IM VTC - 2010-04-22

purpose
- specific IM supplement
- our data needs to be available as a network resource
  - linked to data access issues in network
- improving EML - PASTA-ready
- other tools taking advantage of EML
  - looking for projects that make site data more available
- adoption of network standards
- want to do an "around the room" and describe what projects they have in mind for the supplement
  - try to identify some general topics / collaboration

around the room

NTL
- working with group using DRUPAL CMS for web
  - LUQ, SEV, VCR already using
  - PIE, ARC planning on switching
  - NTL also moving things into Drupal
- inigo and marsh have developed a lot of LTER functionality there
  - forms for EML metadata
  - personnel — been exchanging content-types
  - research projects
- underlying database model for storing EML will be standard for those sites using Drupal
  - want to extend model
  - common model would help develop common tools with or without Drupal
- proposing 4 tools
  - query generator tool to extract data from research databases in database system
  - semi-automated metadata generation — link research data structure -> eml
    - database centric
  - makes sure data and EML correspond
  - integrate web service clients to consume units etc. and integrate into EML editor
  - MYSQL/drupal database to EML converter (in PERL)
    - creates XML
    - want to make into another Drupal module that is easy to plug in
- questions
  - programmer at NTL and LNO — how will funding be used?
  - funds will chip in money
  - want funds to go directly to one site - and everyone else would forego part of their request
  - social science organization example - they sent email to all the sites listed amount not to be asked for

Drupal
- NTL
- LUQ
- SEV
- VCR
- PIE
- ARC ?

AND
- not yet ready to move into Drupal framework for EML
  - but have data in database
  - use metadata file to structure database
  - and use lots of stylesheet transformations
- want to better match up our underlying system and EML

adapting GCE IM System

pooling

SBC
- working with Gastil, John Chamblee and Wade
- Gastil will be taking care of data model modifications
- I will work on generating EML from it
  - currently use PERL scripts
  - working towards web services
  - lots of similarities with Drupal.... switchboard
  - right now mostly text tables
- questions
  - still thinking about how to maintain data
  - side project
  - EML stylesheets?

MCR
- impressed with Drupal group
  - interested in seeing data model
  - not switching to Drupal but maybe pieces
  - would also like to look at Drupal data model
- looked at GCE data model and would like to have that functionality
  - the more they resemble one another the better
  - plan to port GCE data model to Postgres
  - and add some generalizations

GCE
- already has PASTA-ready IM system
- planning to port GCE system for use at CWT
- plans to add some generalizations making more portable
- eventually will migrate from SQL-Server to postgreSQL

CWT
- plans to adopt GCE system

SGS
- revising data model at SGS
- improving metadata-data links in relational database
- want to capture metadata with web forms
- timeline of models
  - milestones
  - benchmark papers
  - evolution over time
- SGS has rich history of modeling - interest in documentation of models
  - could explore in group
- data integration - work with GDI - publication of integrated datasets
  - grassland data integration group

CAP
- only limited time here
- backend loading of pulling data from researchers is something I'd like to reduce
- improve researcher awareness, extend more standards to data preparation - get fewer forms in....

VCR
- interest in Drupal project
  - were considering revamping metadata system anyway
- also workflows for data submission
- improve QA/QC
- questions
  - have looked at Kepler for workflows at NTL
    - looking for ways to better document
    - Kepler helps provide framework
    - would help with exchanges

JRN
- will put money into getting data into database
- don't want to reinvent wheel for database structures
- looking at using POSTGRES

Inigo
- have been working on making data model more transparent to the community
  - see Databits
- like the idea that people seem to be on the same page....

HBR
- still deciding on specific projects
  - lots of site specific stuff
  - wireless sensor network - nearly fully functional - but still needs 3 months of tuning
  - legacy datasets that need to be captured
    - lots of strip charts in basement
      - want to scan those
  - evaluation of IM found student resources needed to be updated
  - physical sample archive being revamped
  - historical slides need to be scanned - go back to 1950s
- discussion
  - lots of sites dealing with sensor networks
    - would be good to join forces on that
    - take advantage of lessons learned

PAL/CCE
- travel and professional development
  - would be good to put aside $1000 for cross-site visits
  - did not hear mention of travel.... we use that to get folks to IM meeting
  - need line item if you want to use it...
- unit registry work
  - if you want to incorporate it, mention it in your supplement
  - if you want help or consultation or to visit, that will be possible
    - I can send out suggested text
- our funds will go towards supporting existing team
  - metadata completeness
  - do some vocabulary development and category development to help with attribute standardization
  - more standardized approach to missing values, taxonomic information
  - refactoring our data model- relationships of projects to subjects
    - interested in some other data models

PIE/ARC
- interested in Drupal
- MBL has been leader in using Drupal
  - Encyclopedia of Life
  - also LifeDesk
  - they are excited to see Ecology get involved
  - power in leveraging
  - MBL will have huge Drupal server

SEV
- still working on fleshing out some details
- need some personnel time for data entry
- QA/QC
- plan to do some trial runs with Kepler
- in addition to Drupal work
- getting GIS metadata into EML
- we have several sensor networks - need good way to manage and do QA/QC

In attendance
- AND — Don Henshaw
  - Suzanne Remillard
- NTL — Corinna Gries
- MCR — M.Gastil-Buhl
- PIE — Hap Garrit
- LNO — James Brunt
  - Yang Xia, the new Network IM
- CCE/PAL — Karen Baker
- VCR — John Porter
- JRN — Ken Ramsey
- SEV — Kristin Vanderbilt
- SBC — Margaret O'Brien
- HBR — John Cambell
  - Lindsey Rusted, Forest Service
- SGS — Nicole Kaplan
  - Bob Flynn
- Inigo Sangil
- CAP — Philip Tarrant

discussion
- data systems need to be able to export and IMPORT EML documents — is hard to do for all different types of eml
- glad that we had good VTC call for sharing
- really should consider putting in some travel money
  - get sites together with sensor data
  - get started on NEXT years supplement
- could do a good in-person brainstorming session
  - sensors
  - QA/QC
  - cross-site visit with trusted colleague
- be thinking ahead about next year - we do have 3rd day of IMC meeting in September
- our plan is part of 3 year plan, this year is just part of what we need to do!
- VTCs work well!
- may want to share Databits articles related to activities BEFORE deadline