GHRC WEB PRESENCE

ghrc.nsstc.nasa.gov

Presented by Tammy Smith & Shannon Flynn

GHRC Web Team Collaborators:

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Presented at the GHRC User Working Group Meeting
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NASA

GHRC
Global Hydrology Resource Center

itsc
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

Overview

- Purpose
- Website Overview
- Social Media
- Recent Improvements
  - Accessibility
  - Increased Visibility
  - External Review
- Looking to the Future
  - New Website
  - Getting to Data
  - Navigation Improvements
  - Sample Project Page
  - Visual Data Browse Options

Purpose

- Present information and data in an efficient manner with least number of clicks
- Public face for the GHRC
- Front page for presenting data, documentation, and software products
- Appeal to audience

Website Overview

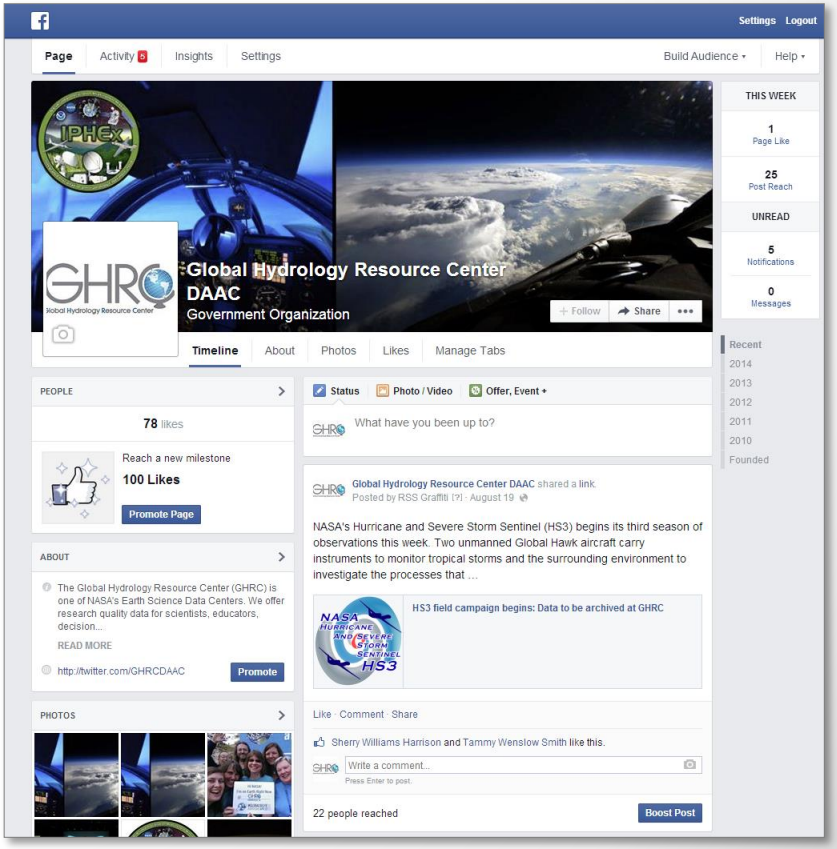
- Top Hat
- Featured Items (slider)
- What's New
  - RSS feed
  - Social Media
- Featured projects
- GHRC Data
  - Dataset List
  - Search & Order Data
- Contact User Services

Social Media

- Current news items from RSS feed (https://www.itsc.uah.edu/home/ghrcnewsfeed) posted to Facebook and Twitter

