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Metadata: Implementation of an International Framework

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C-C Lin, J.H.Porter and S-S Lu, 2006. A Metadata-based Framework for Multilingual Ecological Information Management. Taiwan Journal of Forest Science 21(3): 377-382.

In this paper, an ILTER team has summarized a collaborative effort. It provides an overview of metadata in general and of an example of deployment of the Ecological Metadata Language in particular. The authors identify metadata as a "critical tool" for data collection when there is an intention to make data available over the long-term. In describing a metadata-based framework, a brief history of metadata and of LTER publications on this topic is provided. The framework used is organized into a three tier system: data storage and management, data editing and processing, and, finally, user interface. Some project statistics of implementation are reported. Such a summative report contributes to a contemporary need for effective assessment mechanisms in the field of information systems. In considering the "problem of integrating ecological data", the authors provide an important, thought-provoking prompt for data providers as well as for information managers. There is a lot of information pertinent to most any data preservation effort packed into this metadata paper.