Building the LTER Network Information System
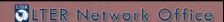James Brunt
Chief Information Officer

None

NIS History, Then and Now

Year	Milestone
1993 – 1996	NIS vision formed by Information Managers (IMs) and LTER Network Office (LNO)
1997 – 2003	Network databases developed and populated by LNO and IMs
1999 – 2002	Metacat and Ecological Metadata Language (EML) developed by community, including LNO and IMs
2003	EML adopted by LTER Network; NIS Advisory Committee (NISAC) appointed by LTER Coordinating Committee
2004	NIS lead scientist hired by LNO; LTER Data Catalog developed at LNO
2005	NIS Strategic Plan completed by NISAC and LNO
2007	Cyberinfrastructure Strategic Plan completed by IMs and LNO
2008	LNO develops Provenance Aware Synthesis Tracking Architecture (PASTA) out of EcoTrends technical development
2009	LNO awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for core NIS development
2010	NIS project and development plans outlined in LNO Operational Plan

http://lno.lternet.edu/

The Network Information System as a vision, then a plan, a strategic funding target, and now an active development project has a long history rooted in planning documents and involving all levels of LTER governance.

The ARRA funding for the NIS development stipulated the development of an operational plan. LNO in coordination with the executive board, NISAC, and the IMC developed an operational plan that:

- Spells out operational steps to develop NIS

- Formalizes multiple pathways for communication and feedback

- Establishes a timeline involving multiple development cycles

- Emphasizes engagement by LTER scientists

Completing the NIS requires involvement from a broad cross-section of LTER members

- **Tiger Teams** – to provide community dialogue and rapid feedback as part of specific component development teams
- **Requests for Comments** – to receive thoughtful written comments from individuals or groups in the stakeholder community
- **Focus Groups** - to get focused feedback on specific components
- **Surveys** – to assess bi-directional communication effectiveness
- **IM Working Groups** – will provide design, specification, and development on specific tasks and sub-components
- **Research Working Groups** – will provide design and specification on derived data products
- **NISAC** – will provide advise and evaluation on the NIS
- **LTER Executive Board** – will provide endorsement and evaluation