CHAPTER 16: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION
The EcoTrends Project was initiated to aid researchers interested in synthetic studies of long-term continental scale and national-level patterns in ecological drivers and responses. Hundreds of standardized, documented datasets from many sites and scientific fields were needed to meet this organizational goal. Generating comparative data at many sites across several organizational networks and finding novel solutions to technical and organizational challenges required dynamic, collaborative work with all project participants, including researchers and information managers (e.g. Lee et al. 2006, Edwards et al. 2007, Star and Lampland 2008, Carpenter et al. 2009, Bowker et al. in press, Baker and Millerand in press). The lessons learned from this collaborative effort contributed to our understanding of contemporary ecological information management (i.e., the management of digital ecological data via interconnected organizational, social, and technical arrangements and systems). Based on these lessons learned by EcoTrends participants – project leaders, researchers, and network- and site-level information managers – we present recommendations in this chapter for site-level information management and for future synthesis projects. Acronyms used in the chapter are included with their associated websites in Table 2-2 of Chapter 2.

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