

# The Permafrost Monthly Alert (PMA) Program: Improving Reference Searches Now and in the Future



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## ABSTRACT

The U.S. Permafrost Association (USPA) and the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) developed the Permafrost Monthly Alert (PMA) program to enhance access and discovery of relevant and professionally reviewed international permafrost science and engineering literature on a regular monthly schedule. Results are made available in multiple locations on the Internet that are regularly indexed by major search engines. The monthly-updates portion of the PMA program are available through the USPA website ([www.uspermafrost.org](http://www.uspermafrost.org)). The current eight-year collection includes over 97 monthly and special updates containing over 7,390 citations. The vast majority of the references have abstracts and are organized in four major categories: journals, conferences, thesis and reports. Monthly accessions are uploaded to the AGI publicly accessible database COLD (developed from the Bibliography of Cold Regions Science and Technology database). COLD is a searchable database with more than 29,000 current and historical permafrost references, and indexed by various search engines. Annual usage of the PMA service exceeded 11,000 inquiries (views by readers) from 2016 to 2018, with over 67,000 inquiries since 2012. Special Alerts of permafrost-related conferences are a recent addition to PMA; over 300 abstracts were identified from the 2018 AGU Fall Meeting.

More publishers are using continuous publishing, where individual articles are published online before full journal issues are released. We now include the regular use of Google Scholar to find additional references released online, but not yet in a full journal issue. New information is available to a larger number of users in a shorter period of time. By placing references in multiple locations, which are regularly indexed by search engines and are high quality websites, references are more easily found by a wider range of users. Science priorities also change over time with permafrost carbon-related publications serving as one example. PMA search and collaborative efforts are being modified to add more references related to carbon-permafrost research. Information systems will continue to rapidly evolve with continued advances in electronic delivery platforms. Information types will also expand as the key focus of polar science and engineering research topics change.

## Are Your Papers in PMA?

Check out PMA today and make sure your recent papers and reports are included. Send us a note with the full references if you do not see them. This will help us evaluate future improvements in the PMA program and possibly the addition of your references.

