

**DATA AND
INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT**

**IN THE
ECOLOGICAL
SCIENCES:**

**A RESOURCE
GUIDE**

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Data and Information Management

in the Ecological Sciences:

A Resource Guide

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Preface

More than 100 individuals attended a two-day workshop (August 8-9, 1997) entitled "Data and Information Management in the Ecological Sciences" that was held at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Objectives of the

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workshop were to: effect technology transfer, especially at biological field stations and marine laboratories; facilitate people networking; communicate training needs and opportunities; identify future needs for data management at field stations; and produce hard copy and digital versions of the proceedings. Workshop instructors provided comprehensive overviews of the technological infrastructure for a data management system (e.g., hardware, software, communications, and networking), data entry, quality assurance, database management systems, metadata, archival, the World Wide Web, and scientific visualization. Additional roundtable discussions focused specifically on software for field stations, challenges and opportunities at field stations, and site-specific data management implementation.

The editors are grateful to:

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- the LTER Network Office, Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, and Long-Term Studies Section of the Ecological Society of America for additional funding and support;
- William Michener, James Gosz (University of New Mexico), Arthur McKee (Oregon State University), and John Porter for writing the proposal and organizing the workshop;
- James Brunt and John Porter for WWW support;
- Jack Stanford (Organization for Biological Field Stations) and Frank Davis (National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis) for their support and encouragement;
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- Donald L. Henshaw,
Maryan Stubbs, Barbara J.

Sevilleta LTER Project, and the University of New Mexico who facilitated the workshop;

- Jim Beach, Tom Callahan, and Scott Collins (current or former NSF program officers) who have been strong proponents of enhanced data management and computational capabilities at biological field stations and marine laboratories;
- Kathleen Parkhurst, Ellie Trotter, Paula Houhoulis, and Paula Johnson for coordinating onsite logistics;
- Paula Johnson, Patty Sprott, Paula Houhoulis, and Jean Turn for technical editing and production of the hardcopy version of the workshop proceedings;
- Jean Turn for design of the Web version of the workshop proceedings;
- the instructors who all gave 150% effort, particularly Hilary Swain whose caricatures of insects and synthetic abilities were sincerely appreciated; and
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To all of the above, we offer a heart-felt THANKS!

[Benson, Karen S. Baker,
Darrell Blodgett and John
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