twitter.com/GHRCDAAC

facebook.com/ghrc.nsstc



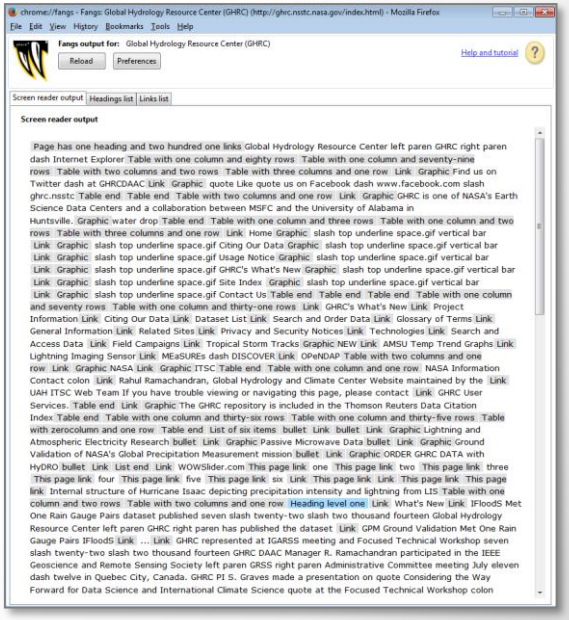
Accessibility

- What is 508 Compliance?

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 amended by Congress in 1998

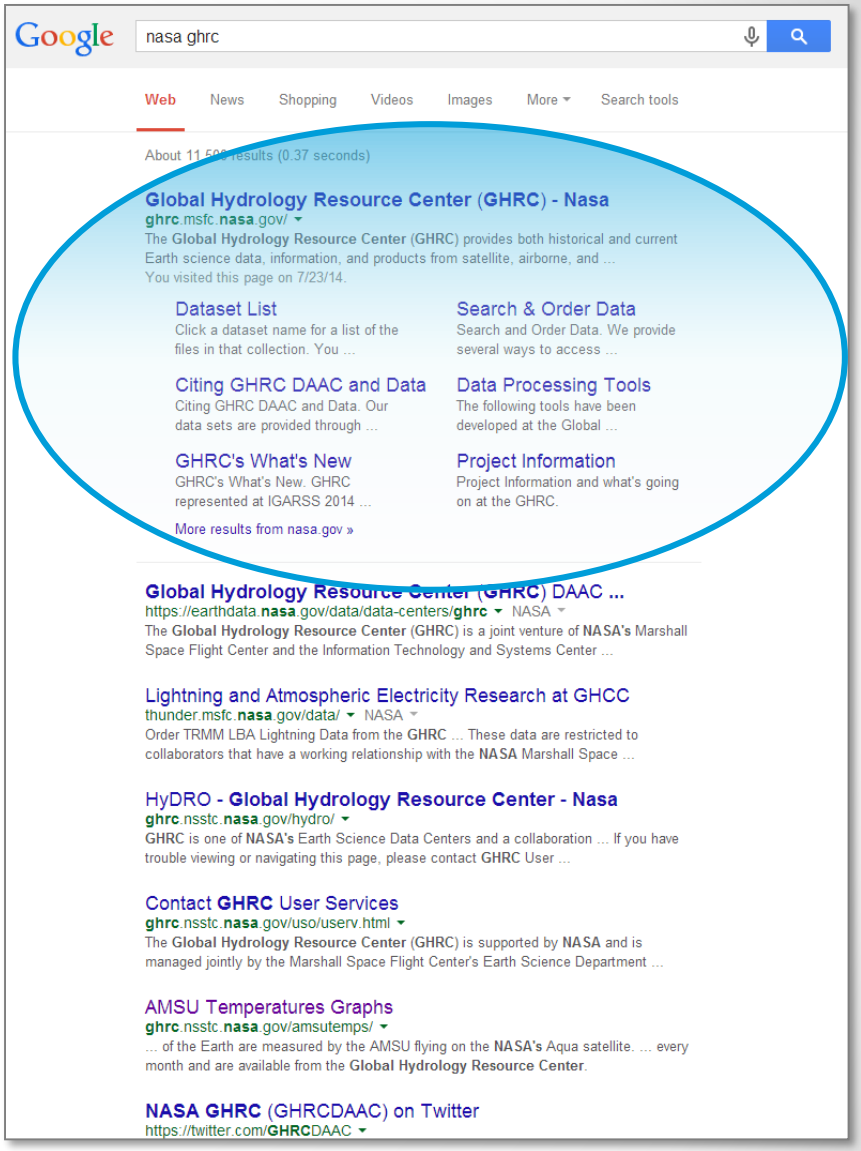
  - Amendment requires Federal agencies (i.e., GHRC DAAC) "to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities."[1]
  - Readable by a screen reader or refreshable Braille displays
    - E.g. Text descriptions for visuals, information tables must associate data cells with column/row

