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Mon, 07/07/2008 - 11:52am — [cgries](#) ^[1]

Report on IMExec, EB and Science Council:

Outline 'A year in review':

ISSE submitted, end of planning grant, Link to bound version: <http://www.lternet.edu/decadalplan/> ^[2]

ChemDB may be moving

Planning for training, let's keep a running wish list on the IM website!

EIMC planning, Link to conference website:

<https://conference.ecoinformatics.org/index.php/eim/eim2008> ^[3]

Genomics meeting – Inigo to participate for comparing metadata efforts, Link to publication:

Defining Linkages between the GSC and NSF's LTER Program: How the Ecological Metadata Language (EML) Relates to GCDML and Other Outcomes

Budget estimates for NSF

IM Exec Winter meeting, Log in and link to IMExec section:

http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/news/committees/im_exec ^[4]

IMExec governance changes

NSF and NCAR workshop for EONs on collaboration and leveraging efforts – FEON, link to CI for Environmental Observatories Community web site.

CI implementation plan, Log in and Link to NISAC page:

<http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/news/committees/NISAC> ^[5]

EML release

IMC meeting planning and agenda, login and view <http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/news/meetings/2008>

^[6]

Communication with IMC – update VTC sessions, Link to the “virtual water cooler”:

EB and Science Council meeting Baltimore

DataBits next year on Drupal

Proposal in response to rfp

SiteBytes? What else?

Priorities and feedback on working groups for IMC meeting: enhancing communication, partnership with LNO, outreach activities (EIMC), working groups (EML, training, GIS, units, controlled vocab), facilitate CI implementation planning with NISAC – leveraging each other's efforts, data access, CI survey for ASM09.

A. IM Conference Call - 07/07/2008

B. In attendance

1. Gries
2. Sheldon
3. Boose
4. Benson

- 5. Balsiger
- 6. another from NTL
- 7. Remillard
- 8. Brunt
- 9. Jason
- 10. Vanderbilt
- C. rules for VTC
 - 1. keep muted when not talking!
 - 2. raise hand and be recognized
 - 3. how to reduce echo
 - a) turn off echo supression using wrench Icon
 - b) in audio
 - c) needed when using a headset
- D. Drupal site
 - 1. intranet.lternet.edu
 - 2. finding things under committees
 - 3. IMEXEC and NISAC notes are there for viewing
- E. Update for today - Activities of IMEXEC, EB, and Science Council
 - 1. Highlights
 - a) ISSE and Decadal Plan submitted
- ChemDB
 - a> LTER-wide DB on water and soil chemistry
 - 1> Forest service already working on
 - 2> Andrews LTER has some money for this
 - c) Training
 - 1) keep ideas for training coming
 - a> can add to Drupal web site....
 - b> good to have series of good ideas
 - 2) past training was very successful at LNO
 - d) EIMC - Environmental Information Management Conference
 - 1) turning out the way we envisioned it at last meeting
 - 2) mostly regular attendees and guests of LTER meeting
 - 3) about 70 people, 30 really good papers
 - e) Genomics Meeting (short notice!)
 - 1) in UK needed LTER representative, intro to EML
 - 2) Wade
 - a> Working group -Tom Schmitt at Kellogg interested in cross-site genomics working group
 - 1> looking for more LNO support
 - 2> want to link sequence data with enviroinmental data
 - 3> Genome Standards Consortium in UK looking at metadata standards
 - a: Inigo San Gil attended to represent LTER to present EML
 - b: James circulated paper resulting from meeting
 - c: RCN proposal submitted to work on this
 - 1: more formal working relationship
 - d: Inigo has lots of good information he can share
 - b> Brunt
 - 1> I think proposal has gone in based on communication with John Wooley
 - 2> lots of LTER authors on paper!
 - c> discussion
 - 1> they have an online editor for their metadata
 - a: turning schema into editor using XSLT stylesheet

f) NSF through EB, Gholz wanted budget estimates from IM and social scientists for working towards decadal plan implementation

1) on very short notice in Dec. combined parts from LNO budget plus funds for each site - 1 FTE per site, plus hardware

g) February Winter Meeting

1) planning and implementation of decadal plan, CI

2) enquiry on how to do governance - Barrie

a> do we need bylaws, formal rules

h) NSF invited Brunt, Gries and Kratz to attend multi-network meeting

1) aimed at collaboration

2) founding of FEON (Foundation of Ecological Observing Networks)

3) real need for collaboration and leveraging

4) history of these has not been that strong.... so we will need to see on this one

