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Fri, 11/06/2009 - 6:28pm — [dhenshaw](#) ^[1]

9 November 2009 11-12 MDT

Participants

Members: Don Henshaw, Margaret O'Brien (co-chairs), Sven Bohm, Emery Boose, Hap Garritt, Corinna Gries, Suzanne Remillard

Topics

1. Drupal
2. Agenda for 19 Nov VTC
3. EML Metrics
4. Data Standardization
5. EB Report

1. Drupal

Drupal is powerful but has a steep learning curve. It offers the potential to leverage development time across the LTER network. SEV and LUQ were first adopters, ARC and PIE were added after the ASM workshop.

Other committee members agree that the letter from the co-chairs to Kristin regarding Drupal training at LNO was appropriate. Drupal is promising but should be evaluated in the context of other developments. How would Drupal facilitate data exchange among sites and with other applications?

There is some urgency to Kristin's request and to the need to find shared solutions.

The Drupal working group could choose to submit a post-ASM proposal. At this point only Inigo and Marsh know Drupal well. A workshop might be an opportunity to build common templates and modules. Or Drupal might be implemented on a site by site basis with assistance from LNO. The current lunch meetings are helping with technology transfer.

Even with common templates and modules, sites would need to develop their own modifications and so would need to gain some expertise. Drupal is open source and has a large user base.

2. Agenda for 19 Nov VTC

Discussion with Todd Crawl. NSF would like to devote the "Other" section (\$25k) in next round of LTER supplements to IM / IT and would like help in wording the RFP. There may be a possibility of pooling funds for several or all sites.

Need for a multi-year plan. E.g. start with EML metrics. Can we anticipate supplemental funds for several years? The idea of using "Other" funds for NIS development has been around for a while.

Suggestion: require all sites to have EML 2.1 and to run EML metrics by end of next year. Each site would still need to write a proposal based on the site's EML needs.

A reporting tool would be essential. Perhaps Duane or someone at LNO or NCEAS could write one. A reporting tool would benefit users beyond the LTER community.

LTER sites often rely on the \$25k for other things so there may be some resistance. But supplements are the beginning of an effort to direct IM / IT funds to sites.

High quality EML will be needed for other developments in the future so this would be a good investment.

3. EML Metrics

See ASM working group report posted by Margaret.

EML metrics might be developed with a few VTCs and may not need a workshop. But careful evaluation may reveal additional problems. Duane and Ben are already doing preliminary work.

Efforts to read EML automatically have revealed problems with existing EML (e.g. EcoTrends). The current Data Management Library is good at this but does not include informative reports. Problems include: data does not match metadata, data includes unexpected characters, metadata is not rich enough, etc.

Working group met at ASM for preliminary discussion. Extend existing EML schema and parser. EML 2.1 has stronger typing and would help.

See flowchart for examples of possible failure points. Identify problems that are not easy to fix and may require an extension of a site's system. Range checking, basic statistics, etc could be added or deferred to a later version.

A meeting may be required to identify the requirements of a reporting system. A straw man version would be helpful.

Report function might be added to the econinformatics website (next to EML parser). Batch processing would require something more. Goal is not just to parse EML, but to compare EML to data table. Units, etc could be added. Reporting function could be modularized (e.g. not all groups will use LTER keywords).

Current members of WG: Margaret, Emery, Dan, LNO / NCEAS programmers. Ben is code writer. Good to include Matt and/or Mark.

Report showing metadata completeness would be very helpful. E.g. no sites have used constraint module to date. Continue to build on EML best practices.

IM-Exec could identify reporting needs. Ideally system would work with individual files, harvest list, command line parser, and Metacat. How to cover programmer costs?

Include as half or full day agenda item at winter IM-Exec meeting. Invite econinformatics collaborators via VTC as needed. Timing is good as supplements are not normally due until

March.

Don will check with Chin regarding the possibility of meeting in Taiwan. The group in Taiwan uses these tools so collaboration might be useful. But meeting with LNO and NCEAS staff might be easier in Albuquerque.

4. Data Standardization

Discuss at beginning of 19 Nov VTC. Wade will participate. Include Mark Servilla if possible. What do sites need to do to use Pasta?

Data structure and data base models. LNO and NCEAS are developing for the wide range of data models found in LTER. Process might be accelerated if we could agree on a few data models.

Inclusion of ClimDB / HydroDB into Pasta would be facilitated with a shared observational model. Matt Jones is working on this problem. Possible ISO standard under development.

5. EB Report

Post-doc at CDR is writing LTER history. Historian at NSF is writing history of BIO directorate. Someone else is writing about LTER governance.

Do we want to write something about LTER information management? Nicole and Karen are working on an IM history.

LNO operational plan. IMC to review in early Dec. Jan 20 meeting with external reviewers in Albuquerque.

Need to get winter IM-Exec meeting on the calendar.

Discuss plans for summer IMC meeting in 3 Dec VTC. Corinna and Hap will follow up with candidate sites. Mid-August to mid-September. Identify range of dates before setting up Doodle.

Related Links

- [Metrics for Data Package Quality Working Group Report \(364\)](#) ^[2]

Attachment

Size

[NISAC CIIP IMC Working Group ASM2009.pdf](#) ^[3] 106.21 KB

[Meeting Notes](#) ^[4]

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