



Published on *LTER Information Management* (<http://im.lternet.edu>)

[Home](#) > Virtual Update Notes 8/11 and 8/12 2008 Report GIS WG

Virtual Update Notes 8/11 and 8/12 2008 Report GIS WG

Mon, 08/18/2008 - 3:20pm — [tvalentine](#) ^[1]

IMC VTC – GIS Working Group – Aug 11 and 12th 2008

August 11: Valentine (lead), Kaplan, Garritt, Downing, Porter, Sheldon, Ackerman, Maxted, San Gil, Vande Castle, Boose, Ramsey & Nolen (phone), Collins (phone)

Results from San Jose meeting 2007

- Barrie will be liaison to IMExec
- Incorporate spatial data into site information management systems
- Develop minimum site standards for spatial data
- Question about High-precision GPS units at each site

No follow-up meetings since last summer

Report on the Symposium for desert-grassland sites

- CAP, JRN, SEV, SGS, KNZ. Strong GIS emphasis.
- Hire post-doc to assemble demographic data, etc
- Decadal steps in census data (1970s to present)
- Current focus on what kinds of data to collect. Data management model still to be worked out.

Centralized storage desirable.

- Some data are available in electronic format, some will need to be transcribed
- Appears to be a prime candidate for a future NIS module and PASTA architecture
- Barbara Nolen can supply contact information
- Next meeting in October 2008 at CAP
- Forest Service is developing a program called ULTRA, and Morgan Grove is the contact. (Urban Long Term Research A?)

ESRI technical workshop

- Attended by Ken & Barbara N.
- GIS portal toolkit 9.3. Collaboration tools for working on spatial data. Might be useful for LTER Network.
- Potential to track data downloads, tie into EML, etc
- Ken could give short report at IMC meeting

Cyber infrastructure plan

- GIS working group has many good ideas
- Use IMC meeting to develop ideas for next steps. If CI funding becomes available, how might it be used?
- Develop a whitepaper to capture our vision of the role that GIS should play in LTER. White paper

should capture our vision/role for GIS and the unique role of LTER data (how it's different from other sources, levels of operations, and commonalities across sites)

IMC workshops 2008

- See forums on IMC website (GoogleEarth, etc). Use "Add new comment" option to add comments. Contact Marshall to request change in permissions.
- AND – use GoogleEarth to make GIS data more available
- JRN – use Google Earth for site management
- IMC agenda does not currently include time for demos.
- EIMC agenda includes poster session (demos can be done here)
- What spatial data should sites collect and make available to the network?
- What are minimum standards for spatial metadata?

All-Scientists Meeting 2009

- Larger GIS audience than IMC meeting
- Not too early to think about this meeting
- Corinna & Kristin are on ASM program committee
- Volunteers to help with GIS session should contact Theresa

EML – FGDC converter

- Contact Inigo for more information & scripts
- Post scripts on IMC website. Style sheets are fairly small.

Coweeta GIS Server (Barrie)

- Project has evolved over last 5-6 months
- Acquired new server running Server 2003. Back and front end project.
- ESRI provides a thick client (slow). How to serve GIS data (and related geographic data) across the Internet?
- Currently working on back end with SDE
- Solution may be general enough to work for other LTER sites. Broader than just GIS data.
- Many sites face similar growth problems with imagery & other spatial data
- Unified solutions for the LTER Network would also benefit users
- Size and integrity of spatial datasets are a challenge
- Next step is to develop front end for serving and viewing data (emphasis) and is looking for user-centric solutions.
- For better or worse ESRI is the industry standard for GIS. But ESRI has not yet solved problem of serving data over the Internet.
- How do people view specific datasets?
- Focus on visualization and service to users
- Recent product releases often have problems that are eventually solved
- See forum for GIS Server.

Feel free to start new forums on IMC website.

August 12th, 2008: Tuesday Morning meeting: attending, Corinna, Kristin, Barbara, Hap (?), Jonathon, Don, Theresa, Nichole, Inigo, and

We reviewed what the group came up with on Monday's call and provided updates.

The working group would like 2 workshop sessions at the 2008 IM meeting:

1. Work on development of white paper on recommendations for GIS standards and providing information for Cyber infrastructure plan. This session will also look at OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) Standards, specifically related to GML and GeosciML. (Theresa will provide an update on this.)
2. Continue discussion on a Network GIS Server. Ken R. will provide an update on the ESRI portal

toolkit, and we will continue flushing out the requirements and discuss current capabilities/options. We'll want to make sure our requirements include the ability to interact with open-source services/programs.

There was discussion on how to connect with other social scientists from the sites. Several folks suggested getting names of Post Docs/Research Assistants who work with GIS and PI's. A search on sociology search on the LTER Personnel pages came up with 12 names. It was suggested that perhaps IM's could work with LNO to get better information in the personnel database. It was suggested that the GIS working group send out an e-mail to IM committee members to get names of researchers/PI's interested in land-use/land-cover and/or demographic data. It was also suggested that the GIS working group coordinate with some of these folks on an ASM 2009 workshop. It was noted that it was important to find out what other researchers are interested in this data (in addition to the social scientists). This discussion came about because the post ASM 2006 workshop that was funded on land-use/land-cover never got off the ground.

There was some discussion on what standard/tools people were using to document spatial metadata. Inigo will post a style sheet that converts FGDC XML to EML, (requires site customization). IDRIS creates a metadata file that doesn't appear to be in the FGDC format, and the question was how do we deal with this and others?

This issue will be discussed in the first working group meeting at the IM 2008 meeting.

We really are encouraging folks to start posting items in the IM portal, under forums. This will be a good place to share information and start gathering ideas for the upcoming meeting and the 2009 ASM.

Virtual Updates ^[2]

- Copyright © 2012 Long Term Ecological Research Network, Albuquerque, NM -

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Cooperative Agreement #DEB-0236154. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Please contact us with questions, comments, or for technical assistance regarding this web site.

Source URL: http://im.lternet.edu/news/virtualupdates/2008_8_11

Links:

[1] <http://im.lternet.edu/user/99>

[2] <http://im.lternet.edu/taxonomy/term/169>