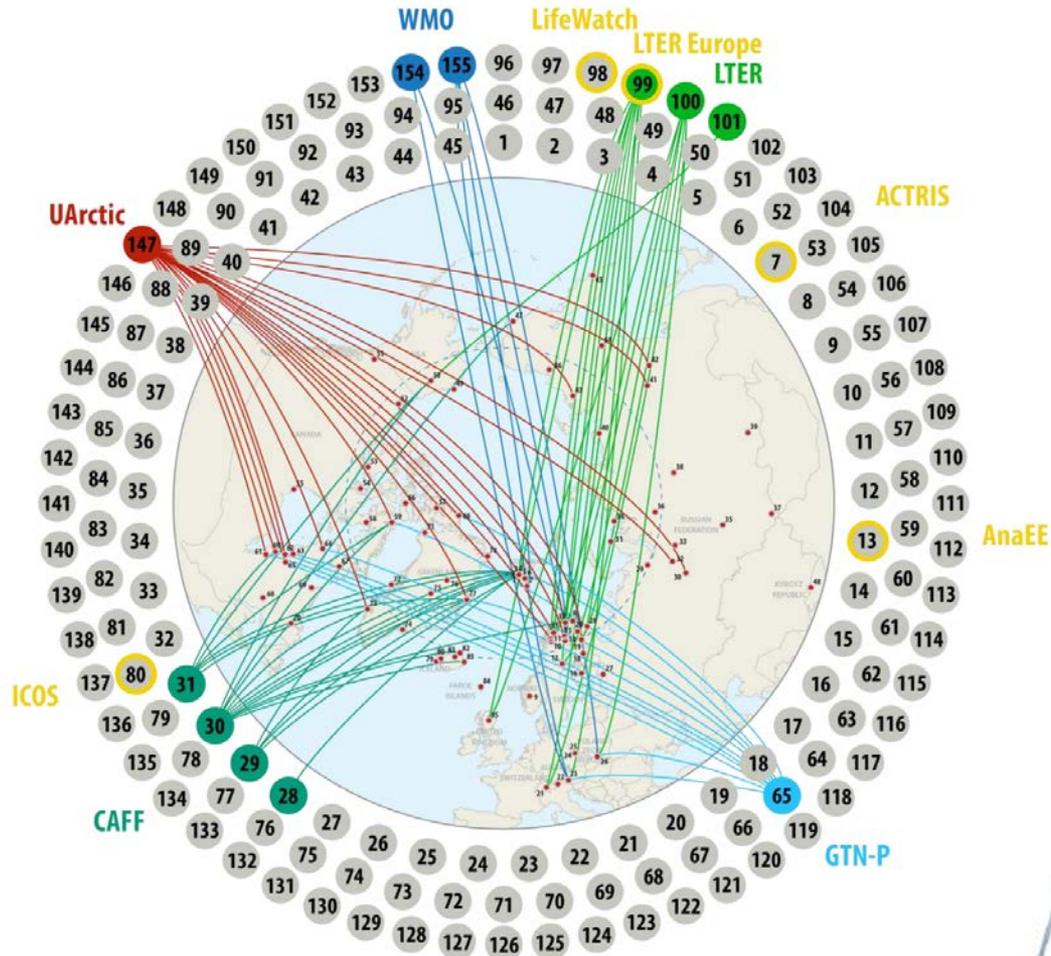


# WP3: Awareness of the Scene – usability and usefulness of Networks





## **The problem:**

During scanning 150+ websites, it was difficult to obtain fundamental information.

We wanted to identify best practices for presenting fundamental information on websites, and recommend general guidelines for website presentation.

