LTER IMC Vision

Original version 2000

Baker, Benson, Henshaw, Blodgett, Porter and Stafford, 2002. Evolution of a multisite network information system: The LTER Information Management Paradigm. BioScience 50: 963-78.

Strategic Vision for the Long-Term Ecological Research Network Information System

Statement of Purpose
Our goal is to promote ecological science by fostering the synergy of information systems and scientific research.

Vision Statements
- Pursue information systems development and implementation from the context of ecological research needs
- Conduct information management in a nested context of site, research network, national, and international levels
- Emphasize the timely and effective transformation of data into information and the ease of access to that information
- Ensure the long-term preservation and availability of information
- Ensure appropriate information system development through information management research
- Develop human resources necessary for the continuing evolution of LTER information systems

Updated version (working draft 2010)

Mission Statement

Our vision is to promote ecological science and information management by fostering their development synergistically while supporting the conduct of environmental scientific research.

Our approach is one of inclusiveness with an aim of fostering community engagement in order to

- Conduct information management in a nested context with multiple levels - site, network, national, and international – as well as multiple networks
- Pursue development of information environments at all levels comprised of organizational, social, and technical dimensions within the context of ecological research needs
- Facilitate the timely and effective capture, mediation, organization, transformation and delivery of data and information
- Ensure robust data curation as well as long-term preservation in support of data stewardship though coordination of joint activities, standards making, standards use, and development of best practices
- Contribute to development of the field of information management through collaborative design of synergetic site and network information infrastructures including a focus on federated site and network information systems
- Develop organizational arrangements and human resources necessary for enabling evolution of systems and continuing learning of participants