |
| | 33,276 | 38,147 |
| Support costs | | |
| Finance | | |
| Bank charges | 709 | 560 |
| Governance costs | | |
| Professional assistance | 2,813 | 4,938 |
| Insurance | 552 | 521 |
| Trust board meeting expenses | 3,160 | 10,305 |
| Bookkeeping | 145 | 190 |
| Accountancy | 1,902 | 2,202 |
| Other expenses | <u>574</u> | <u>1,412</u> |
| | <u>9,146</u> | <u>19,568</u> |
| Total resources expended | <u>51,009</u> | <u>69,105</u> |
| Net expenditure | <u>(9,711)</u> | <u>(25,300)</u> |

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements