VTC notes 2019-07-08

Topics: (1) NCO update; (2) proposed regularly occurring water cooler topic; (3) 2019 annual meeting planning

Leading: Stevan Earl

Notes provided by Gastil Gastil-Buhl

Attending: C. Gries, E. Dobbins, J. Conners, J. Downing, M. Downs, Hap, E. Boose, D. Henshaw, E. Johnson, J. Brun, G. Mauer, Y. Xia, D. James, L. Kui, L. Dobbins, C. Turner, Gahler, Dan B, R. Brown, K. Hall, unknown, M. O'Brien, An, M. Martin, G. Gastil-Buhl, S. Earl

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Marty Down providing an NCO update
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Marty presented from the slide deck that she delivered at the May 2019 meeting of the Science Council

Slide 6

potential opp role of LTER ims in synth groups.
        Developing call for proposals now, to release this August.

        More clear data expectations re archiving
        System to track provenance
        Links to contributing data post effectively.
        Assist WG with that.
        Now that EDI in place.

        Data liaison to know about workflows, not nec the data analyst/ "munger".
        The data liaison can be an IM if esp data intensive wg.

Slide 7
        Data fellow at NCEAS to support the WG.
        Each WG can send a person to "reproducible research" training wkshp
        EDI also supporting data archiving.

Pause for questions.

        JP interested in a mechanism for feedback from the WGs - what were the difficulties in getting/using data, lessons learned, etc. such that the sites can fix problems or make improvements.

        Corinna noting that ecocomDP and ClimDB are examples of feedback in action.

        JPorter
        Data interns. Mechanism to improve communication btwn sites and the data liaison. What would be helpful. Expectation that the data interns involved in wg or separate.
        Marty

The WG should be interacting with site IMs, (not NCEAS). The data interns are all short term students at nceas. ASking them to build relationships with IMs not eff use of time. They have opp to reach out.

Different this time: asking proposers to id datasets expecting to use in the proposal. Identify main sources up front. Expect to speed the synth process and see which groups are ready.

JP

Opp lost: not get their wisdom from problems to get data. Goes out the door with them. Likewise we (site IMs) could share our wizdom with them.

Marty

Julien is source of that wizdom.

Julien Brun

When we (NCEAS) receive request from WG struggling with process… extra workforce to add. Ad hoc system. Answer req of wg. A lot of what they do is data cleaning. That is good to think about how to aggregate this info and provide to you (site IMs) as feedback. Also interview with PIs is potential feedback. Tasks vary by wg. Some wg come with their own expertise.

Corinna

Have received feedback, which is how ecocomDP and ClimDB have and are evolvoing.
Not many site IMs have been receptive because it means they may have to change data and data structures for their site data.

JP

Hoping to exchange info so when we think how to store or transform our data we can think how to better engage with synth wg.

Corinna

Be more specific. Say what you want to "do", not "get".

JP

Just posing problem, not solution. When having meetings, workshops could include a data fellow or intern in a workshop to include them in the discussion. Or have them give presentation in our VTCs.

Marty volunteers that maybe it would be helpful for Julien to provide some structured feedback regarding working group successes, struggles, progresses, etc.

Capture sum of that type of feedback.

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Marty

continuing with slides…

What is Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) and community platform?
Cloud-based CRMs
No way to know if info about people is current or not.

Connection between committees

Mostly by email. Clunky. CRMs have email integration.

Could replace the IM website, Edu, Grad student sites.
Cloud-based workspace.
Working document library.

Slide 17 shows 3 CRMs in consideration.

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Proposed new addition to VTC format
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Jason Downing
Theme: find systems and tasks that we all do, find ways to share. Regular topic to be addressed quarterly.

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2019 IMC annual meeting planning
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I.   Agenda

see agenda doc (separate link)

II. Breakout questions:

see proposed breakout group questions (separate link)

1. **breakout topic 1: Engagement**: communication between IMs and scientists
    How get data & metadata? Q came from new IMs. Improve workflows.

    Written product
    Stace: Examples of success: Suzanne's metadata parties. :)

JP: a paper?
Don: want to hear other sites' success stories. At HJA got abstracts and heard of data maybe not heard of otherwise.

Gastil: Would it be useful to ask our site sci before imc mtg and bring their ?/answers to imc mtg.

Suggestions from 2019-07-08 VTC:
- JP: how do we measure success?
- Marty: could a best practices result from this?
- anon: what can we take back to our scientists?
- Stace: would like to know examples of sucess, e.g., metadata parties at AND sound brilliant
- JP: whatever we produce, we need to consider developing something worthy of submitting to a journal - web pages, docs, and blogs are great but a dime-a-dozen.

2. breakout topic 1: collaboration

IMC drupal site. NCO cannot support much longer. Need to migrate.

What should such a site look like?
What do we need?

Newer vers drupal?
Github?

Corinna: suggestion for outcome: a decision.

JP: run a web crawler on the old drupal site to archive the content.

Corinna: decision and who will move/edit the stuff.

Margaret: talking about the website. Have a WG: mob, suzanne, marty. Did come up with a process.
     Marty: got hung up on github. 3 could not do github for a commitee of 28.
     What nco would like is a similar process for IM, Edu, and EB. Similar tool for all the LTER commitees to do a certain kind of collaboration. 80% of what the IMC does together is same as other groups. The other groups are not going to spin up their own drupal website. Want solution that allows all skill levels to participate.

JP
https://osf.io Open Science Framework

Marty - CRM is for tracking people, personnel, tied to collaboration. Membership in a group gives access to that group's resources.

Marty -
     Github for sharing code. Only synth and IMC need to share code.
     Everything else: calendars, agendas, links to meetings, archives of old notes and docs.
Best practices, Intro Manual. BP re diversity. Graphic resources.
     Those types of things we (NCO) tries to maintain in doc archive.
     In a community platform there are automated ways of shifting those priorities. (?)

Stevan
     Hybrid: ie CRM for some needs, plus github for code-oriented things.
Marty
     How to preserve links in more general system.

     What Tim liked was one place to go to learn his job.
     Want that type of resource but not for public NCO website, which has to be general.

Corinna
     Training material / informational that not nec for IM.
     IM website was scoured by people teaching themselves IM (i.e., there was tremendous interest in this resource outside of the LTER)

Workshops well documented, exercises, presentations. More public-facing but specific to IMs. Margaret has moved over parts of im.lternet (the 5 phases) to EDI.

Marty

Final products ok to put on NCO public website document archives.
The IM site is for in-progress things. Community platform for that.

Corinna

Moving something from a drupal website is not the same as putting something in a doc archive.
Need to figure out who is going to go thru the im.lternet, decide what to keep.
A lot of work to get the content out.

Jason D

3 people on WiReD. Was 5 people 3 years ago, showed IMC the map, got no volunteers.

Margaret

Have notes, material. Last touched last summer. Recc who to move what where. Almost none happened.
Maybe not git.

Suggestions from 2019-07-08 VTC
- Corinna: would like a decision
- Corinna: who will do the work?
- JP: just dealt with this for DataBits - how to present these materials
- MOB: WiRED came up with a process, which got hung up on the use of GitHub, which Marty added that that may be a sign that GH is not the best solution.
- Marty: would like to see a similar process/platform as used for the Education Committee, Executive Committee, and other groups. Most of what the IMC needs to do is identical to the needs of other groups. Need to add this important point to this document.
- Chris: we should assess the IMC's needs relative to the other groups, which Marty would love
- Corinna: the IMC resources have been immensely helpful to the wider community (i.e., not just LTER IMs).
- Stevan: options are wide open so we could consider hybrid systems where we use whatever platform that the NCO adopts for most of our needs, then use GH or whatever else as needed

III. Questions for NSF

see proposed questions to NSF (separate link)

Peter attending in person.

Stress importance of stable infrastructure.
Applaud that EDI was recommended for funding.

JP

Tell them about successes especially if we are going to highlight the importance of infrastructure.

Corinna

    Ask nsf how IMs can support synth WG.
    How can site IMs best support data re-use?
    Past emphasis was on just getting the data in.

JP

    Emphasize that we have more data than most places, and that PASTA+ is the gold standard of data systems.

MGB

    Other repos, D1

Suggestions from 2019-07-08 VTC
- JP: Highlight our successes. NSF is asked all of the time to fund this or that - they want to see tangible results.
- Corinna: ask how they suggest IMs can support data reuse. So much of the focus has been on getting the data into a system. Well, we have been and are quite successful at that, should we now shift some focus to getting the data out?
- JP: PASTA+ is the gold standard for repositories.
- Gastil: the last set of RFPs dictated that LTER data do not necessarily have to be archived with EDI that they could be archived with BCO DMO, for example, the important thing is that they are archived. Has enough time elapsed that we can evaluate whether that approach has worked.
- Gastil: is it still LTER data if the data are archived with BCO DMO?
- Gastil: How much do we care about LTER branding? Is EDI now synonymous with LTER data, and should we be thus be pushing EDI branding?
- Gastil: should we ask about the future of DataONE?
- Corinna: absolutely ask about the future of DataONE, and do so directly