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Wednesday, May 25, 2011 -- 10:00-12:00 MST

Participants

Members: Don Henshaw, Margaret O'Brien (co-chairs), Dan Bahauddin, Sven Bohm, Emery Boose, Corinna Gries, Suzanne Remillard
Ex officio: Yang Xia

Topics

1. IM Website
2. EB report
3. Controlled Vocabulary Workshop
4. Science Council Meeting
5. NISAC
6. ClimDB Migration
7. EIMC BoF Sessions
8. Water Cooler Schedule

1. IM Website

The migration of the IM website to Drupal 6 is underway but not complete. Some materials are not yet linked but can be found by searching. Corinna is working with Marshall to complete the migration.

Meanwhile there is a concern that materials are still being added to the old site. Perhaps the login for the old site could be disabled?

2. EB Report

The EB met for one day on May 17 immediately before the Science Council meeting at GCE.

Transformative science narratives. Missing from 7 sites (bullets are in). Requested by NSF for Congressional staffers. How can we best use them? Display on new LTER website, maybe replace site highlights on current website, rename as key findings for LTER use. Many will still be relevant in 10 years.

Macrosystems program. Five proposals recently funded. NSF required contracts to archive data with LTER (4) or NEON (1). Contracts included cost recovery negotiated between parties. NSF is looking for realistic estimates of data management costs. Other programs are coming to us

because we do IM well. Scaling issue for the network if the number of requests increases significantly. We need some clear guidance from NSF.

NEON and LTER are natural collaborators with overlapping communities. NEON is contracting with Oracle for data management.

LNO evaluation. The EB is charged by the LTER bylaws with conducting an annual evaluation of LNO. Set milestones for coming year at this meeting. Recent survey of the LNO was mostly positive.

LTER communications. Key and recurring issue (network & site, internal & external). Need for LTER point person trained in communications. Stark contrast to NEON which has excellent visibility.

LNO budget. ASM is typically funded by supplements to LNO (not part of LNO budget). Cost is about \$0.5M. Need to conserve funds now.

LNO milestones. Bob will revise current draft to better align with the SIP and identify potential conflicts with the operational plan (now part of cooperative agreement).

LNO competition. NSF is planning an open competition in two years. Last time the Coordinating Committee was able to throw its weight in favor of Albuquerque. Maybe address in the next LNO site review. A new BIO assistant director could change course. Important to show that LNO is meeting our needs now. Bob would welcome a rethinking of where LNO should go in future.

LNO spatial data. Recommendation two years ago to discontinue spatial data holdings or update them. Not widely used. Ad hoc spatial committee will make recommendations.

LNO virtual servers and data storage. Not widely used at present. Should these services be expanded and offered to sites? Commercial costs are \$100-\$1000/year for virtual servers and \$1000/year per terabyte for storage.

National Advisory Board. Recent report was supportive but underwhelming. EB will compile a response to show how we are acting on recommendations.

SC business meeting. Rotation of sites for upcoming SC meetings: AND 2012, JRN 2013, MCR 2014, then some combination of CWT, HFR, and KNZ.

IM training proposal. Modularize materials for online distribution. Important to meet in person the first time. EB approved proposal for In-person course in Jan 2012 and recommended subsequent development of an online course (possibly for credit).

Committee reports. Reports of eleven committees were reviewed. The EB will let committees know that they are expected to meet regularly (at least once or twice between ASMs). Ask committees to take ownership of parts of the SIP. Positive comments for IMC and NISAC.

Synthesis data committee. Reactivated as an ad hoc committee. Current tasks are to identify pilot sites and develop a statement of work. Nine sites have responded. The EB will ask the committee for its recommendation.

Schoolyard book series. Current book fund is nearly depleted. Request to NSF for additional funds. SIP recommends hiring an educational coordinator. Request to EB for LNO support will be taken under consideration (no funds at present).

Nancy Huntly (NSF).

30-year report. Expected by end of May. Directed more to NSF than to LTER. Overall tone was very supportive. Improve data access.

NSF budgets. Final operating budget for current FY expected by end of month. Some supplement money may be available (less than last year).

LTER program officer. 30-year report recommends a permanent program officer for LTER. Plans are under discussion at NSF. Matt Kane and LTER cluster will continue next year. LTER program will likely be run by a team of permanent and rotating staff.

ASM 2012. Concern about funding. High priority.