## **What did we do?**

### **1) Network selection**

A TSU team of master students, young researchers and teachers, all together 6 people, analyzed 40 networks selecting 10 random representatives from each of 4 categories. The categories were:

0= Long-term scientific networks

1= Arctic Council initiatives

2= Databases, Assessments

3= regional networks/organisations

# What did we do? (contnd.)

## 2) Network analysis

The team asked the fundamental question: can relevant information (10 pieces of information e.g. main purpose, how many members in the network, contact details etc.) be retrieved? **Scores we gave: 0 = no, 1 = partly, 2 = yes**

The team then developed a template with a number of indicators that should be general for everyone, independently of age, educational level and experience.

A) number of clicks. **“clicks” – 1 click = good, 2=average, 3=bad**

B) time spent for searching for the relevant pieces of information  
**“time” – 5 min = good, 10 min = bad**

C) how many pages should be opened to retrieve each relevant piece of information. **Number of pages**

D) How up-to-date is the site?

**Last revision less than 1 year ago, last revision more than 1 year ago**



*(We did not take into account databases and the scientific data on the websites.)*

# What did we find from 30 networks?

## Relevant information (%)

0 = no,

13.3

1 = partly,

46.7

2 = yes

40

number of clicks (% out of 300 data points)

1 click = good,

44.4

2=average,

33.3

3=bad

22.2

time spent for searching (% out of 300 data points)

5 min = good,

50

10 min = bad

50

how many pages should be opened

Average number of pages

To be confirmed

Up-to-date sites: last revision (number of sites)

