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## SCI2002: Ecoinformatics Challenges at International Conference

- *Karen Baker , Palmer LTER (PAL)*

The SCI2002 conference, attended by over 1,000 scientists in a wide variety of disciplines with interests in systemics, cybernetics and informatics, was kicked off with a keynote plenary talk on "The Ecoinformatics Challenge: Meeting Ecological Information Needs for the Site, Network, and Community" by John Porter, Karen Baker and Susan Stafford.

To stimulate the exchange of developments in information management and to promote cross-domain dialogue, LTER information managers participated in two Ecoinformatics Challenge sessions at the SCI2002 meeting (<http://www.iiis.org/sci2002>) held July 14-18 in Orlando, Florida. Twelve LTER papers were published in the conference proceedings which are available online at [http://intranet.lternet.edu/committees/information\\_management/sci\\_2002/](http://intranet.lternet.edu/committees/information_management/sci_2002/)

Highlights of the conference included "Best Paper" distinctions awarded to the following LTER contributions: "The Future Of Ecoinformatics in Long Term Ecological Research" by James Brunt, Peter McCartney, Karen Baker, Susan Stafford; "Integrating Ecological Data: Tools and Techniques" by John Porter and Kenneth Ramsey; "Designing Web Database Applications for Ecological Research" by Dan Smith, Barbara Benson and David Balsiger.