- Making the GHRC website 508 compliant
  - The current site was altered to increase 508/accessibility compliance
  - A new site built using Drupal will have many accessibility features built-in



Visibility

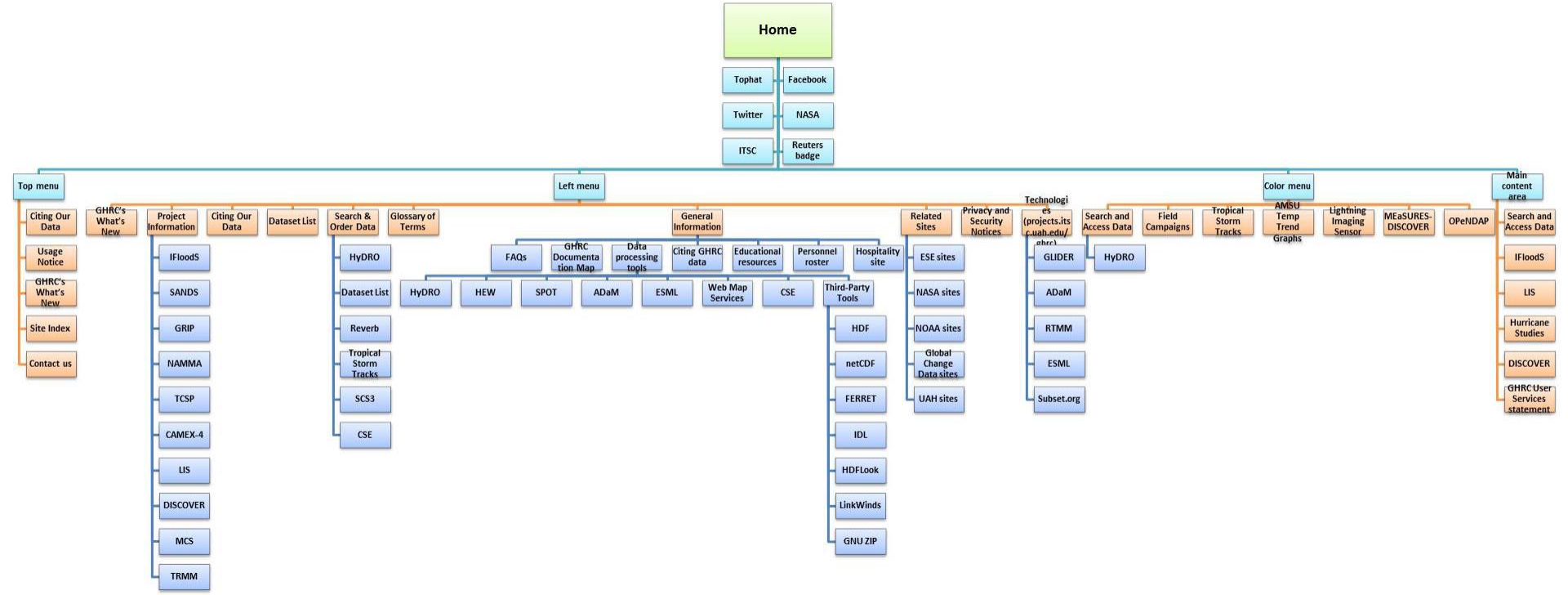
- Improved visibility of the GHRC website in search engines
- Added titles and descriptions to each page of the GHRC website
- Microdata
  - Defined set of meta-tags
    - E.g. "organization" or "dataset name"



