

STORET - EPA's Repository for Monitoring Data

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Biographical Sketches of Authors

Robert King is a biologist in the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water with training and experience in data system design. Since the early 1990's, he has served as the project manager of the modernization of the STORET System, moving the project from its planning phase into full implementation.

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Abstract

In 1999, the Office of Water released into production a new and re-engineered STORET system. This new STORET relies on data generators operating a local copy of STORET and periodically uploading a copy of their system to EPA for incorporation into a central Data Warehouse.

The new STORET has the ability to store water, sediment, and tissue chemistry data as well as biological community and habitat assessment information. It greatly increases the data generators' ability to document their monitoring data. For the first time the entire monitoring process, beginning with the collection of a sample, equipment used during collection, the sample container material, field preservation, sample handling and storage, and laboratory operations can be documented, permitting a full description of the business of environmental monitoring, and enabling the sharing of data with confidence.

STORET has enhanced its ability to report information to the public by creating a new Data Warehouse for faster and larger data queries. Access to STORET through web GIS applications provides easy-to-use map-based interfaces to monitoring data. Future data sharing methods through Web Services will also be discussed.

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