5) report will be made public and circulated

i) CI implementation plan - next time

j) new EML release

1) bug fixes needed to work with editors

2) waiting on NCEAS parser for Metacat being adapted so it will work with the new schema

k) Plans for IM meeting prior to EIMC

1) more later

l) VTC sessions

m) Science Council Meeting in Baltimore

1) interest in how ISSE and Decadal Plan implemented

a> advisory committee ACERE at NSF is writing "Greenbook"

1> to be ready to go when money becomes available

2) ULTRA program from Forest Service

a> 9 Urban Long Term Research sites

b> looking for some NSF funds as well

c> work on 8 areas from decadal plan

3) Network Science (more than cross site!)

a> 3 working groups based on ISSE

1> land and water use change

2> nutrients & species

3> climate

b> ideas for new proposals to CNH at NSF (coupled human natural systems)

n) Databits came out thanks to round the clock work

1) probably won't use online journal system - too labor intensive

o) proposal in response to LNO RFP for working groups

F. Questions for the Group

1. planning for next meeting

a) site bytes

1) nice chance to get input on lasting value of IM committee site

a> profile pages prepared by Inigo

b> would be good to update the site profiles

c> list of development projects

d> a "running site byte"

- e> could be compiled and distributed via meeting
- 2) not sure what site descriptions talked to
- a> in IM Guide, site profiles, metadata guide
- b> could add another subject for each meeting
- c> you can add to Personnel in IM Guide more info
- 1> in edit, there is place for IM skills
- a: each word becomes a link
- b: so can pull up list of "experts"
- 2> would be good for this to replace older surveys of software and hardware
- 3) always good to know the innovative things being done
- a> even if developing better site profile, still good to have bullets
- 4) what is NEW is critical - site bytes and profile both valuable - but different goals
- 5) would be good to add link for IM personal home pages
- a> can be done
- 2. Working groups ideas?
- a) no feedback!
- b) wait - here is some
- c) need to plan for ASM Meeting
- d) LNO looking for ASM organizers
- e) how about a group aimed at the topic of the proposal to the LNO
- f) more controversial "Speed dating" idea :)
- 1) different subjects at different tables
- 2) need better description for rotating icebreakers....
- a> "Power Mixing"
- 3) need to be disciplined!
- 4) did something similar at NSF workshop
- a> round-robin visiting different observatories - focusing on what each observatory did
- 3. Feedback on VTC
- a) good!
- b) want to have way to share presentations etc.
- 1) most solutions would cost....
- 2) want to do some testing
- 3) even google Docs might work
- 4) Drupal just bought Meritek - waiting to see what is going on there
- c) Thanks for conveying so much information in direct way - getting everyone up to speed!
- G. Review of VTC
- 1. like new tech
- 2. worked fine after reboot!
- a) good learning opportunity
- 3. my video still flickers but went well
- 4. went well - smashing
- 5. nice to have short regular briefings
- a) agenda online helps
- 6. filled hour well - thanks for coming - see you in 2 weeks
- H. NEXT VTC
- 1. see Wade presentation on NISAC CI progress is already posted

on web page

a) he will circulate link via email

8 JULY 2008

attending: Jim Laundre, Wade Sheldon, Theresa Valentine, Don Henshaw, Margaret O'Brien, Karen Baker, Nicole Kaplan, Susan Stafford, Inigo San Gil, Dan Bahauddin

1. topics for discussion: enhancing communication, partnership with LNO, outreach activities (EIMC), working groups (EML, training, GIS, units, controlled vocab), facilitate CI implementation planning with NISAC
2. Website content
3. IM Meeting Draft Agenda

1 Year in Review

1.1 planning grant finished and ISSE submitted

1.2. training for IMs, in May attended by reps from 20+ sites. We need to keep a list of future training topics, so are ready if funding becomes available. This is an action item for the website.

1.3. be sure to visit EIMC website: <https://conference.ecoinformatics.org/index.php/eim/index> ^[7]

1.4 genomics - Inigo attended mtg on metadata standards discussions. Genomics community is interested in integrating their metadata standard with EML. Particularly, they have no way to integrate genomics data with environmental data. [INIGO: ADD THE PARTICIPATING ORGS HERE, PLEASE]

1.5 EML update - 2.1.0 repairs some schema errors, final release is waiting on some bug fixes in the eml-parser and metacat (metacat fixes are nearly done). For details on the release candidate see DataBits, Spring 2008 issue: <http://databits.lternet.edu/index.php/databits/issue/current> ^[8] (under "Tools and Programs" this link may change) [MOB zip up RC and POST A LINK TO IT HERE] Next steps: develop survey to determine microbial ecology across network and how to accommodate these types of data.