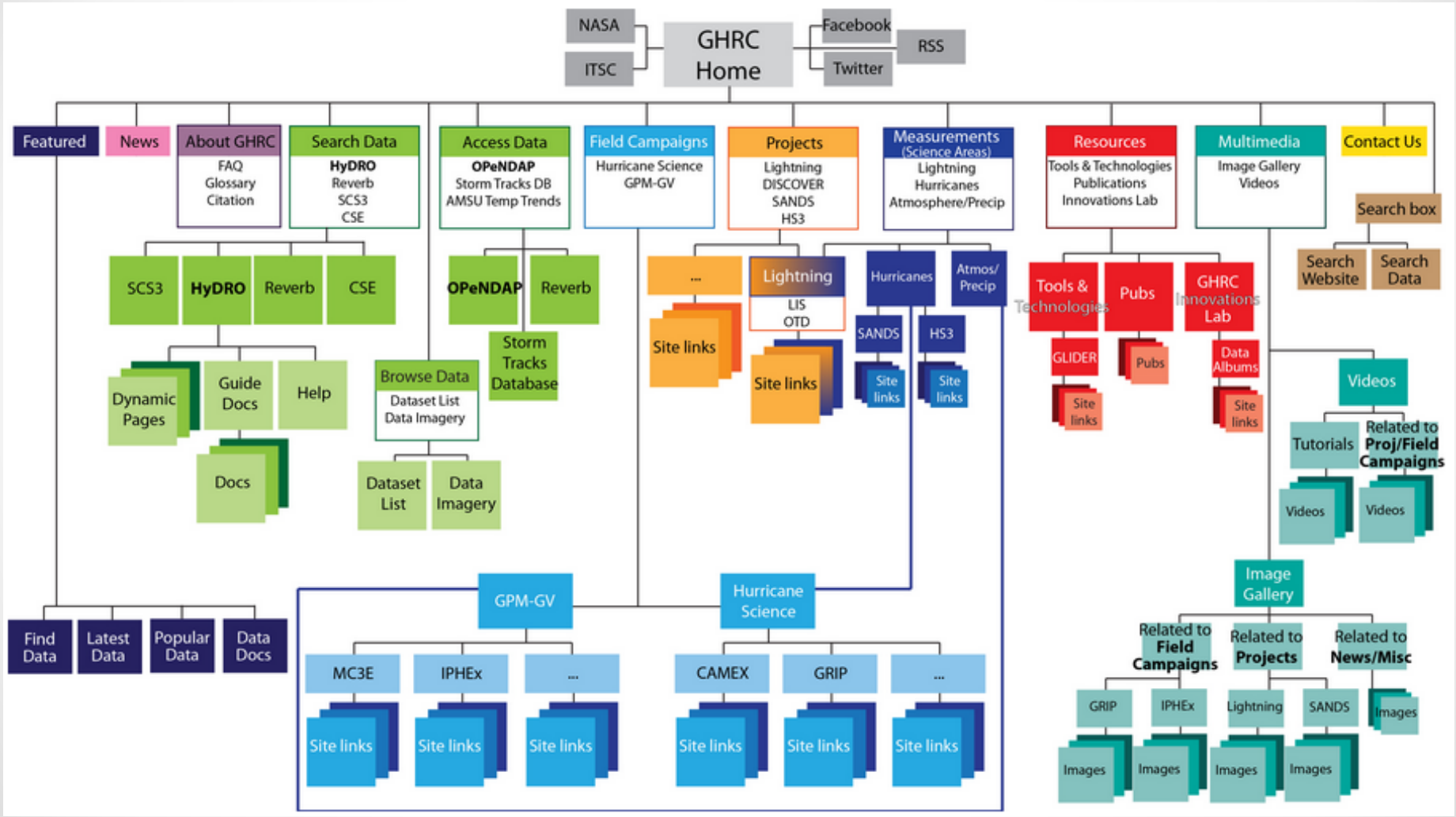
Improving navigation & organization

- Purpose of site clarified: data holding and distribution
  - Many direct routes to data
  - Simpler home page
- Navigation simplified through consistent menus, breadcrumbs, footer, and content-driven links
  - Existing content remains, but presented with user, not internal organization, in mind
  - Breadcrumbs
  - Menu items chosen to represent most common user activities
  - Clearer presentation and grouping of navigation options
    - 3 main areas on homepage
    - Sub-Menu items
- Less competing imagery and more whitespace facilitates easy scanning of content
  - Facilitates quicker evaluation of content: is this page useful to a user or not?

