

Prepared by Don Henshaw for the Network Information System Advisory Committee

The Network Information System Advisory Committee (NISAC) met briefly in June to discuss the NIS Strategic Plan and membership rotation for the committee, and was briefed by LNO on ongoing NIS development and by Deb Peters on the Trends book. The Committee also met in conjunction with the Network Science Working Groups and the Cyberinfrastructure Team, and is charged with assessing current LTER information capabilities and IT infrastructure. The Committee is working with the Science Task Force in defining infrastructure models to support and facilitate the goals of synthetic research.

Network Information System Strategic Plan

NISAC will present the NIS strategic plan to the Coordinating Committee (CC) for approval at this Fall CC Meeting. The strategic plan document is included with CC meeting materials. This document is an important product of a two-year strategic planning effort that defines the mission and goals of the NIS and elaborates the process of implementation through descriptions of the roles of key participating groups and a diverse set of strategies and actions necessary to make progress. The plan should be considered as a living document and will be modified by NISAC as necessary.

NISAC membership rotation

The Committee has established a 2-year rotation for PI and IM members, although members can serve multiple terms. The CC will nominate and elect new PI members, and the IM Committee will nominate and elect IM members of NISAC. LNO members will remain relatively constant and will always include the LNO Executive Director and the Associate Director for Information Management. The current committee includes LTER principal investigators **Tim Kratz** (NTL), **Mark Harmon** (AND), **Robin Ross** (PAL), **Deb Peters**(JRN), and **Stuart Gage** (KBS); information managers **Don Henshaw** (chair, AND), **Barbara Benson** (NTL), **Emery Boose** (HFR), and **Peter McCartney** (CAP); and LNO representatives **Bob Waide**, **James Brunt**, **Bill Michener**, **John Vande Castle**, and **Mark Servilla**. NISAC is suggesting that Mark Harmon and Stuart Gage would rotate off at this meeting, and that Deb Peters, Tim Kratz, and Robin Ross will serve another year. We are currently seeking interested PI's, and the Exec Committee will help find potential nominees. IM members Emery Boose and Barbara Benson will rotate off next year, and Peter McCartney and Don Henshaw will rotate off in 2 years. The chair of NISAC will be determined from within the committee.

LTER Network Data Policy

The new Network Data Policy was approved at the Spring CC Meeting and the report and policies (<http://www.lternet.edu/data/LTERNetworkDataPolicyRevisionReport.pdf>) are online. The new policies 1) expand the former LTER Data Access Policy to cover the release of data and metadata, 2) standardize Network requirements for accessing LTER data, and 3) draw up data use agreements specifying terms of acceptable use of LTER data.

ILTER Network Office (LNO) NIS activities

A primary charge of NISAC is setting ongoing NIS priorities at the Network Office and assuring the implementation of the NIS. The following briefly summarizes current LNO and other NIS activities reported at this summer's IM meeting in Montreal:

- LNO is supporting EML development and evaluating site progress
 - More than 90% of the LTER sites have implemented the EML standard at the "Discovery" level
 - 75% have made EML metadata available in centralized Metacat servers
- Query Interface for the LTER Data Catalog (LTER Metacat)
 - LNO is developing an improved interface to query LTER data that builds on the original design from the IM 2004 meeting. The design will be portable and usable by individual sites
- LTER Grid Pilot Study
 - LNO is collaborating with NCSA (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), ISI (University of Southern California), KBS LTER (Dr. Stuart Gage), and SEEK (NCEAS at the University of California, Santa Barbara) to demonstrate the vision of the LTER Grid to the LTER community and how grid technologies can be applied to enhance collaboration and sharing within and external to the LTER community
- Network Databases
 - SiteDB: Basic site characteristics (SiteDB) are populated. Research site location data can be improved and more research themes can be added and populated (e.g., a climate theme might include climate descriptions, data summaries, data links, contacts, etc. for all LTER sites)
 - Bibliography: LNO has established as a relational database, includes 80% of sites, and called for updates in spring 2005
 - Personnel: LNO will call for updates in the fall with a hard copy directory planned for Spring 2006
 - Document archive: LNO has redesigned and organized into a content management system
 - Remote Sensing Archive: LNO has registered into the LTER Metacat server
 - ClimDB/HydroDB: 24 ClimDB and 14 HydroDB LTER sites are now participating with 22 sites having harvested current data (since Sep 2003). ClimDB/HydroDB is maintained at the Andrews LTER site.