

Results Detail

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Status: Enabled

Reports: Summary and Detail

Displaying 1 of 26



Go

Respondent Type: Anonymous [Edit](#) / [Delete](#) this respondent

Email: empty

Name: empty

Custom Data: empty

IP Address: 128.143.43.235

Started Survey: 2/27/2007 2:10:55 PM **Ended Survey:** 2/27/2007 3:05:51 PM

2. LTER Site Name and survey user

1. What LTER Site do you represent? Please select the LTER site acronym:

VCR

2. Please enter any of the LTER roles, duties, committee affiliations of the PRIMARY information management personnel at your site:

LTER Site Principal Investigator (i.e. is a signatory PI on LTER grant)

3. What position(s) most closely matches the general job functions of the PRIMARY information management personnel at your site? (select any/all that apply)

Webmaster
Spatial Data Manager/Analyst
Researcher
Scientist
University Professor (any level)

3. General data/information management infrastructure

4. How many full time positions (FTE's) does your site CURRENTLY allocate for ALL information management (all types including data entry from technicians, data management specialists, web designers etc.) at your site? This will include all funding sources. LTER funding from NSF, supplements, other NSF grants, partnerships, cost share etc.

1.25

5. How many full time positions (FTE's) does your site allocate for information management from the LTER funding from NSF, including supplements? The amount here, when subtracted from the total in the previous question should equal the number of FTE's who are funded from OTHER sources (other grants, cost-share etc).

1.25

6. Please indicate the type of background and training of the PRIMARY site information management personnel. "Formal training" means coursework or certification.

Formal training or education in computer science. - Low
 Acquired (on the job training) computer science training. - High
 Formal training or education in data management/database software. - Low
 Acquired (on the job training) in data management/database software. - Medium
 Formal Ecological/Biological Science training or education. - High
 Acquired (on the job training) in Ecological/Biological Science. - High
 Formal GIS/Remote Sensing training or education. - Medium
 Acquired (on the job training) in GIS/Remote Sensing. - Medium
 Social Science or education. - Low
 Acquired (on the job training) in Social Science or education. - Low

7. Please RANK the following information management task areas, in order of effort at your site. The ranking should start with #1 being where you spend the most effort to #10 being where you spend the least effort. NOTE: You do NOT have to select all items if they don't apply. NO TWO can have equal importance - you have to decide...

General site data management including database development, data entry, providing data, archive and backup. - 2
 Web design, maintenance and update. - 9
 Software development (writing scripts and code). - 5
 Metadata generation - creation, update, registration, harvesting. - 8
 Information Management directly related to Network-level and cross-site research. - 3
 Site system administration - site-based hardware and network support. - 4
 User SYSTEM support - hardware help and support for site personnel. - 10
 General user support - non-hardware related help for site personnel such as answering software related questions, study design, statistics, modeling etc. - 1
 Site administration tasks (filling out paperwork, ordering supplies, doing hardware inventory etc). - 6
 Other tasks not included in the above. - 7

8. What type of training would be most useful at your site? Please rank the following in order of need or importance. Note: No two items can have the same rank, but DO NOT SELECT ITEMS THAT ARE UNIMPORTANT.

Database management systems. - 7
 Metadata, EML and EML implementation. - 1
 Spatial data/GIS. - 3
 Use of advance technology including new sensors. - 2
 Wireless data transmission. - 5
 Programming and script writing. - 6
 Personnel management. - Empty
 Proposal writing and preparation. - Empty
 Scientific publication. - Empty
 Web design, implementation. - 4

9. What major information management support, and level, is provided by the home/host institution(s) of your site rather than what your site provides for its own use? Select any that apply.