Current site organization

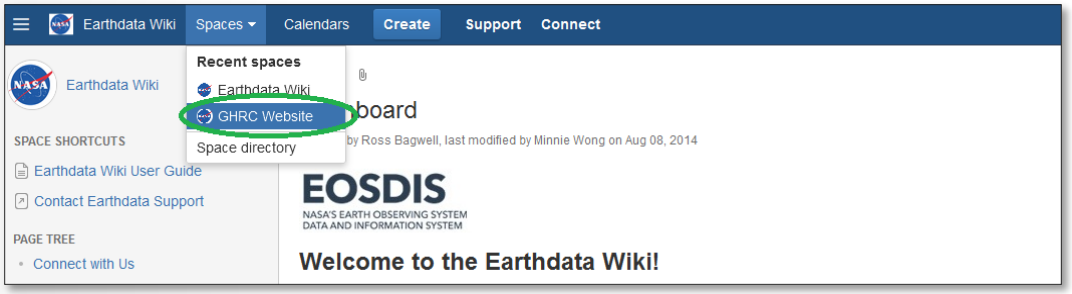


Future site organization



Building the site

The site uses a private wiki within the Earthdata wiki environment for its central repository of decisions, documentation, and planning.



The wiki allows for easy tracking of decisions and records of discussion/comments regarding the development process.

Decision/Task	Status
Check/validate the content types that Matt has created	DECIDED
Decide the Site Banner / Header Image	DECIDED
What base Drupal distribution to use?	DECIDED
Decide the site map and layout	DECIDED
What base theme to use?	DECIDED
Decide mapping between browse images filenames and datasets/granules	NOT STARTED
Browse Image Content Type Design and Related Scripts	DECIDED
Content Types and Vocabularies Design	DECIDED
Should we integrate field campaign portals into the GHRC Website?	DECIDED
How to make a Drupal site 508 compliant?	IN PROGRESS

