

Annual LTER Information Management Committee Report (2010-11)

1. Date: May 1, 2011

2. Committee: Information Managers Committee

3. Chair/Co-chairs: Margaret O'Brien (SBC), Don Henshaw (AND)

4. IMC leadership (IMExec): Sven Bohm (KBS), Emery Boose (HFR), Corinna Gries (CAP), Suzanne Remillard (AND), and Dan Bahauddin (CDR), plus co-chairs and ex-officio representatives of LNO and NISAC.

5. Current committee composition (only site-designated IM contacts are listed): Dan Bahauddin (CDR), Karen Baker (PAL, CCE), Corinna Gries (NTL), Sven Bohm (KBS), Emery Boose (HFR), John Campbell (HBR), John Chamblee (CWT), Jason Downing (BNZ), Hap Garritt (PIE), M. Gastil-Buhl (MCR), Don Henshaw (AND), Hope Humphries (NWT), Nicole Kaplan (SGS), Jim Laundre (ARC), Eda Melendez-Colom (LUQ), Margaret O'Brien (SBC), John Porter (VCR), Linda Powell (FCE), Ken Ramsey (JRN), Wade Sheldon (GCE), Adam Skibbe (KNZ), Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV), Jonathan Walsh (BES), Philip Tarrant (CAP), TBD (MCM).
Note: Membership also includes additional site-identified members.

6. Membership changes in 2010-11: Sue Welch (MCM) left the position and has not yet been replaced.

7. Plans for leadership transitions

- Two members will rotate off IMExec this year, Corinna Gries and Suzanne Remillard, and will be replaced by election at the annual meeting in September 2011.
- The IMC representative to the LTER EB is scheduled to rotate in May 2011, from Corinna Gries to Emery Boose.

8. Frequency/Number of times met since May 2010

- The entire Information Managers Committee met in September 2010 at KBS (meeting report submitted to Network document archive).
- IMExec met March 29-30, 2011 at the LNO with one-day in conjunction with NISAC.
- IMExec meets monthly via VTC.

9. Activities and Accomplishments since May 2010

- **Ongoing activities**
 - Monthly “Virtual Water Cooler” sessions via VTC were conducted with informal discussions and follow-up on key topics to which all sites are invited. Approximately 60% of sites are regularly represented *SIP Action 2.C.A.*
 - The bi-annual Newsletter, “Databits”, was published (May, Nov 2010) (editors: M. Gastil-Buhl, P. Tarrant, J. Chamblee) <http://databits.lternet.edu> *SIP Action 2.C.A.*
 - The IMC website, <http://intranet.lternet.edu/im>, which documents all committee activities, is structured and maintained (chair: Corinna Gries). *SIP Action 2.C.B.*
- **LNO-Funded Production Workshops supporting Working Group (WG) Activities**
 - A Production Workshop (July 2010) was held to write EML Best Practices Version 2 (chair: Margaret O'Brien). Work continues through 2011 IM buy-out funding (O'Brien) to develop EML Congruency Checker reports. *SIP Actions 1.A.A, 2.B.D.*
 - Production Workshops (Oct 2010, Feb 2011) were held to redesign the network

- personnel database and prototype web services (chair: Mason Kortz). Work continues coordinated with 2011 IM buy-out (Kortz). *SIP Actions 3.A.A, 5.A.C*
 - Production Workshops (Apr, May 2011) were held to develop a Network Controlled Vocabulary, <http://vocab.lternet.edu>, (chair: John Porter). *SIP Action 2.A.B*
- **Working Group (WG) Activities**
 - The Governance WG drafted the IMC “Terms of Reference”, essentially by-laws, which describe IMC governance, protocols and structure (chairs: Karen Baker, Eda Melendez-Colom, Nicole Kaplan) Formal adoption is planned for Sep 2011. *SIP Action 2.C.A*
 - A Site-funded Workshop (Nov 2010) was held to draft a GIS Strategies document and plan LTERMapS development (co-chairs: Theresa Valentine, Adam Skibbe) *SIP Action 5.A.C*.
 - The Units Dictionary WG continued its development including site-to-site visits to initiate installation of web services, <http://unit.lternet.edu>. (chairs: Karen Baker, Mason Kortz) *SIP Action 2.B.A*
 - ClimHydroDB was migrated from AND to LNO (Spring 2010) and included training of LNO personnel in its management (chair: Suzanne Remillard) *SIP Action 3.B.A*
- **LNO-funded Training Workshops / Tiger Team Activities**
 - A Training Workshop (date?) was held for Installation and Configuration of the Drupal Content Management System (chair: -----) *SIP Action 5.A.A*
 - IMC members assisted NIS development through Tiger Team Participation, <http://nis.lternet.edu>). Active teams included Metadata Management, Workflow Management, Data Management, and Entity Management. IMC participants: Kristin Vanderbilt, James Connors, Ken Ramsey, Corinna Gries, Wade Sheldon, Margaret O’Brien, Aaron Stephenson, Jonathan Walsh, Emery Boose, Sven Bohm, and M. Gastil-Buhl. *SIP Action 3.B.A*.

10. Planned or Anticipated for 2011-2012

- The Annual IMC Meeting (<http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/meetings/2011>) will be Sep 2011 with Environmental Information Management Conference. The theme of the 2011 EIMC is “Data Interoperability for Synthesis Science”, <https://eim.ecoinformatics.org/eim2011>. The IMC holds every third annual meeting in conference style to collaborate with the broader ecoinformatics community (IMExec, program co-chair Corinna Gries), *SIP Action 4.C.A*
- Production Workshop: Begin Phase II of LTERmapS project, to create a consistent map representation of data across sites (chair: Theresa Valentine). *SIP Action 2.A.A* (funded 2011)
- Production Workshop: Prototype workflows and develop workflow management for the NIS (chairs: Corinna Gries, Wade Sheldon), *SIP Action 3.B.A* (funded 2011)
- Training Workshop: Develop training modules for graduate student and other researchers (chair: Corinna Gries), *SIP Action 2.C.A* (funded 2011, planned for one-week in Jan 2012).
- Training Workshop: Controlled Vocabularies and term hierarchies using SKOS will be proposed for site IMs (John Porter). *SIP Action 2.C.A* (planned 2012)
- Production Workshop: Migration of existing ClimDB/HydroDB database into the NIS framework as use-case for other databases (chair: Don Henshaw) *SIP Action 3.B.A* (planned 2012)
- Tiger Teams: These Tiger Teams are scheduled for the next year: Workflow Management, Data Management, Identity Management, Discovery/Access API. IMC members have signed up to participate, in addition to those already mentioned above for these teams: Jason Downing, Dan Bahaudin, John Porter, Don Henshaw, Suzanne Remillard. *SIP Action 3.B.A*