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## On-going research collaboration

- *Florence Millerand (PAL & CCE)*

I have been working as a postdoc researcher associated with LTER within a social science research project with Karen Baker, Geof Bowker and David Ribes, the Comparative Interoperability Project (<http://interoperability.ucsd.edu/>; see Strategies for Building Scientific Cyberinfrastructure, LTER Network News Spring 2005, p17, <http://www.lternet.edu/news/images/spring05/NetworkNewsSpring05.pdf>). I am now working at University of Quebec, Montreal (UQAM) as a faculty in the Communication Department (<http://www.dmsp.uqam.ca/>) with continuing ties to UCSD and LTER. Research and teaching responsibilities began in Spring of 2006. In brief, Communication Studies is a research field in the social sciences that brings an interdisciplinary approach to study the interactions between people, groups, and organizations as well as relations to medias and information technologies productions and uses. University breaks have permitted two return visits to San Diego in 2006- 2007 for continued field work and research collaboration and will permit attendance at the upcoming summer LTER Information Management Meeting.

At UQAM I am actively involved in an interuniversity research center on science and technology (CIRST: Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur la science et la technologie, <http://www.cirst.uqam.ca/English/tabid/94/Default.aspx>). CIRST is Canada's primary research group dedicated to the social study of scientific and technological activity, and is characterized by a broad range and critical number of associated researchers, a high level of interdisciplinarity and its interuniversity arrangements. The center groups together more than 40 regular and associate members from nearly ten institutions of higher education, most of them located in the province of Quebec.

The CIRST research is organized around three main lines:

1. Scientific and technological development analysis
2. Socio-economical analysis and management of technology
3. Socio-political analysis of technology uses and effects

Research at CIRST is aimed at furthering knowledge and using it to make a contribution to the elaboration and implementation of policies, as well as resolving social problems that carry scientific or technological dimensions.

Research collaboration is ongoing with PAL and CCE sites, pursuing ethnographic work on the enactment of standards, LTER information infrastructure initiatives as well as on Ocean Informatics developments at Scripps Institution of Oceanography – all efforts to improve knowledge and understandings of interdependent organizational and technical changes in order that practice may better inform developing research arrangements. Future research projects include a research monograph of

Ocean Informatics from an action research perspective as well as a comparative study between Canadian and US LTER collaborative research networks.