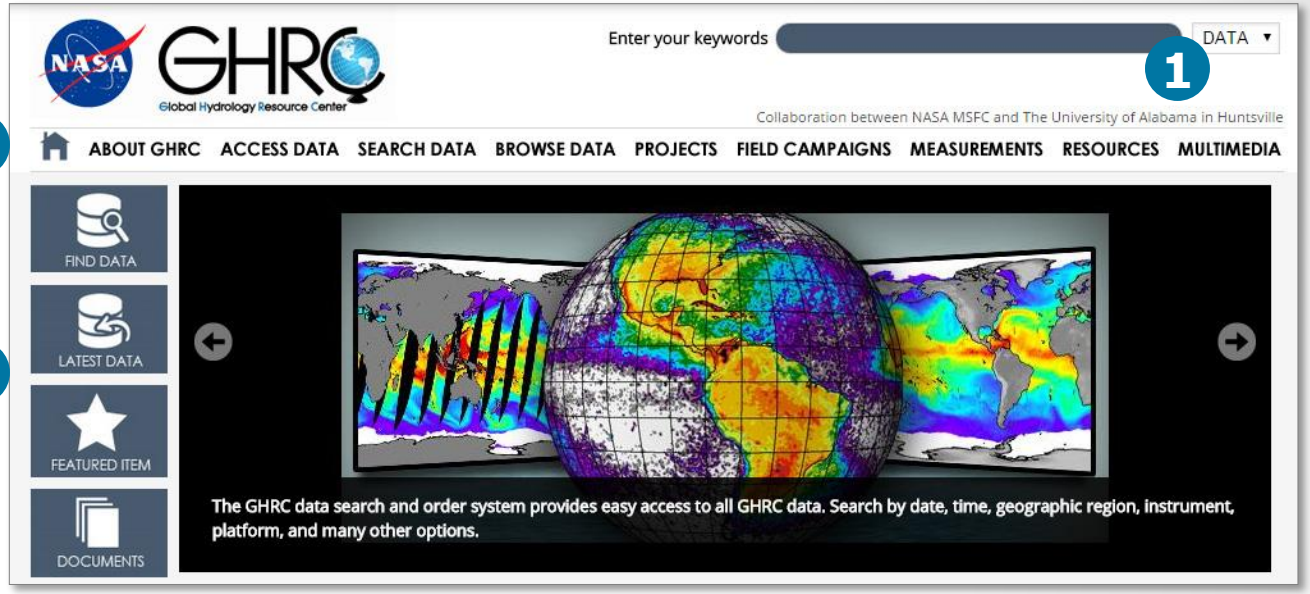
New Design

Looking to the future

- Currently being built
- Uses Drupal Content Management System (CMS)
- Cleaner look and feel
- Easier, more direct navigation
- Accessibility built into theme (508 Compliant)
- Responsive design
  - Accessible from multiple devices

Getting to Data

User has many options to get data right away



1. Search box at top of page

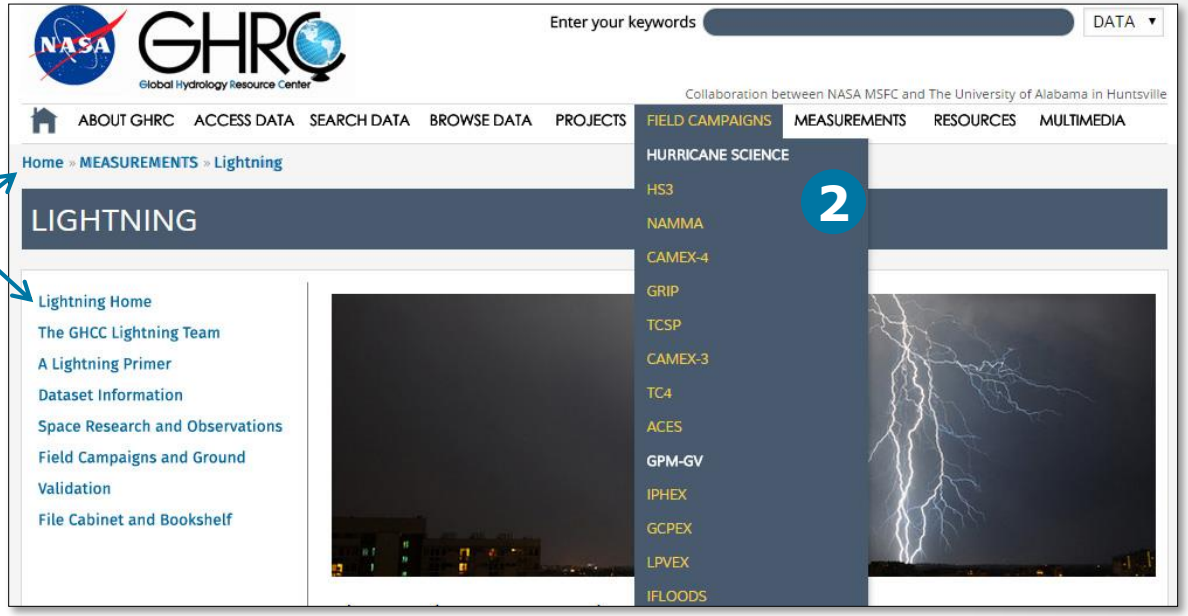
2. Navigation on home page clarifies user choices and emphasizes GHRC is concerned primarily with data

3. Top navigation menu supplemented with additional "quick links" to popular destinations in the form of news-related slides and additional buttons

