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L T E R D A T A B I T S

Fall 1992, *Scientific Information Management Newsletter of Long-term Ecological Research*

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Welcome to a new issue of DATABITS! This issue has a good balance of technical and non-technical features. There are reports on the use of interactive data access and data management policies within the LTER network. There are also plenty of hints on how to better use the computers at your site, including software reviews and technical hints. Finally, there are articles on conducting GPS campaigns and some solutions to common problems in scientific information management. There have also been some superficial format changes to DATABITS. Its now created using Framemaker software on a Sun Workstation. As always, DATABITS depends on you for contributions. Thanks!

Site Flashes

PAL-- The first field season from September91 to March92 was completed. LTER large-scale and small-scale sampling grids were established along with GPS location of the grids. Sampling included initiation of an oceanographic program, continuation and expansion of krill and bird survey pro-grams, and installation of the first automatic weather station. At the Palmer post-field season all-scientist meeting held in May92 at UC Santa Barbara, data issues included the investigation of networking of remote pi's via internet to the Santa Barbara CRSEO Computer Center, establishment of a central 600Mbyte archive disk, demonstration of a metadata browse program, as well as consideration of data forms and data exchange. There is a synergism between the new Sequoia2000 project which is a Univ. of California collaboration with DEC Computer Company since their objectives include working to develop Earth Observing System (EOS) era technology including data management and data visualization. --Karen Baker, Palmer LTER, KBaker@LTERnet.edu