Email (use the home institution's email system rather than one supported primarily by the site) - 3
 Database (use the institution's database system) - 2
 Web servers (use the institutions web servers) - 1
 Computational Infrastructure (use the institution's computational infrastructure for analysis, statistics, modeling, etc. rather than the site's own infrastructure) - 2
 Network infrastructure support is provided by the home institution. - 3
 System administration is provided by the home institution - 2
 Technical support is provided by the institution - 2
 Institutional (site) software licensing or educational discount - 2

10. What type of collaboration tools are used at your site (select all that apply, and enter any other not listed here)?

Regularly scheduled meetings.
Telephone conferencing
Video conferencing.
Web tools for scheduling equipment, meeting rooms etc.
Web Calendars.

11. What type of collaborative cyberinfrastructure / information management partnerships (outside of LTER) is your site engaged in?

The site maintains an active collaboration with local or national USGS centers such as NBII.
Other (please describe) - Taiwan Ecological Research Network

4. Site metadata and EML implementation.

12. What percentage of all site data has corresponding structured METADATA OF ANY TYPE, including EML?

80

13. What percent of all site metadata has been converted to EML to at least the "identification" (base) level?

100

14. What percent of all site metadata has been converted to EML to the "discovery" level or beyond?

100

15. What percent of all site metadata has been converted to EML to the "integration" level or beyond?

100

16. Of the known site historical/legacy data - i.e. data the site might not consider part of its standard research data, what percentage has corresponding EML metadata (at any level)?

60

17. Of the known site GIS, including remote sensing data, what percentage of that total has corresponding EML metadata (at any level)?

20

18. Of the known site remote sensing data, what percentage of that total has corresponding EML metadata (at any level)?

20

19. About what percent of LTER site METAdata are registered/harvested in the LTER Metacat?

100

20. What percent of LTER site data have a direct link from the metadata, or the actual data are included in the metadata so that they can be directly accessed online?

0

5. Overview of site information management

21. What is the general way research data are managed at your site? Select all that apply.

Researchers at the site enter most of their data into the site information management system.

Site legacy data (historical data existing before the site was established) are included as part of the standard site LTER data.

Standard procedures or training exists for use by technicians and researchers to enter and manage their data.

Standard procedures or training exists for use by technicians and researchers to enter and manage their METAdata.

22. What type of quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedure does your site follow for site data? Select all that apply.

Researchers are responsible for QA/QC of their own data.

QA/QC guidelines are not necessarily followed for all site data (such as student thesis data).

23. Please RANK in order from 1 to 10, the primary users of your data with #1 being the most frequent user of your site data. Note: No two items can have the same rank - you have to decide...

Site principal investigator(s) - 5
 Site researchers (non-PI), technicians and staff. - 4
 Site students - 2
 Outside (non-site) researchers and students - 1
 Outside or collaborating student researchers - 3
 Government agencies, NSF, NASA etc. - 7
 Policy makers, congress, government - 9
 Litigators, lawyers etc. - 10
 General public - 8
 Others not listed here - 6

24. How does your site track users of data? Select any that apply.

Users are tracked from information collected through data use policy forms.

25. How are data generally distributed at your site? Select ALL that apply.

MOST site data are online and freely available and most data access does not require help from the site information manager(s).

A "data license" or data use agreement is required for data use.

Response to data access are tracked or recorded.

A procedure exists for access to sensitive or proprietary data - i.e. sensitive data is cataloged and a method to access the data exists.

26. On-line site data are provided through the following mechanisms: Select all that apply.

The site website provides direct access to data.

Site data are generally managed as "flat files" in an organized file system, not in a database.

Site data, stored as flat files or html/xml code are managed through a database system such as MySQL or Oracle.

Site data are managed through a database system such as MySQL or Oracle.

Site data are managed through a specialized system, software or scripts developed at the site.

27. In addition to off the shelf tools for information management, briefly describe what tools, if any your site has developed.

Other (please describe) - online web forms for metadata form processing software dynamic online maps

28. For GIS data maintained at the site (select all that apply):

Most original remote sensing data are available online.
Internet map services are used at the site for DISPLAY and SEARCH of GIS data.

6. LTER site instrumentation infrastructure

29. How are standard/routine meteorological data (data from more or less standard meteorological stations) collected/managed at the site ? For shipboard systems or buoys, use the closest method listed (select all that apply).

