

Information Centers

The IBP goal of synthesis of man's understanding of ecosystem relations requires one or more information centers for these purposes:

1. To store primary data and derived variables, for analyses beyond those to be expected at individual research sites.
2. To distribute computer programs and primary data to individuals or other centers.
3. To coordinate basic descriptions and groupings of terrestrial and freshwater systems.
4. To facilitate comparisons between ecosystems and between parts of the world in a total-system context (e.g. summarizing tables expressing rates of transfer of energy, nitrogen, and other elements).
5. To aid IBP planning and activities by storing current information on the work of scientists as it is gathered by project directors.

Training

Since there is a shortage of biologists capable of undertaking the type of studies proposed, training is a major need. The objectives of IBP in general and the study of terrestrial and aquatic environments in particular, cut across traditional academic boundaries. Outstanding ecologists will be encouraged to apply for funds to develop programs to train ecologists who are well trained in a specialty, but are also able to deal with the larger problems of man and the landscape.