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Database Design Tools
- Karen S. Baker, Palmer LTER and James Brunt, LTER Network Office

Database Design Tools are used to help create data models and maintain database applications in conjunction with most of the popular relational database systems (ie Oracle, Sybase, SQLserver, mSQL, mySQL). Data modeling applications permit logical and physical database design and construction making it possible to visualize structure and key elements. Features include bi-directional synchronization of logical and physical designs, reverse-engineering of databases, and HTML-based reporting capabilities. The main drawback today remains the high cost of several thousand dollars.

ERWin (http://www.platinum.com/products/appdev/erwin_ps.htm) is used at the Andrews LTER site to forward and reverse engineer their data model into/from both SQLServer and Foxpro. Much of the SQL code creating tables and triggers is handled by ERwin.

ER/Studio (http://www.gbsweb.com/Database_Tools/ER_Studio/er_studio.html) is used at the LTER Network Office both to design a database as well as to output a structure design diagram of existing databases that can be presented on the web for group viewing.