Stacy Kowalczyk, associate director for projects and services at the IU Digital Library Program, will present "e-Science: A Data Survey" on September 24, 2007, as part of the IV Lab/CI4NetSci Center research talks. SLIS faculty member, Katy Börner, Director of the Information Visualization Lab and the Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center, organized the talks.

· 4:00-5:00 p.m.
· SLIS, Wells Library, Room 030

The talk will focus on her research regarding scientists' views about data and preservation. In addition to her work at the Digital Library Program, Kowalczyk is pursuing a Ph.D. in Information Science at SLIS.

Abstract for "e-Science: A Data Survey"

An ever-increasing percentage of scientific data and expertise is being documented and distributed in an exclusively electronic medium. While digital data is easier to share and distribute, the medium itself is fragile; both the media and the technical format are quickly obsolete. The e-Science: A Data Survey (IU IRB Study Number 06-11593) has been developed to understand more about the issues surrounding the preservation of digital scientific data. This qualitative study focused on four general areas of interest — the nature of the data itself, the quantity of the data, awareness of preservation issues, and current solutions for preserving the data. Twelve scientists from a variety of scientific domains were interviewed about their data. In general, scientists in this study equate preservation with data storage. They are concerned about the longevity of their data and their ability to manage the data storage technologies. Scientists struggle with determining what intermediate, temporal data is important to preserve. Longitudinal data is very important to most of the scientists. While some disciplines have begun to create community-based repositories with some level of standardization and preservation, most of the scientists did not feel that the data stored in these repositories would be preserved beyond this generation because of funding issues and long-term commitment to the data.

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