

Report for: Develop a workshop on Ecological Information Management for LTER graduate students and researchers

Participants: John Porter, Kristin Vanderbilt, Theresa Valentine, Eda Melendez-Colom, Jonathan Walsh, James Brunt, Corinna Gries.

This core group of organizers held regular conference calls throughout the fall to plan for this course and met in person November 14 - 16, 2011.

Background

The DataONE education and outreach team, which includes Kristin Vanderbilt and John Porter, under the lead of Bill Michener, has developed an Ecological Information Management Summer Institute. It is designed for three weeks and has been conducted once in the summer of 2011. The first week of this institute has a very similar agenda as proposed for our project and was taught by Kristin Vanderbilt and John Porter. Both agreed that the agenda outlined in this project complements their original agenda well. The themes of the other two weeks of the institute are GIS applications and R statistics, one week each.

After discussions with the Bill Michener it was agreed that this grant would not offer another similar IM course but rather sponsor LTER researchers and students to participate in the UNM summer institute and members of the development team will participate in teaching the first week of the institute.

Activities to date

Originally proposed was that this course would be taught once in person and from then on as an online class. Therefore, a detailed schedule for the in person course has been developed taking Kristin and John's extensive experience into account and improving on the original outline as taught in summer 2011. During the meeting of the planning group at LNO the schedule was fine-tuned, and sections assigned to members of the group. We developed an outline for the material on our IM website (http://im.lternet.edu/resources/training_material) and started filling out those pages (e.g. <http://im.lternet.edu/node/938>). The emphasis currently is on developing power point presentations which will be available on this website with and without voiceover. The next step will be to develop exercises with detailed how-to screencasts. During the meeting we evaluated screen casting software and decided on a reasonable open source and a better licensed software which will be purchased by LNO.

Currently 19 PowerPoint presentations are under active development and in draft stage. They were started on Google docs. Due to formatting challenges in Google docs they are currently being developed on local computers and migrated to the IM

website. At the same time they are formatted with a theme developed by Theresa Valentine.

A follow up report will be provided after the course has been taught May 28 - June 1, 2012.