



Managing Scientific Metadata

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Matthew B Jones, Chad Berkley, Jivka Bojilova, and Mark Schildhauer, 2001.
Managing Scientific Metadata. IEEE Internet Computing Sep-Oct 2001.
(<http://computer.org/internet>)

This article provides both background into the use of metadata as a method to manage heterogeneous scientific data, summarizing original motivations, general approaches and community specifics. To cover such ground, the authors adopt an approach that may be regarded as a metaphor reflective of the cross-domain integrative strategies required for information management today. The metaphor, a conversation-within-a-conversation sidebar, highlights metadata standards, XML databases and interoperability issues. An LTER IM Metadata Workshop organized by P.McCarthy (CAP) and supported by the LTER Network Office provided a mechanism for LTER sites to focus on these issues and to consider site metadata transformation strategies compatible with interoperable formats, eg the Ecological Metadata Language. Given LTER Information Management discussions and metadata momentum, this paper provides insight into the broader context.