

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

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Welcome to the Spring issue of Databits. Appropriately networks and their uses dominate this issue of Databits as publication on the network becomes a real possibility. The paper version of Databits will continue to be produced, but Databits will be implemented as an electronic publication as well. Past issues of Databits are available on the LTERNET gopher and indexed versions are available on the Virginia Coast Reserve Information System. Thanks to everyone who took the time out of busy schedules to write something for Databits!

Site Flashes

PAL-- The third year of Palmer LTER field work is in progress off the Antarctic peninsula. The Spring cruise in August93 and the annual cruise in January94 have been completed. The second on-station field season with weekly sampling is in progress and will end March94. The work includes oceanographic, krill and bird surveys. Two unix workstations were used for the first time at sea and on station in addition to macintosh and ibm/pc's allowing more rapid and complete data processing.

There was continued focus on dataforms. Documentation completion while in the field was encouraged and largely successful during both cruises this season. It stimulated further consideration of definitions and core datasets. Metadata has been made available within a gopher structure. Also, a draft data policy was developed while considering data storage and coordination. With additional hardware available, a second remote campus site appletalk network was linked to the central palmer lter appletalk network using tunneling across the campus internet.-- *Karen Baker, Palmer LTER, KBaker@lternet.edu.*