

LTER Information Management Committee (IMC) Annual Report (2014)

(Note: parenthetical references are to the Information Management sections of the LTER SIP)

1. Date: May 7, 2015

2. Committee: Information Management Committee

3. Chair: Philip Tarrant (CAP)

4. IMC leadership (IMExec): James Connors (CCE/PAL), Jason Downing (BNZ), Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV), Jonathan Walsh (BES), and Yang Xia (KNZ). Ex-officio representatives, James Brunt (LNO) and Margaret O'Brien (EB/SBC)

5. Current committee composition (site-designated contacts): Dan Bahauddin (CDR), Sven Bohm (KBS), Emery Boose (HFR), Brian Herndon (CWT), James Connors (CCE/PAL), Jason Downing (BNZ), Hap Garritt (PIE), M. Gastil-Buhl (MCR), Corinna Gries (NTL), Don Henshaw (AND), Hope Humphries (NWT), 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), Philip Tarrant (CAP), Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV), Jonathan Walsh (BES), and Yang Xia (KNZ).

Note: Membership also includes additional site-identified individuals, not listed here.

6. Membership changes in 2014: CWT transitioned from John Chamblee to Brian Herndon. John Chamblee resigned as IMC co-chair.

7. Plans for leadership transitions: All vacant positions will be re-filled at the IMC's annual meeting in August 2015.

- Vacancy for IMC co-chair.
- Two members will rotate off IMExec this year: Jason Downing (BNZ) and Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV). One member to be replaced due to resignation: John Chamblee (CWT).

8. Frequency/Number of times met since May 2014:

- *July 2014:* The entire IMC met at the Earth Science Information Partnership (ESIP) summer meeting at Copper Mountain, CO. LTER has joined as a voting member. LTER site information managers both led and participated in a number of ESIP sessions (SIP Actions 2.C.A, 4.C.A).
- *February 2015:* Due to funding constraints the IMExec winter meeting was held virtually. The primary topics were the IMC Annual Meeting and ensuring that information management needs continued to be met during the LNO transition period (SIP Action 2.C.A.).
- *Various, 2014-2015:* IMExec meets regularly via video conference (SIP Action 2.C.A.).

9. Activities and Accomplishments since May 2014:

Ongoing activities

- *Various, 2014-2015:* IMC-wide "Virtual Water Cooler" sessions via video-conference are conducted to plan events, follow-up on key Network topics, and coordinate cross-site activity. Approximately 80% of sites are regularly represented. Recent discussions have Transition planning, prospective ASM sessions, and future data management scenarios. (SIP Action 2.C.)
- Dec 2014, May 2015: The LTER IMC Newsletter, Databits, continues to be published twice a year, <http://databits.lternet.edu>. Rotating editors: Martin (HBR) and Sheldon (GCE) (SIP Action 2.C.A)
- We continue using and maintain the IMC website, <http://im.lternet.edu>, which documents all committee activities, (SIP Action 2.C.B)

PASTA Related Achievements (SIP Action 1.A – 1.E)

- PASTA success by all sites – As of May 2nd 2015, there were almost 4700 datasets in PASTA contributed by 26 sites. Given that PASTA does not contain metadata only records, we can assume that the migration is essentially complete.

10. Planned or Anticipated for 2015-2016

- LTER sites will continue supporting the LNO in the final stages of PASTA development (Sip Actions 1.A.A, 1.E.C).
- The IMC has been asked by NSF to explore the feasibility of using a distributed data management model for future LTER data management activities. This would involve a subset of LTER sites providing support to the network overall. A project team will develop this idea and report back

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during the summer (Sip Actions 1.A.A, 1.E.C).

- The annual IMC Meeting will be held in conjunction with the LTER ASM in August 2015 at Estes Park, CO (Sip Actions 4.C.A).
- Three LTER IMs (Gries, O'Brien and Tarrant) have been funded by NSF under an EAGER grant to explore the future of environmental data management through a mixture of survey, information gathering and community workshops intended to engage a broad population of scientists and data management partners (SIP Actions 5.A.A. – C.).
- As an outreach effort, LTER IMs will be holding sessions at the ESIP summer meeting in Monterey Bay, CA (SIP Actions 2.C.A, 4.C.A).