

## LTER Information Management Committee (IMC) Annual Report (2013)

1. **Date:** May 6, 2013

2. **Committee:** Information Management Committee

3. **Co-chairs:** Margaret O'Brien (SBC), John Chamblee (CWT)

4. **IMC leadership (IMExec):** Dan Bahauddin (CDR), Jason Downing (BNZ), Adam Skibbe (KNZ), Phiip Tarrant (CAP), Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV). Ex-officio representatives, James Brunt and Yang Xia (LNO), Emery Boose (EB/HFR)

5. **Current committee composition (site-designated contacts):** Dan Bahauddin (CDR), Sven Bohm (KBS), Emery Boose (HFR), John Chamblee (CWT), James Conners (PAL, CCE), Jason Downing (BNZ), Hap Garritt (PIE), M. Gastil-Buhl (MCR), Corinna Gries (NTL), Don Henshaw (AND), Hope Humphries (NWT), Nicole Kaplan (SGS), Jim Laundre (ARC), Mary Martin (HFR), Eda Melendez-Colom (LUQ), Margaret O'Brien (SBC), John Porter (VCR), Linda Powell (FCE), Ken Ramsey (JRN), Inigo San Gil (MCM), Wade Sheldon (GCE), Adam Skibbe (KNZ), Philip Tarrant (CAP), Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV), Jonathan Walsh (BES). Note: Membership also includes additional site-identified individuals, not listed here.

6. **Membership changes in 2012-13:** None expected

7. **Plans for leadership transitions** (all positions will be re-filled at the IMC's annual meeting in July 2013)

- Margaret O'Brien (SBC) rotates off as IMC co-chair
- One member will rotate off IMExec this year: Dan Bahauddin (CDR)
- Emery Boose (HFR) will rotate off as IMC representative to the Executive Board

8. **Frequency/Number of times met since May 2012**

- September 2012: The entire IMC met for one day in at the All Scientists Meeting in Estes Park. Many site information managers led ASM working groups during the general meeting. *SIP Action 2.C.A, 4.C.A*
- February 2013: IMExec met at the LNO and Paul Hanson (NISAC co-chair) joined the meeting for one day to participate in PASTA-related discussions. Saran Twombly (NSF) participated via VTC for one hour for a briefing about recent IMC activities. *SIP Action 2.C.A.*
- Monthly, 2012-2103: MExec meets monthly via VTC. *SIP Action 2.C.A.*

9. **Activities and Accomplishments since May 2012** (Information Management SIP sections are cited)

• **Ongoing activities**

- Monthly 2012-2013: IMC-wide "Virtual Water Cooler" sessions via VTC were conducted with informal discussions and follow-up on key Network topics. Approximately 70% of sites are regularly represented. Recent discussions have featured the PASTA development timeline, site contributions to network catalogs, and general improvements to data availability and quality. *SIP Action 2.C.*
- Nov 2012, May 2013: The LTER IMC Newsletter, Databits, continues to be published twice a year, <http://databits.lternet.edu>. Rotating editors: Stephenson (NTL), Skibbe (KNZ) and Humphries (NWT), *SIP Action 2.C.A*
- The IMC website, <http://im.lternet.edu>, which documents all committee activities, is structured and maintained (chair: Corinna Gries). *SIP Action 2.C.B*

• **LNO-Funded Production Workshops / IM Compensation support**

- April 2013: Managing sensor networks and data: Best practices for LTER, organized by Henshaw (AND). Workshop held at LNO, LTER information managers with experience in

sensor networks are developing a best practices guide for managing sensor networks and data, using various existing sensor network strategies and applications as models. *SIP Action 3.A.A, 1.B.A, 2.A.A.*

- 2012: Compensation was provided to MCR for technical assistance from SIM Gastil-Buhl to sites initiating contributions to the PASTA system. *SIP Action 1.B.A, 2.B.D, 4.C.A*
- January 2013: GeoNIS Implementation with PASTA, Workshop to site level GIS data to develop templates for display and analysis products that can be deployed across all sites Organizer: T. Valentine (AND). *SIP Action 2.A.A, 3.A.A.*

#### • LNO-funded Training Workshops

- August 2012: Data Management for LTER Ecologists Short course. Best practices for the entire data life cycle were introduced including metadata content, data cleaning, database design, technology and quality control, including management of large data volumes. LNO, Albuquerque *SIP Action 4.C.C, 5.A.C*
- November 2012: Drupal Ecological Information Management System (DEIMS): Continued training of site information managers in Drupal administration and EML preparation from DEIMS modules. LNO, *SIP Action 2.B.C, 5.A.A, 5.A.B.*
- November 2012: GCE Matlab Toolbox Workshop. Coweta LTER Information Management Lab, UGA, Athens, Georgia. Wade Sheldon (GCE), John Chamblee (CWT). Participants were introduced to the GCE system for handling tabular data and its metadata, which supports bidirectional I/O between Matlab and metadata systems. *SIP Action 2.B.C, 5.A.A, 5.A.B.*

#### 10. Planned or Anticipated for 2013-2014

The primary committee emphasis will be directed to data package contributions to PASTA, data availability, and continued upgrade of site IM systems, *Sip Action 1.A.A, 1.E.C.*

- The Annual IMC Meeting will be held for 2.5 days in July 2013 at the University of Alaska and Bonanza Creek LTER, *SIP Action 2.C.A, 4.C.A*
- EML improvement through mentorship on technical diagnosis and compliance with EML Best Practices is planned as a buy-out activity for Margaret O'Brien (SBC), *SIP Action 1.A.A, 1.B.A, 2.B.D.*
- A white paper intended for the entire LTER community and NSF will describe the overall status of the IM in the network, and propose potential solutions to some long standing issues. This paper was initiated at the ASM, and outlined in winter/spring 2013. Chamblee (CWT) leads. *SIP Action 2.C.A, 4.C.A.*
- A training workshop aimed at training site IMs on developing web services from PASTA is funded for 2013. Organizer: Gries (NTL). *SIP Action 3.A.A.*
- Enhancement of the LTER Controlled Vocabulary to Support Data Synthesis: Workshop organized by John Porter (VCR), funded for spring 2013: Enhance the LTER Controlled Vocabulary to automatically enhance searches on the LTER Data Portal
- LTER Metabase Software-as-a-Service development: 2012-2013 (Sheldon, GCE): Leveraging an existing RDBMS system (GCE Metabase) as a multi-site metadata storage, presentation, and EML generation option.
- Leveraging PASTA and EML-based Workflow Tools for LTER Data Synthesis: Workshop organized by Wade Sheldon (GCE), and funded for 2013. Develop and test workflows that leverage the PASTA framework, EML-described data and EML-based software to generate derived data products for one or more network synthesis projects (e.g. ClimDB, Veg-DB and Cross-Site Coastal Water Quality).