Building an e-Print Service: Addressing the Social Challenge in Environmental Management Science

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SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IS CHANGING

Researchers need access to programmatic and interdisciplinary research

Results are needed more quickly

ENVIRO-SCIENCE e-PRINT SERVICE: THE VISION

Provide timely access to environmental management research results produced or sponsored by the government


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Welcome to the Enviro-Science e-Print Service
The Enviro-Science e-Print Service is a multi-agency project of DOE's Environmental Management Science Program (EMSP), the U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development, content partners, and sponsors. It uses EPA's Environmental Information Management System to access manuscripts of journal articles and book chapters, conference papers, presentations, posters, and selected technical reports in environmental management science.
Click on the Search Documents button to search the metadata by subject. Click on the Browse Documents button to display brief records for all documents by title.
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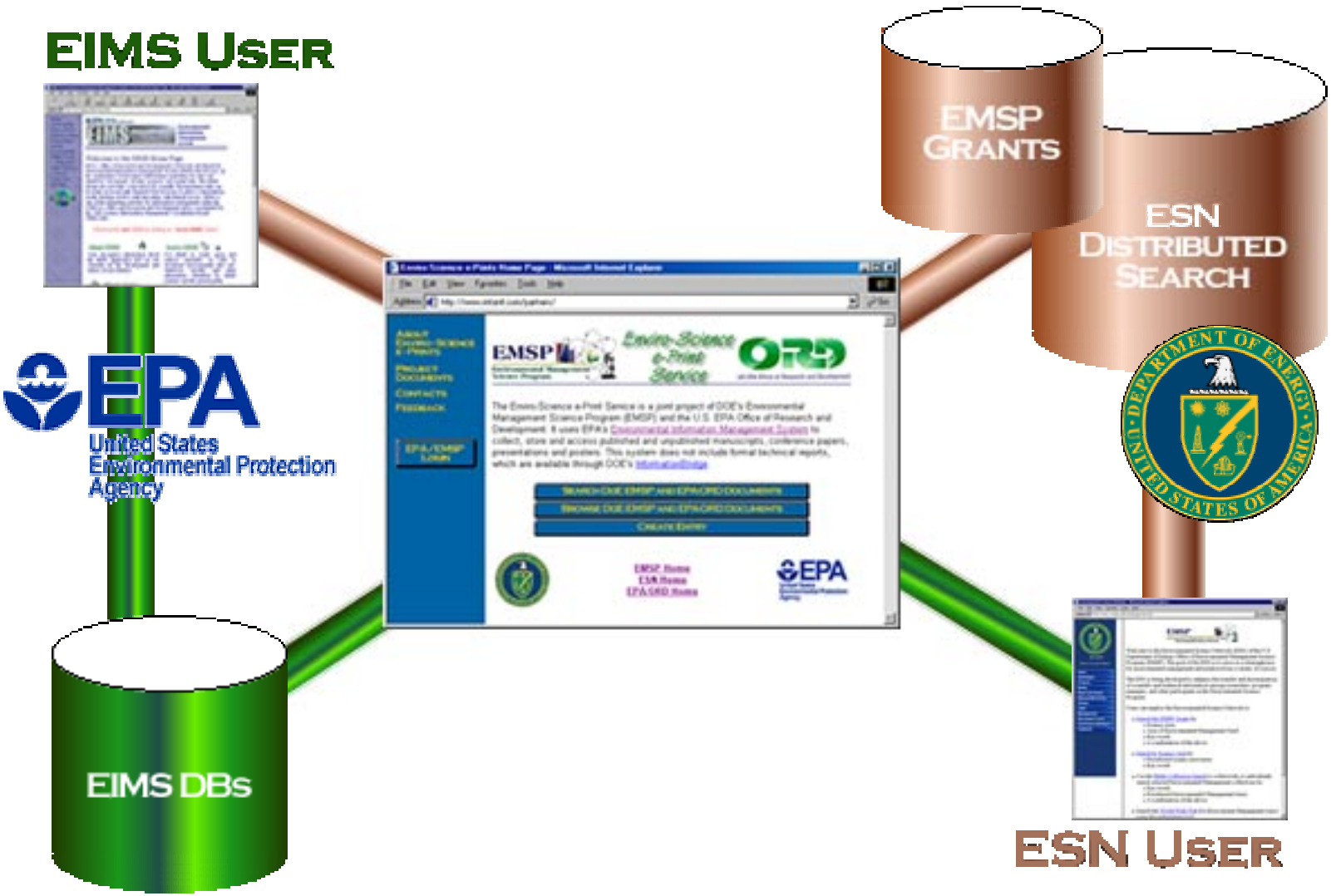
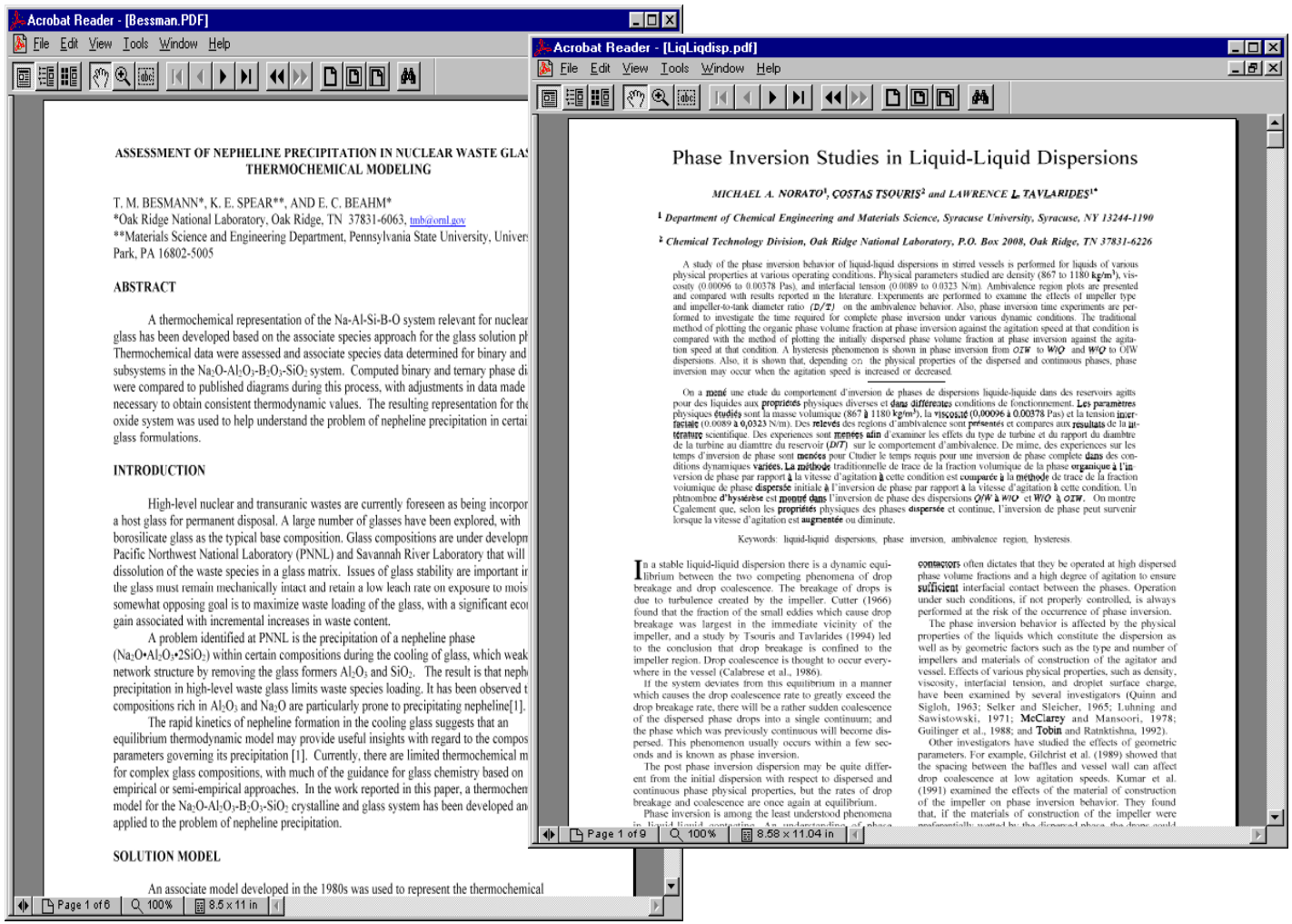
An Enviro-Science Gateway



e-Prints from Multiple Agencies



CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED AT THE OUTSET

- ***Identifying the scope***
- ***Obtaining contributions from scientists***
- ***Working across agencies***