Scan Us Now! -

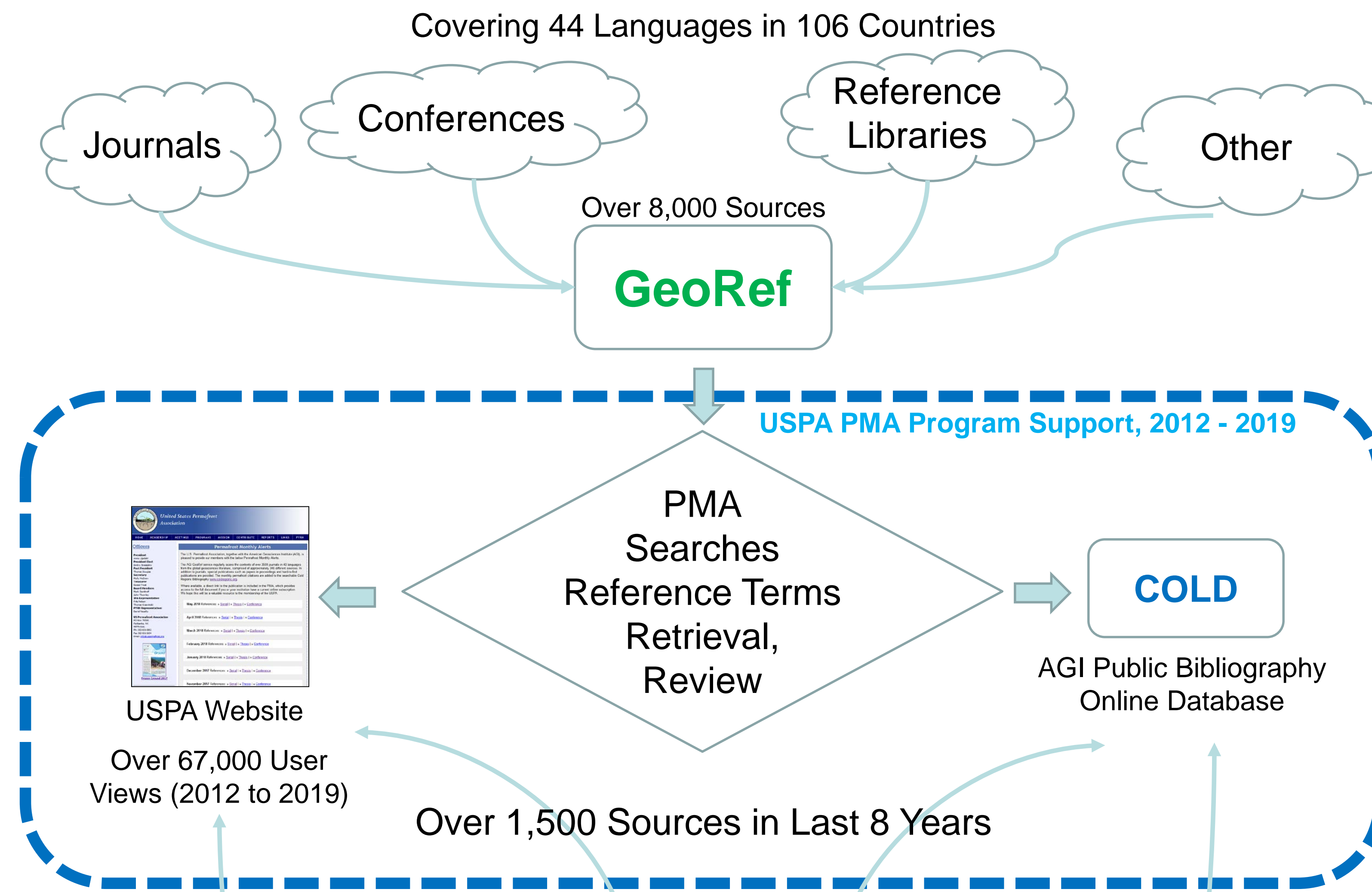


### What is GEOREF?

- AGI Flagship Database
- World's Leading Earth Sciences Bibliographic Database
- Subscription Database
- Professionally Reviewed By Expert Geosciences Reviewers
- PMA Program = Increasing Permafrost Related References in GEOREF!

## How Does PMA Work?

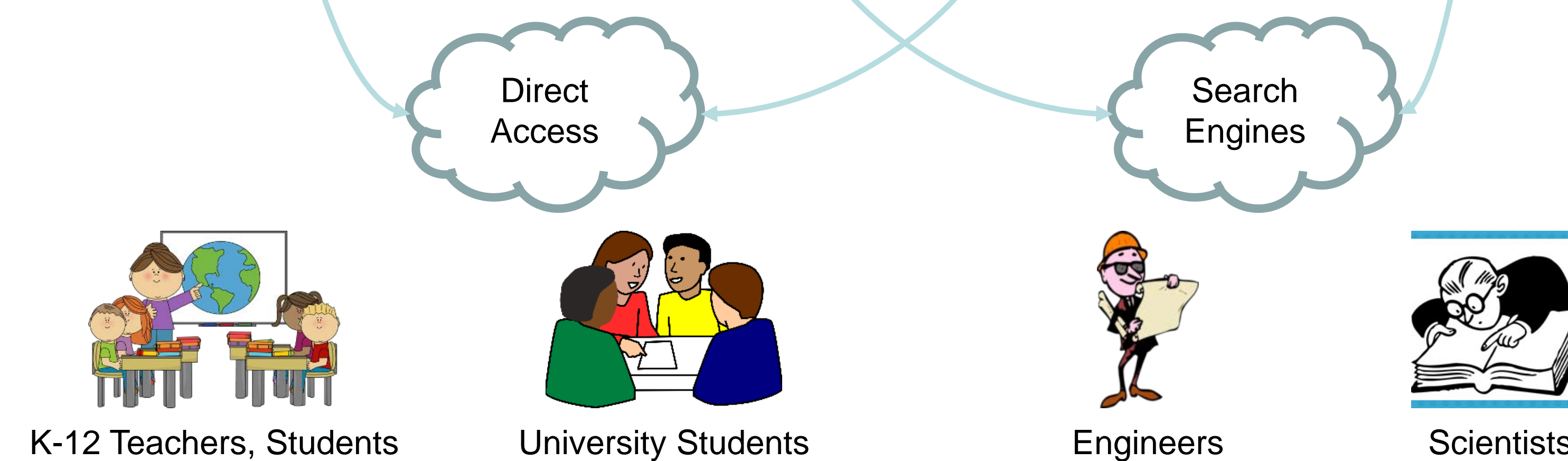
[uspermafrost.org/monthly-alerts.shtml](http://uspermafrost.org/monthly-alerts.shtml)