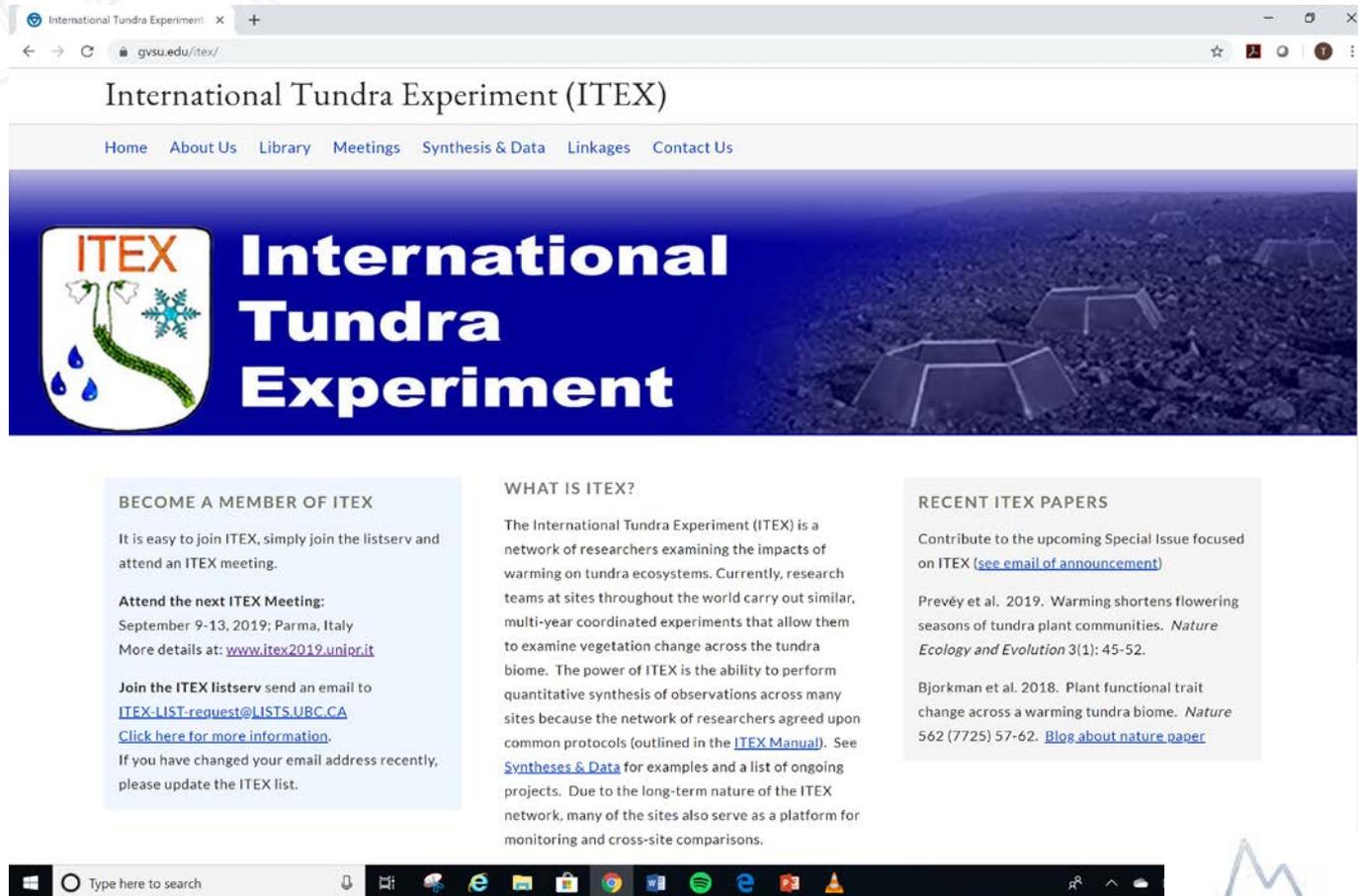
Less than 1 year

83.3

more than 1 year

16.7

# Example of a good web site



International Tundra Experiment (ITEX)

Home About Us Library Meetings Synthesis & Data Linkages Contact Us



## International Tundra Experiment

**BECOME A MEMBER OF ITEX**

It is easy to join ITEX, simply join the listserv and attend an ITEX meeting.

**Attend the next ITEX Meeting:**  
September 9-13, 2019; Parma, Italy  
More details at: [www.itex2019.unipr.it](http://www.itex2019.unipr.it)

**Join the ITEX listserv** send an email to [ITEX-LIST-request@LISTS.URC.CA](mailto:ITEX-LIST-request@LISTS.URC.CA)  
[Click here for more information.](#)  
If you have changed your email address recently, please update the ITEX list.

**WHAT IS ITEX?**

The International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) is a network of researchers examining the impacts of warming on tundra ecosystems. Currently, research teams at sites throughout the world carry out similar, multi-year coordinated experiments that allow them to examine vegetation change across the tundra biome. The power of ITEX is the ability to perform quantitative synthesis of observations across many sites because the network of researchers agreed upon common protocols (outlined in the [ITEX Manual](#)). See [Syntheses & Data](#) for examples and a list of ongoing projects. Due to the long-term nature of the ITEX network, many of the sites also serve as a platform for monitoring and cross-site comparisons.