Meteorological data are collected by automated data logger systems, and later downloaded.
Meteorological data are collected by automated radio or wireless transmission and collected automatically.

30. What type of GPS location information is maintained for the LTER site? Please select all that apply, and add any information not listed here.

The site "boundary" is defined in spatial coordinates, for instance, a "shapefile" exists describing the site location.
The primary research site locations are maintained in a file or database.
The primary research site locations are publicly available on the site webpage.
High precision control points or benchmarks are established for reference at the LTER site.
Most research data are not generally stored with GPS location information.

31. What type of GPS equipment is available for use at the site (select all that apply).

High precision DGPS equipment (better than 3m accuracy) is available for use at the site (using regional base station or other methods of correction).
Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) enabled (better than 5m accuracy) GPS receivers are available for use at the site.

32. Besides conventional meteorological measurements, what type of sensor systems are routinely used for data collection at the site? This may vary for terrestrial and/or aquatic systems. In other words, does your site routinely collect specialized data in an AUTOMATED fashion? (Please specify or describe).

Other (please specify) - tide

33. The site has installed a wireless network for automated data collection at the site (this would include radio data transmission that is eventually linked directly to the internet).

Yes

7. LTER site computer infrastructure:

34. What PRIMARY Server architecture is used for SITE data management? (select all that apply)

Other Unix (SunOS etc) based systems

35. What archive and backup procedures are used at your site? (select all that apply)

The site uses a documented archive and backup plan.

Other (please describe - Data are backed up to network disk appliances located in a different building.

36. About what TOTAL data storage capacity does your site maintain for general LTER related data including backup capacity and other storage?

1tb

37. About what ONLINE data storage capacity does your site maintain for general LTER data and data distribution?

50gb

38. What is the primary link speed from the Home Institution(s) to the Internet? In other words, what kind of Internet connection does your primary site institution, university etc. have? For multiple institution sites, select what most have, or what the primary site institution has.

Internet link is greater than 1 GB/s

39. What type of internet capability is available for researchers at the Home Institution(s)? In other words, what is the general connection speed of your Local Area Network? Select the closest that applies.

Local Area Connection is 10mb/s

40. Wireless internet is available for researchers at the home institution.

Yes

41. What is the speed of the primary link to the Internet at the Research SITE ?

Internet link is less than 10mb/s

42. What type of internet bandwidth is available at the research SITE? In other words, what is the speed of the internal local area connection at the site? Select the closest that applies.

Local Area Connection is 10mb/s.

43. Wireless internet is available for researchers at the site.

Yes

44. What type of conferencing capability is available at the site's home institution(s)? Select all that apply.

Local (on-site) phone conferencing is available.

Voice over Internet (such as Skype).

Local internet video conferencing (such as Polycom video).

Shared internet video conferencing (such as Polycom video) is available at the institution.

45. What type of conferencing capability is available and used at the research SITE (select all that apply)?

Phone conferencing.

Internet video conferencing.

46. What type of computational capabilities does your site provide to researchers for data analysis - modeling, statistical analysis and data synthesis? Select all that apply.

Investigators use their personal systems for analysis.

The university/home institution provides most computational support for data analysis.

47. If your site uses a database, what is/are the PRIMARY database system(s) used for METADATA? Here we are not considering the use of flat files or html by themselves as a database. Select any that apply but only include ones actually in use or currently being implemented.

MySQL

MiniSQL

48. If your site uses a database system for DATA, what is the PRIMARY database system(s) used ? Here we are not considering the use of flat files or html by themselves as a database. Select any that apply, but only include system actually in use or currently being implemented.

