

Information Management Challenges and Opportunities in the International LTER Network

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Abstract

The importance of information management to the success of the ILTER cannot be understated. One of the key goals stated in the ILTER Strategic Plan is to “facilitate exchange and integration of, access to, and preservation of long-term, site-based data.” Scientists within the ILTER are thus challenged to find mechanisms of achieving this goal by learning new technologies to promote data discovery, adopting standards to foster data compatibility, and connecting with others in the ILTER to realize cross-site and information management network objectives. In this talk, I will discuss opportunities for ILTER members to contribute to integrated databases that will promote network identity and improve accessibility to core climate data. Specifically, I will introduce the ILTER Network Sites database (<http://www.mexlter.org.mx/INGLES/averages/variables.php>) and ClimDB, a cross-site climate database (www.fsl.orst.edu/climhy/). I will also discuss the advantages to the ILTER of adopting a metadata standard such as Ecological Metadata Language (EML), which makes it possible to store all metadata in a single catalog, thus improving data discovery. Finally, I will highlight the opportunity for ILTER members to participate in the International IM community, which they can do by contributing to the IM Resources Webpage (<http://www.lternet.edu/im/>). Once populated, this webpage will be a valuable reference for ILTER information managers, where they can find links to tools that others in the network have developed as well as information about topics including metadata, database management, Q/QC, and website development. Everyone will also be invited to interact with the ILTER Information Management Committee through their regional representatives.