ULTRA program. Unlikely to fund more than one next year, but Forest Service would like to see 6-8 sites in near future. Relationship to LTER needs to be sorted out at higher levels.

LTER renewal proposals. Solicitations available by end of summer.

3. Controlled Vocabulary Workshop

Controlled vocabulary workshop. Attended by three scientists. Good feedback on vocabulary, data searching and use. See new website (<http://vocab.lternet.edu> [2]) which includes places for individual site vocabularies.

Committee VTC on June 1. Water cooler in July. Training workshop for site vocabularies in 2012. Regular weekly meetings of committee on EVO (all welcome).

Remaining issues: common vs. unique terms, mapping site terms to preferred terms. No zero hits because every term refers to at least one dataset.

4. Science Council Meeting

Two-day meeting on May 18-19 at GCE. Plenary talks, four working groups, field trip. Scientific topic was climate change. Up to 8 IMs at the meeting. At least one IM per working group. Some discussion of synthetic data products.

Business meeting. ISSE conceptual framework has had mixed success. Not touted by last LTER review panel.

Lead PI meeting after SC meeting. First of its kind. Summary of successes and failures from earlier reviews.

Common issues: inadequate response to mid-term review, need for better integration among research areas and team members, need to clearly link conceptual models and other models to research activities. Also: LTER should do research uniquely possible to the LTER program.

In general: education & outreach, IM drew praise. Others commented that IM efforts were not up to date or up to standards.

5. NISAC

Karen is rotating off NISAC. What is the nomination process? Can NISAC wait until the IMC meeting in September? NISAC has not identified the process since its ToR is not completed.

Karen is looking for comments on the ToR.

The term of membership is not clear in the current ToR. IMC members are elected in September, approved by the EB, included in email correspondence and teleconferences, but not official members until the next NISAC meeting in March.

Recommend replacing Karen at the annual IMC meeting. Solicit nominations this summer. Vote at IMC meeting.

Terms of reference. The original purpose of NISAC was to identify new NIS modules. Its current role in synthesis science is not clear. Add: participate in IM-Exec meetings, respond to EB and IMC requests, more focus on network information system. Send comments to Don by Friday morning.

Who will define these synthetic data products? This is a recurring issue.

6. ClimDB Migration

New committee will be formed: James, Yang, Don, Suzanne, maybe Wade. Water cooler in June. Maybe expand to form a new IMC working group (6-7 people).

Issues: How to integrate existing metadata into EML? Should data be aggregated at the site level or in PASTA? Should different data models be considered (e.g. Cuahsi ODM model)?

StreamChemDB is currently a set of relational tables. Some sites have not described their methods well.

Create a summary of the issues to review before the VTC.

Production workshop with ClimDB as test case for workflows in early 2012. Harvest into PASTA framework by end of 2012? Data portal may not be ready by then.

7. EIMC BoF Sessions

to see draft list: Meetings -> annual IMC meetings -> 2011 ...

LTER specific topics: value-added databases for synthesis, metadata quality with EML congruency tools.

EML congruency checker. In testing phase. 25-30 checks. Something will be available by September.

Broader appeal: managing spatial data, Internet mapping, new paradigm for IM with value added centrally, Drupal as a framework for developing IM tools, quality assurance for streaming data, managing code-models-workflows.

Other folks to invite: DataONE, NEON, macroproposal awardees, OGC, Kepler. Suggest to Matt Jones.

Develop descriptions on IM website by end of next week. Send to IMC for comment. Reduce to a list of 3 or 4 topics for submission.

Kepler has a repository for sharing workflows.

8. Water Cooler Schedule

Complicated by site reviews and summer vacations.

GIS working group update = August.

LNO update = September. Need to confirm. Include NIS update?

Insert extra sessions (tentative) for IMC working groups.

Contact working groups to see who wants a VTC.

Plan IMC 1-day meeting at next IM-Exec VTC. Identify WGs who want to meet. We should hear from the WGs who received money.

Attachment	Size
TermsOfRef_NISACV11_110516.doc [3]	38 KB

Meeting Notes [4]

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Links:

[1] <http://im.lternet.edu/user/27>

[2] <http://vocab.lternet.edu>

[3] http://im.lternet.edu/sites/im.lternet.edu/files/TermsOfRef_NISACV11_110516.doc

[4] <http://im.lternet.edu/taxonomy/term/3>