CERES 5.0, a dynamic toolkit to turn the chaos of data into convenient Internet reports

S. Dupont (1), M. Lehon (2), B. Pirali (2), and S. Roberfroid (2)

Laboratory of Animal Physiology & Biodiversity Research Centre
Université catholique de Louvain, 5 Place Croix du Sud, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

(2) Outwares
Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

E-mail: dupont@bani.ucl.ac.be

Since years, scientists accumulate, store and publish some data. Nevertheless, the traditional methods of disseminating scientific information, such as presentation in congresses and publications in journals, are not adapted to some aspects of the scientific activity. Every level from scientists to decisions makers wants something unique from the data and they do not speak the same language. Modern science needs a convenient way to have access to data and to transform them into information.

Internet induces many modifications in the scientific system and a new culture of science appears beyond this technology. It is a powerful tool that could be used for a rapid and transparent diffusion of scientific information. That's why we have created CERES 5.0, an easy-to-use toolkit that can be used as a tool for scientific diffusion on Internet. This product is a combination between Java technologies, Internet tools and Appdev studio (SAS software's capabilities). Using CERES, classical statistical analyses (descriptive, general linear model, canonical discriminant analysis, etc.) could be performed online from any standard database. From a web page, the reader can ask for the analyses that are immediately performed by SAS software and the results are presented on a new web page in only a few seconds.

This system constitutes a good solution for data warehousing. (i) It is easy to access to data from disparate sources since CERES 5.0 is available from any web browser. (ii) It is easy to add, modify or retrieve data in various formats. (iii) It provides an effective and dynamic analysis tool.

CERES 5.0 will be illustrated by an example of ocean biological data. We will demonstrate that it constitutes a good way to improve the classical publications. It provides different information from the same database for different partners and for the different needs.