

Report Out for “NOTICE: A Shareholders Introduction to the LTER Data Co-op”

Organizer(s): Mark Servilla and Duane Costa

The informational working group titled “NOTICE: A Shareholders Introduction to the LTER Data Co-op” was held at the 2012 LTER All Scientists Meeting on Thursday 13 September 2012. Approximately 24 participants attended this meeting at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO.

The organizers described how a “community food cooperative” metaphorically embodies the LTER data lifecycle from generation at the site through archival and curation within the Network Information System to distribution and marketing out to the broader scientific community via the PASTA cyberinfrastructure.

Specific key attributes and features of PASTA were presented and demonstrated in a “real-time” show-and-tell. These features included: how (1) data producers can evaluate their data package prior to harvesting into PASTA; (2) data packages are discovered via browsing and/or search tools; (3) derived data may be generated when a data package insert or update event occurs (synthesis activity); (4) provenance metadata can be generated for derived data packages; and (5) data package use information is viewed by a contributor.

The working group session concluded with an informal panel discussion where each panel member described their personal interactions with the Network Information System and PASTA, including their involvement as Tiger Team members during the initial development phase of PASTA. Panel members included M. Gastil-Buhl (MCR), Corinna Gries (NTL), Will Pockman (SEV), John Porter (VCR), and Wade Sheldon (GCE).

Participant feedback immediately after the working group was very positive and included suggestions for disseminating additional information about the Network Information System/ PASTA to the broader community through “YouTube” like videos and or live demonstrations at individual sites.