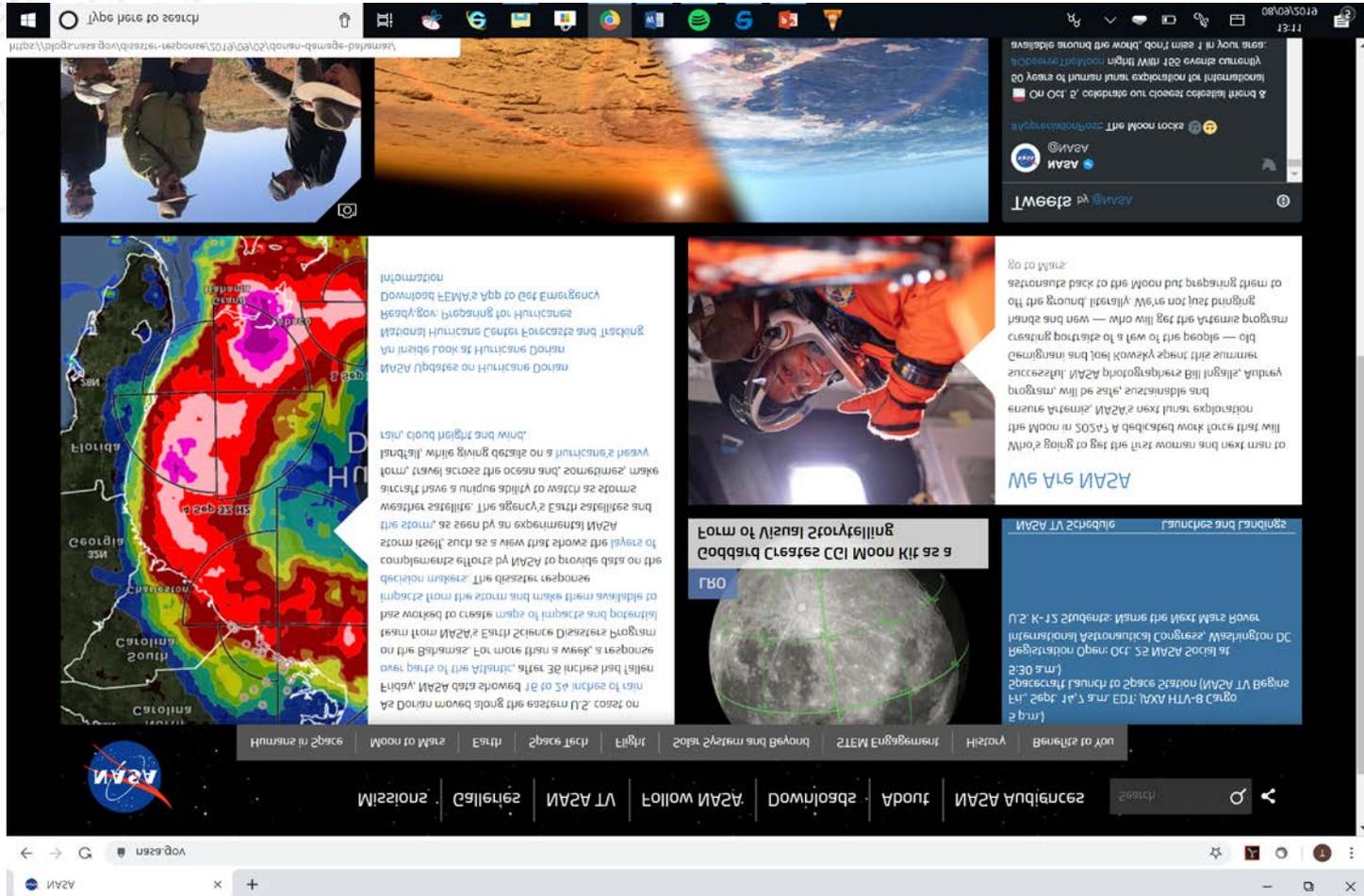
**RECENT ITEX PAPERS**

Contribute to the upcoming Special Issue focused on ITEX ([see email of announcement](#))

Prevéy et al. 2019. Warming shortens flowering seasons of tundra plant communities. *Nature Ecology and Evolution* 3(1): 45-52.

Bjorkman et al. 2018. Plant functional trait change across a warming tundra biome. *Nature* 562 (7725) 57-62. [Blog about nature paper](#)

# Example of a bad web site - NASA





## What we can recommend

Purposes of sites can be different from one type of network to another, so specific suggestions for improvement also vary. Bit, in general:

1. Each web site should have basic information immediately accessible (first page or one click). This should be : goal of the network, contact details, geographical coverage, membership possibilities.
2. The design should be very concise, and navigation should be very convenient –the less pages needed to be opened in searching, the better.
3. A search string is needed particularly if the design makes the site heavy (pages load for a long time)
4. Networks should cater for outreach and education as well as for other “nerds”

**Note:** Working in the Arctic is often associated with a poor internet signal, and this needs to be remembered when developing sites. We have not seen mobile phone applications anywhere. Such applications can help to work offline in the absence of the Internet.



# **Overall conclusion and way forward**

**We can be arrogant and publish recommendations for general improvements to web sites**