1.6 CI estimates requested by Phil Robertson, Chair EB, for initiating the decadal plan,
o Site level - 1-FTE , hardware/software and travel, training, partnerships, 150,000/yr, 80,000 start-up
o Network level , 1.25 NIS- PASTA implementation, 1 FTE data mgt of NIS mods, 1 FTE communication and training infrastructure, 2 annual training workshops and rich media software half million/yr, w/100,000 start-up
It was suggested, we should have estimates of costs for our projects scaled for funding 2 yrs in the future; funding is not likely to be soon.

1.7 Governance - at the winter meeting, imexec talked about changes to our organization, so that we might address new CI developments better. WE need to clarify roles of EB, Sci board, nisac and IMC to better advance standards, best practices, protocols, and other community resources. Also, we need to find a way to get IMs funded to work on collaborative tools more quickly that it happens now.

1.8 IMC rep to EB: Corinna has taken over from Don.

1.8 EB notes appended from May 08 IMexec VTC

1.8.1 Phil Taylor: status of decadal plan. gone to bio advisory committee, ISSE work has really had an impact - thank you Barbara.

1.8.2 Environmental Research and Education (ERE). producing a "green book". NSF would like to start some env programs back up, which were dropped to min levels. LTER needs to be positioned in this effort.

1.8.3 ULTRA (initative from forest service) 9 urban LT research sites. Forest service in discussions with NSF for their buy in. If so, OTRA sites will be integrated into LTER. If no NSF buy in, then FS choses 4-5 sites. NSF will not go with pre-selected sites. Intention is not to cut any existing lter site funding.

1.8.4 CNH proposals (Coupled Natural-human Systems program): find questions addressing

network level science (beyond cross-site). Slight shift in perception of value of network activity.

1.8.5 misc: talks: forest fires in arctic, kelp forest and coastal ecosystems, ted gragson: experience with teaching an online class.

150k at lno for workshops: WGs met based on ISSE themes: land-water use change (well-organized), climate change (enso flooding, fire, ...), ____ and species change (next SC meeting organized around connectivity)

1.8.6 LNO survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=0tU6xC3MXqBQoVeVW6ZkyTUZQE2PioNno> [9]...) (Brunt)

1.8.7 Main areas needing improvement

Grad students are uninformed. Their web pages out of date.

Doc archive hard to navigate, and finding info hard.

remote sensing archive not really used (10%). No proven need yet - most people who use RS data don't depend on network for it. A network RS project could change this, and then probably better to acquire data, not imagery

1.8.8 LNO provides virtual servers for some sites. All sites should know about this service.

1.8.9 Sites want lno to offer web services

1.9 Supplementary proposals: IMC putting together a proposal for a scientific project descriptions DB. Emails have been circulated among im regarding this.

1.10 site bytes: these will be requested as in past years, but input will be on the drupal page. See the "Site Profiles" section, Email request for site byte will be soon.

1.11 other project that may be of interest: LNO has initiated migration of climdb/hydrodb to network office, with nsf supplement.

1.12 chemDB - what is the model to be for this database? This discussion could belong in the NISAC hour (or a wg in September). there are lots of issues to consider about how new DBs arise, are implemented, pros and cons, and their timelines. Discussion belongs at times of change, i.e., now.

1.13 ChemDB notes appended after the vtc meeting by Don Henshaw: Background on ChemDB - This is primarily stream chemistry sample measurement data, but other water or soil chemistry data can be considered. The thinking was that this could be implemented within the ClimDB/HydroDB framework. The Andrews received USFS R&D funds (\$25K) to work on this - develop specific metadata, consider data harvest structure, modify ClimDB, and do some test harvesting - although only preliminary work has been conducted to date. This was largely driven by Andrews PIs working within the context of USFS experimental watersheds and an ad-hoc LTER hydrology ASM working group (and also a working group at the Portland SC meeting 2007). Primary issues in development are related to the need for datetime values for grab sample data (ClimDB is daily) and possibly monthly data (aggregation issues are not general and some sites are not willing to share raw data). A request was made by Julia Jones (AND) to the Exec Board to have the network match this funding through LNO support or other means. The EB questioned whether EcoTrends could support this and the request was to be forwarded to NISAC for consideration. This topic will need more discussion.

1.14 ChemDB notes appended after the vtc meeting by Don Henshaw: ClimDB migration is in its early stages. The plan is to implement in its current form - primarily SQLServer2000 and Perl. Hopefully we can complete this by October 2008. Both the LNO and the Andrews received supplemental funding for this migration.

2. Website

2.1 IM website. These reviews are available from News -> Virtual Updates

3. agenda for IMC 2008 - Decisions on working groups theme snad the number of break-out groups will be made as community-wide updates and Imexec VTCs continue over the summer months. If you have any ideas please contact a member of IMexec.

Virtual Updates [10]

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