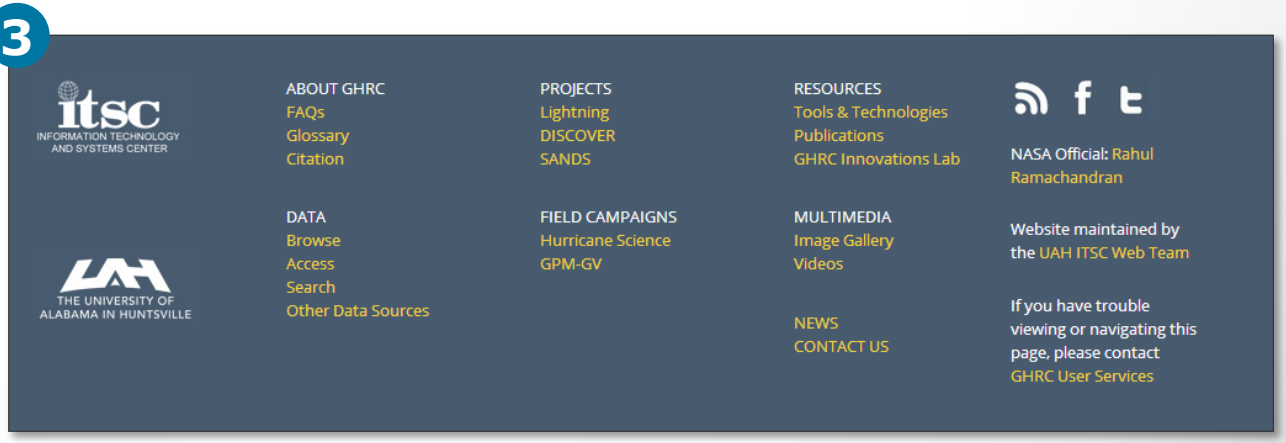
Navigation Improvements

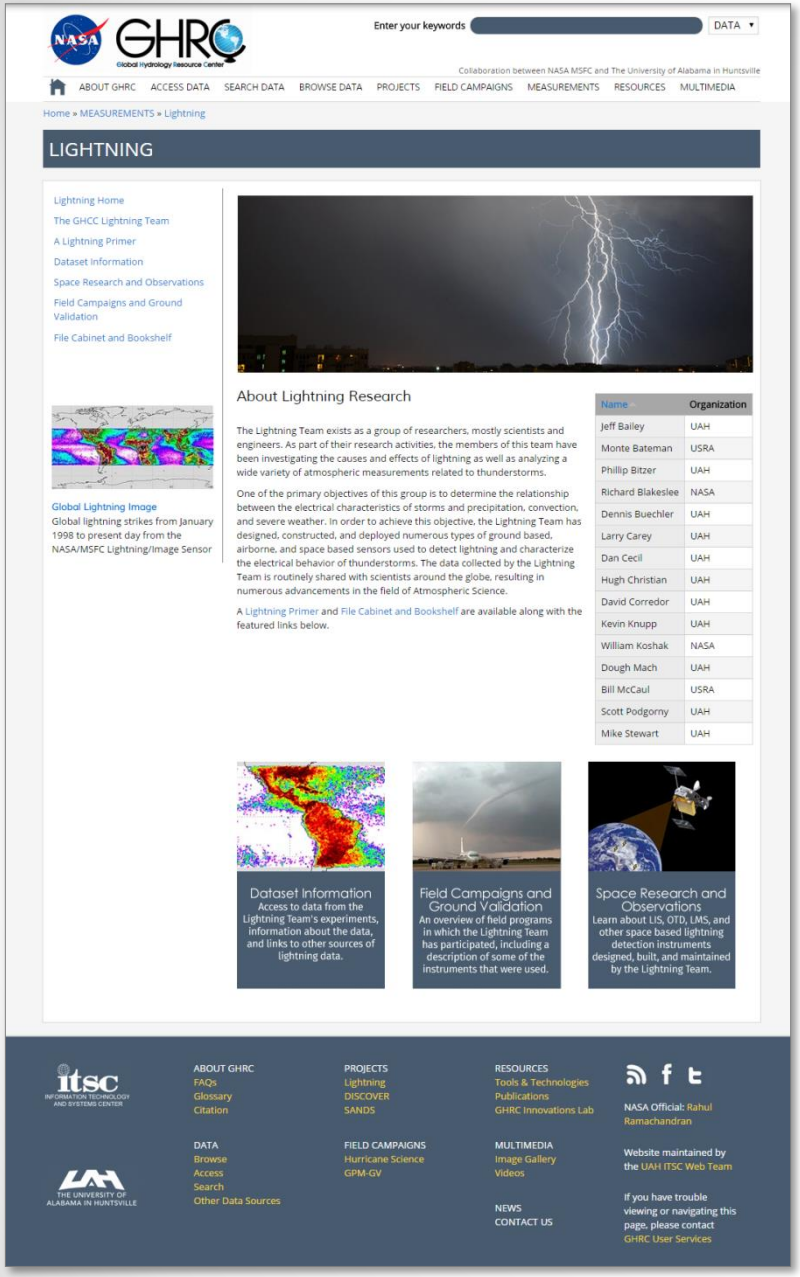
1. Context-specific breadcrumbs and menus

