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Project Database for LTER Sites

Mon, 10/06/2008 - 9:06am — [cgries](#) [1]

This project is creating a common framework for exchanging information on active and legacy research projects at sites and will use EML as the exchange standard. Experiments or projects are central to all research endeavors, and LTER sites usually encompass many. Research projects are commonly documented at the site-level in order to maintain records for annual reporting, field site permissions, coordination of research activities in space and time, and for linking datasets and other products to individuals. In a centralized database at the network level, however, well-documented research projects with a common search interface provide a wealth of information on past and present research activities and opportunities for cross-site collaboration. The goal of this working group was to build such a database and provide user friendly access for management by individual sites and search across all sites. The database was established at the Network office and interfaces built using an architecture which allows individual LTER sites to access information without further programming effort. The network-adopted schema (EML) was used as the basis for the database storage and for information exchange via web service.

A database was designed and built using an adapted version of the EML schema's project module and the open-source native XML database, "eXist" (<http://eXist-db.org> [2]). This approach takes advantage of our network standard, and uses a framework which is already equipped to deliver data as a web service. The group took advantage of the participant's different skills and interests to accomplish the tasks. Forms for editing and maintenance of project data were initiated. The following examples represent some of the uses of the database:

1. General browsing, i.e., search by site or within the entire LTER by person, time, place, lat/long or keyword.
2. Maintain records of datasets, images, publications or other material associated with a project or experiment
3. Maintain material used in reporting to funding bodies
4. Record permits associated with a project, either as the grantor or the granted
5. Export EML-project "trees" for inclusion in datasets

Example pages are here:

http://gce-lter.marsci.uga.edu/public/research/project_search.htm [3]

<http://sbc.lternet.edu/research/catalog> [4]

http://beslter.org/frame7-page_13.html [5]

See this [databits article](#) [6] for more general information about the 2008/2009 workshops and the [documentation](#) [7] for technical details.

Sites implementing the database have described their experiences in databits articles

GCE, 2101: <http://databits.lternet.edu/fall-2010/implementing-projectdb-georgia-coa...> [8]

SBC, 2011: <http://databits.lternet.edu/fall-2011/santa-barbara-coastal-sbc-lters-im...> [9]

There are several articles about the projectDB model in databits; use the databits search box


Workshop 1: November 17-19, 2008

Attended in person at the network office by: Margaret O'Brien (SBC), Corinna Gries (CAP), Jonathan Walsh (BES), Ken Ramsey (JRN), Suzanne Remillard (AND), Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV); and via Polycom VTC: Wade Sheldon (GCE), John Porter (VCR), Sven Bohm (KBS), Jason Downing (BNZ).

Workshop 2: April 20-24, 2009

Attended in person at the network office by Margaret O'Brien (SBC), Corinna Gries (CAP), , Jonathan Walsh (BES), Wade Sheldon (GCE) Raul Aguilar (CAP); and via VTC by John Porter (VCR) and Sven Bohm (KBS), as available. Network support was provided by James Brunt (LNO) and Mark Servilla (LNO).

Downloads

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Resources**Development**

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Source URL: <http://im.lternet.edu/project/LTERProjectDatabase>

Links:

- [1] <http://im.lternet.edu/user/24>
- [2] <http://eXist-db.org>
- [3] http://gce-lter.marsci.uga.edu/public/research/project_search.htm
- [4] <http://sbc.lternet.edu/research/catalog>
- [5] http://beslter.org/frame7-page_13.html
- [6] <http://databits.lternet.edu/node/33>
- [7] <http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/project/LTERProjectDatabase/documentation>
- [8] <http://databits.lternet.edu/fall-2010/implementing-projectdb-georgia-coastal-ecosystems-lter>
- [9] <http://databits.lternet.edu/fall-2011/santa-barbara-coastal-sbc-lters-implementation-projectdb-using-metabase>
- [10] <http://im.lternet.edu/node/367/release>
- [11] <http://im.lternet.edu/node/367/release/feed>
- [12] http://im.lternet.edu/node/add/project_release/367
- [13] <http://im.lternet.edu/node/367/edit/releases>
- [14] [http://im.lternet.edu/project/issues/search/LTERProjectDatabase?status\[\]=8&status\[\]=13&status\[\]=14](http://im.lternet.edu/project/issues/search/LTERProjectDatabase?status[]=8&status[]=13&status[]=14)
- [15] <http://im.lternet.edu/taxonomy/term/215>
- [16] <http://im.lternet.edu/taxonomy/term/61>