Empty

49. Does your site use any CASE tools (database design tools) for database management? Select any that apply.

MySQL PHP admin/MySQL Server

50. What basic analytic tools are used at your site (i.e. software)? Select any that apply, unless used rarely.

Microsoft Office Tools (Excel, etc.)
SAS
SPSS
R

51. Please select or enter MAJOR Analytic MODELS or MODEL TOOLS in use at your site.

Other (please specify) - Hydrodynamic models (e.g., Venice Lagoon Model)

52. What type of data visualization software tools (separate from GIS and statistical tools) are used at your site? Select any that apply, unless used rarely

NONE are used (site uses statistical and GIS packages)

53. What type of GIS software tools are used at your site ? Select any that apply, unless used rarely.

ArcGIS, ArcView, ArcServer etc.
Erdas Imagine

54. What type of PROJECT management tools are used at your site ?

None

8. General site cyberinfrastructure needs

55. If your site were to increase the volume of data or the number of datasets you are managing by a factor of 10, 100 or more, Please rank the needs, in order from 1 to 10, in order of importance (1 is most important) that your site would require. Note: You do not need to select all items. No Item can have the same rank, you have to decide...

- Faster/better internet connection speed (wireless etc) in the field. - 9
- Faster/better internet connection speed at the field site. - 4
- Faster/better internet connection speed from the home institution to the internet. - 10
- Better, faster software for managing metadata. - 7
- Better, faster software for managing data. - 5
- Training for information management personnel. - 2
- A faster or more server(s). - 8
- More disk space for data storage at the home institution. - Empty
- More disk space for data storage at the field site. - 6
- More information management personnel. - 1

56. What new cyberinfrastructure is your site planning to implement in the future? (If you have no specific plans, just list "nothing planned").

-- Providing Improved Geospatial Perspectives – We will be revamping how we deal with geospatial information. For research locations, the current approach using a location data table containing coordinates or bounding boxes for named locations is sound, but needs to be extended to support arbitrary polygons. We also need to enhance our system to better deal with geospatial data such as GIS coverages and model products, by increasing its compatibility with Ecological Metadata Language data structures. Currently FGDC metadata is included as text inside our metadata descriptions. However, a more structured approach will extend the utility of our metadata for data discovery. These improvements will also demand improved online tools for capturing geospatial information. We plan to expand our use of Mapserver and OpenGIS technologies to help meet that need. -- Streamlining Data Ingestion - During 2002-2003 we installed a wireless network that extends from our laboratory to Hog Island, 20 km off the coast of Virginia. Since then, we have used the network for harvesting tide and meteorological data and over 400,000 images from webcams that observe landscapes and species-specific research sites at hourly or higher frequencies. Currently the information systems and databases for processing these data sources are hand-coded. To streamline this process we will develop metadata-driven tools that automatically create programs for ingestion, QA/QC and processing of data streams once the basic metadata describing the data stream has been entered. We also will continue work on the development of more generic systems for entering field data collected by individual researchers, staff and students. -- Improving Data Storage to Aid Integration – Thus far, the majority of VCR/LTER datasets are stored in text files. Unlike many more complex forms of data which are subject to frequent revisions (e.g., Excel v1.0 vs Excel97 files), text files have excellent archival characteristics. Similarly, most researchers are familiar with the use of text files and can easily use them with analytical software. However, use of text files can also introduce challenges. For example, researchers often code missing values with a letter or word such as "NA" for Not Available. However, when imported for analysis some software (particularly databases) respond badly to finding non-numerical data in a numerical field and may fail. Similarly, for a few very large datasets (e.g., meteorological data), data users may not wish to have all stations and dates, but only a subset. For these reasons we plan to develop database structures that will allow our data to be accessible both as the existing ASCII text and directly from either a database, or a structured form that has existing tools associated with it (e.g., OpenDAP, NetCDF).

57. What specific barriers exist to better data use or management at your site?

There is a constant competition between the need to develop new and better tools and the day-to-day operations of the existing system.

58. What new/additional sensor technology capabilities does your site require to improve your site or Network-level science?

At the site level, we are working on developing flux towers and a tunable diode laser trace gas analyzer. We would like to install radio receivers to allow automated animal tracking. At the Network level, clear standards need to be adopted on what types of data are needed, prior to selection of specific technologies.

59. What new or additional cyberinfrastructure/IT capacity does your site require to improve your site or Network-level science?

Better tools for large-scale data integration are needed.

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