

Introduction to Laboratory Informatics: Life of a Specimen

How Does the LIMS Differ from Other Laboratory Systems?

As the LIMS manages the workflow through the laboratory, it interfaces or interacts with many of the other systems within and outside the laboratory. These systems can include those that interface with laboratory instruments, the electronic laboratory notebook, or ELN, the electronic content management system, or ECM, and the enterprise resource planning system, or ERP.

Instrument interfacing is designed to interface and/or integrate with a laboratory's scientific instruments to acquire, process, and store data from the instrument and exchange the related data and files with the LIMS. One example of this is a CDMS, or chromatography data management system.

Electronic laboratory notebooks have now replaced paper laboratory notebooks to record laboratory procedures. They can store data and exchange data with the LIMS.

The enterprise content management system organizes and stores an organization's documents and other content that relate to the organization's processes, from beginning to end of the lifecycle.

A LIMS may also interact with the laboratory's other systems that facilitate laboratory operations, including billing, inventory, shipping, as well as others, which may be part of an enterprise resource planning system.