2. Easy-to-use menus



3. The "Fat Footer" contains a summary of site contents and links to additional resources



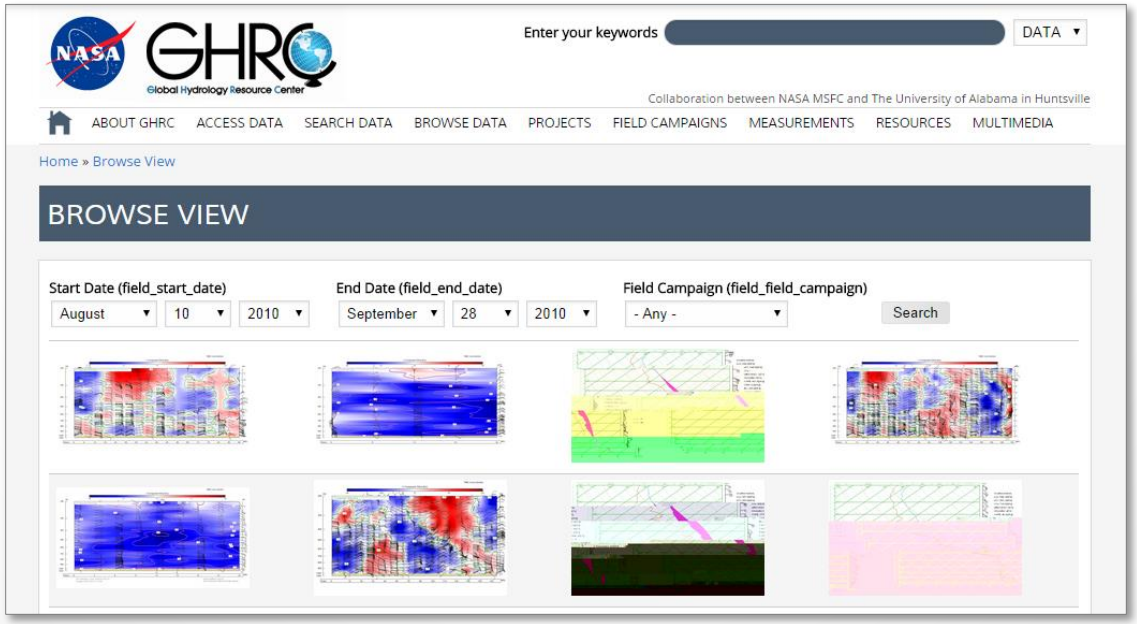


Sample project "home" page

Individual project pages will not be duplicated and moved into this project, but projects will have a "portal page" provided for them so users can obtain information quickly about the project as a whole before leaving the GHRC site.

Visual data browse options

- Many GHRC datasets have browse-able images associated with them
- We plan on incorporating this as part of a media gallery view of applicable datasets



Discussion

THANK YOU

for your attention!

Questions?

1. Have you used our current web site?
2. Can you easily find the data and information you need? Do you have suggestions for improvement?
3. What features can we include on our website as we move forward that will serve you (our users) better?
4. If there are Earth science data web sites or features that you find particularly useful, please point us to them!

Please contact **GHRC User Services** for any help or questions ghrcdaac@itsc.uah.edu