CHALLENGE:
Setting the Scope

- What is environmental management science?
- What resource types should be included?
- How old could the material be?
- How to handle the “aging” of the content?
- How should the e-Prints relate to other products and services?

e-PRINT TEAM RESPONSE: Setting the Scope

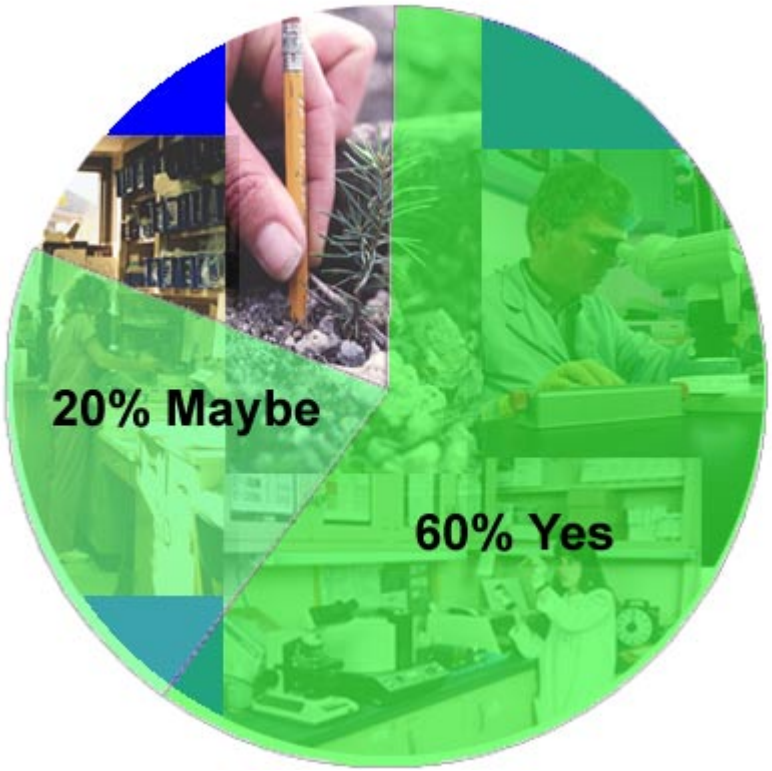
- Core from EM researchers, including technical reports
- Government information from partners
- Manuscripts, reprints, white papers, presentations, posters, etc.
- Manuscripts preferred because of copyright issues
- Emphasizing current material
- Collections allow contributions to be segmented in different ways

CHALLENGE:
Obtaining contributions from scientists

Would scientists contribute?

- Intellectual property and copyright issues
- Concerns about prior publication
- Early sharing across agencies is not part of the culture

RESEARCHERS SUPPORT e-PRINT SERVICE



Both EMSP and EPA/ORD researchers were surveyed during 1999.

Overall, 80% of survey responses were favorable

EMSP Environmental Management Science Program and US EPA Office of Research and Development

BENEFITS OF e-PRINT SERVICE IDENTIFIED BY RESEARCHERS

- Increases access to environmental management science research
- Increases visibility of results and investigators
- Facilitates communication across agencies and between researchers
- Potentially increases research productivity
- As a by-product, increases public access to government produced or sponsored information

e-PRINT TEAM RESPONSE: Obtaining Contributions

- Let the researchers decide what to contribute
- Access limitations controlled by the contributor
- Established partnerships with agencies to give researchers high level incentive
- PROMOTION, PROMOTION, PROMOTION
  - Quarterly newsletter
  - Contributor instructions on Web page
  - Attendance at scientific meetings

CHALLENGE:
Working Across Agencies

- Agencies want visibility
- Some have no funding or resources to provide
- Different approaches to technical issues

e-PRINT TEAM RESPONSE: Working Across Agencies

- Provide for various roles that organizations can play
- Ensure visibility while maintaining a single look
  - developed a non-agency logo
  - identify the agency source when the results are presented
- Central repository provides consistency in metadata

CONCLUSIONS

- Identifying social and cultural challenges early is important
- Challenges will remain for a long time
- Goal of turning the challenges into opportunities

- Contributions are welcome and new partners are encouraged
- Demo available at Booth # 1201
- Visit the Enviro-Science e-Print Service at

  http://esn.osti.gov/enviroscience.html