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◆ Good Reads

**Good Read: Ecology Through Time**

- Karen Baker, Palmer Station (PAL)

**Kaiser, J, 2001. Ecology Through Time: An Experiment for all Seasons. Science 293(5530):624-627.**

In providing an overview of concepts fundamental to the Long-Term Ecological Research network, one can place the recent issue of Science (July 2001) on the reference shelf right next to the Jul/Aug 1990 issue of BioScience which contains that original introductory trio of articles (Swanson and Sparks: Long-Term ecological research and the invisible place; Magnuson: Long-term ecological research and the invisible present; Franklin, Bledsoe, Callahan: Contributions of the long-term ecological research program). This article begins "the NSF's LTER network has proved a smashing success", continues with illustration of the ramifications of network science, and summarizes with site-specific scenarios as well as cross-site tables. Aspects of the spirit of the LTER's practice of science are captured along with examples from the broader community, rounding out this Science issue dedicated to ecosystem science.

**Good Read: Biodiversity Datadiversity**

- Karen Baker, Palmer Station (PAL)

**Bowker, GC, 2000. Biodiversity Datadiversity. Social Studies of Science 30(5): 643-683.**

One might consider this article by Bowker an ecological continuation of a conversational thread developed by Brooks in his book the Mythical Man Month (1975). Acknowledging the difficulties arising from the multiplicative factor inherent in team project communications, Bowker strides on into the territory of well-counted megafauna and under-valued microscopic entities to discuss the diversity in databases and transitions in frameworks. This work is a call for social scientists to consider potential contributions given their experience with naming and classifying, context and integration, organizational practice and scientific history. Attention to infrastructure layering impacts first the movement from data discovery to data management and ultimately the communication of knowledge through semantic synthesis. The challenges are confronted as Bowker articulates the nontrivial nature of the informatics task and summarizes: "The information collection effort that is being mounted worldwide is indeed heroic."