

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022  
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 2022**

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**WEB SCIENCE TRUST**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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 2022. 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 2022

#### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In early March the Trustees met online 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.

During the year, the Web Science Trust continued to disseminate Web Science research. The annual ACM Web Science Conference took place in June in Barcelona, Spain as a hybrid event. This was the twelfth in a series of Web Science Conferences to be underwritten by the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). The four-day event focussed on The Old vs. the New Normal: following Covid-19, many new norms have been forming, both socially and technologically and Web-based technologies have played a vital role in enabling us to cope with the global pandemic. While some people long to return to how things were before the pandemic, others are questioning whether that is a state worth returning to. The conference included 5 workshops, 2 keynote speakers and a panel "Democracy and dis-Information". There were also 8 topical paper sessions and a poster session. The Web Science Trust inaugurated an annual Test of Time Award, to be awarded annually at the Web Science Conference to the author or authors of a paper presented at a previous Web Science Conference that has stood the test of time through continued relevance and impact.

The Web Science Trust continued to support the "Brave Conversations" events. The events draw 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 first event for 2022 took place in Barcelona, Spain, as part of the 2022 Web Science Conference. The second event took place in Solstrand, Norway in September at the invitation of the Administrative Research Institute at the NFF, Norwegian School of Economics. The final event took place in October in Sharjah as an integral component of The International Government Communication Centre (IGCC) and the 2022 International Government Communication Forum.

The Web Science Trust has continued to produce a range of significant scientific papers and publications in Web Science, including 32 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 17 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 series of WST White Papers, with the first published in March titled "Privacy, Privacy-Enhancing Technologies & the Individual".

The Web Science Trust continued its 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. 4 podcasts were recorded this year, bringing the total to 35.

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-19, the Annual Web Science Summer School did not take place this year.

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 Research Data Alliance, Digital Enlightenment Forum, the International Communication Association, and the W3C, an international community that develops open standards to ensure the long-term growth of the Web.

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. Two new labs joined the network in 2022, bringing the total number of WSTNet members to 21. A hybrid meeting of the WSTNet Labs took place during the Web Science Conference in Barcelona in June.

The Web Science Trust has continued to increase its Web and social media presence through its website. The Web Science Trust produces online newsletters three times a year, which includes WSTNet Lab profiles and publications, papers and books that relate to the wide scope of Web Science research.

## **WEB SCIENCE TRUST**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

As indicated on the Statement of Financial Activities on Page 6, during the year the company received income of £55,666 (2021: £49,784).

Income of £55,630 (2021: £44,029) was received by way of grants, donations, sponsorships and events income during the year. Total expenditure in the year was £42,657 (2021: £38,006) 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 £196,775 (2021: £183,766).

#### **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 22 Bishopsgate  
London  
EC2N 4BQ

##### **Trustees**

Professor N S Contractor  
Professor W Hall  
Professor J A Hendler  
Professor G Metakides  
Mr J Rangaswami  
Professor N R Shadbolt  
Ms A E Rowland-Campbell  
Mr W Thompson  
Professor S Staab  
Ms J Z Scott

##### **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

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

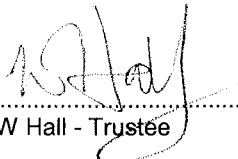
In managing the company the directors/trustees have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

**WEB SCIENCE TRUST**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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 on 28-9-23 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
Professor W 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 2022.

**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').

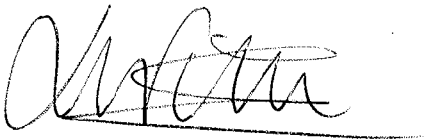
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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.



Lisa Wilson FCA

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

Date: .....27.....September.....2023.

WEB SCIENCE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022 Unrestricted fund £	2021 Total funds £
	Notes		
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies		55,630	44,029
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Education		-	5,750
Investment income	3	36	5
<b>Total</b>		<u>55,666</u>	<u>49,784</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Fundraising and marketing expenses		6,182	6,709
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4		
Education		36,475	31,297
<b>Total</b>		<u>42,657</u>	<u>38,006</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		13,009	11,778
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		183,766	171,988
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>196,775</u></u>	<u><u>183,766</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements



**WEB SCIENCE TRUST**

**BALANCE SHEET  
31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted fund £	2021 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	8	16,378	8,703
Cash at bank		184,279	178,752
		<u>200,657</u>	<u>187,455</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,882)	(3,689)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>196,775</u>	<u>183,766</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>196,775</u>	<u>183,766</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>196,775</u>	<u>183,766</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted funds		196,775	183,766
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>196,775</u>	<u>183,766</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2022.

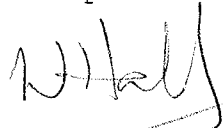
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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 ~~25~~ September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Professor W Hall - Trustee

## WEB SCIENCE TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 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.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is Pound Sterling

##### 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. The company has not been in receipt of any income arising from legacies in this year or the prior year.

Investment income is recognised when received and comprises interest receivable on cash deposits.

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.

Support costs include finance, back office and governance costs and are considered to be of an indirect nature but necessary in order for the charity to perform its day to day duties. As recorded in note 4, support costs are wholly considered attributable to Education Activities.

##### TAXATION

The charity meets the definition of Part 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010 and is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains within categories covered by Chapter 3 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. No tax charge arise in the current or previous reporting period.

##### FUND ACCOUNTING

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

# WEB SCIENCE TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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. In accordance with the SORP, no monetary value is placed upon the services provided.

#### CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and short-term deposits included in the Balance Sheet comprise cash in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

### 3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	36	5

### 4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 5)	Support costs (see note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
Education	28,331	8,144	36,475

### 5. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Insurance	912	1,086
WSTNet support costs	1,535	-
Website costs	2,488	2,305
Project costs	9,345	6,149
Workshops and conferences	13,101	13,535
Subscriptions	950	755
	28,331	23,830

**WEB SCIENCE TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**6. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Finance £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Education	425	7,719	8,144
	<u>425</u>	<u>7,719</u>	<u>8,144</u>

Included within governance costs is an amount of £2,007 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.

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

**FINANCE**

	2022 Education £	2021 Total activities £
Bank charges	425	826
	<u>425</u>	<u>826</u>

**GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	2022 Education £	2021 Total activities £
Professional assistance	3,125	3,188
Insurance	1,101	405
Bookkeeping	115	120
Accountancy	2,007	1,902
Other expenses	1,371	1,026
	<u>7,719</u>	<u>6,641</u>

**7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

**TRUSTEES' EXPENSES**

During the year the Trust did not reimburse any directors expenses (2021: NIL).

**8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	11,250	7,500
Prepayments	5,128	1,203
	<u>16,378</u>	<u>8,703</u>

**WEB SCIENCE TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	1,875	1,787
Accrued expenses	2,007	1,902
	<u>3,882</u>	<u>3,689</u>

**10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2022. (2021: NIL)

**WEB SCIENCE TRUST**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	55,630	44,029
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	36	5
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Education	-	5,750
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	55,666	49,784
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Fundraising and marketing	3,694	4,404
Website costs	2,488	2,305
	6,182	6,709
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Insurance	912	1,086
WSTNet support costs	1,535	-
Website costs	2,488	2,305
Project costs	9,345	6,149
Workshops and conferences	13,101	13,535
Subscriptions	950	755
	28,331	23,830
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	425	826
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Professional assistance	3,125	3,188
Insurance	1,101	405
Bookkeeping	115	120
Accountancy	2,007	1,902
Other expenses	1,371	1,026
	7,719	6,641
<b>Total resources expended</b>	42,657	38,006
<b>Net income</b>	13,009	11,778