### GEOREF Highlights

- Over 4.1 Million References
- Between 100 – 100K References added each year
- More than 2,100 Subscribing Organizations, >50% outside US
- Earliest Reference – 1666
- Earliest Permafrost Ref – 1838
- Earliest Accessed Permafrost Reference – 1943 (S.W. Muller)

## How Does the Public Access Information?



## What Does the PMA Program Do for USPA?

- ✓ Helps fulfill our mission (<http://uspermafrost.org/purpose.shtml>)
- ✓ Improves access to permafrost information
- ✓ Increases USPA visibility (increased web traffic)
- ✓ Effective partnership with American Geosciences Institute

## 2020 PMA Program Goals

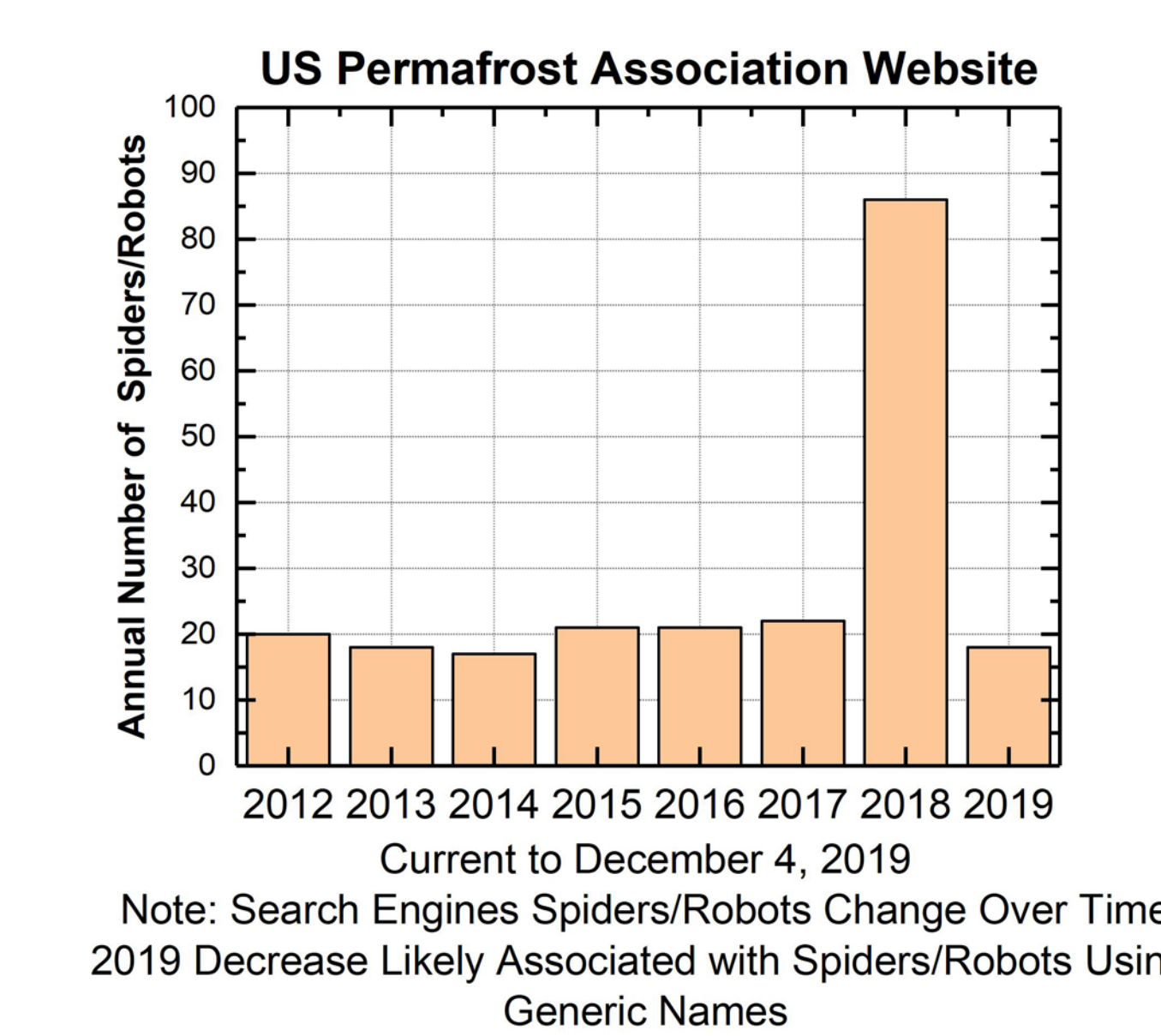
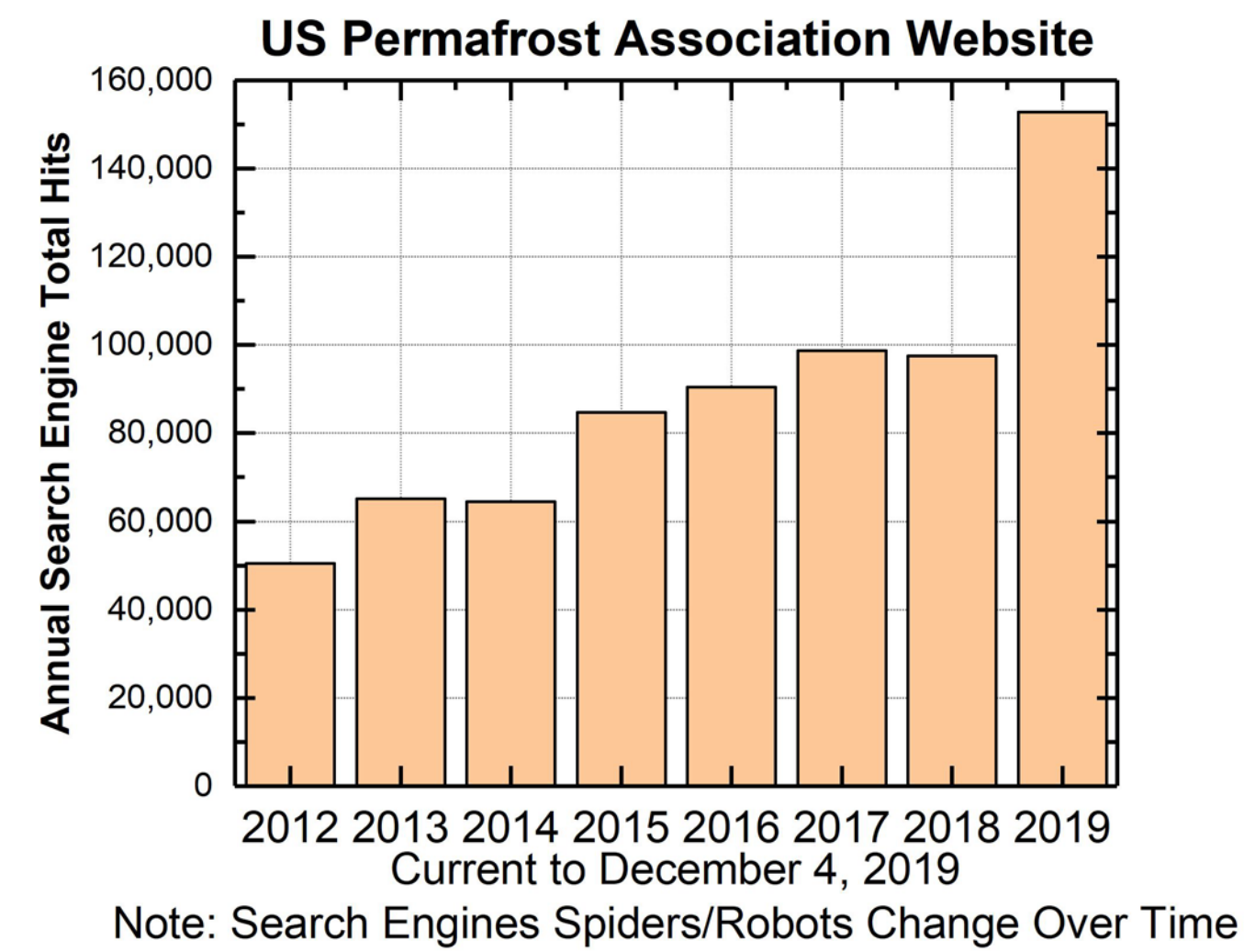
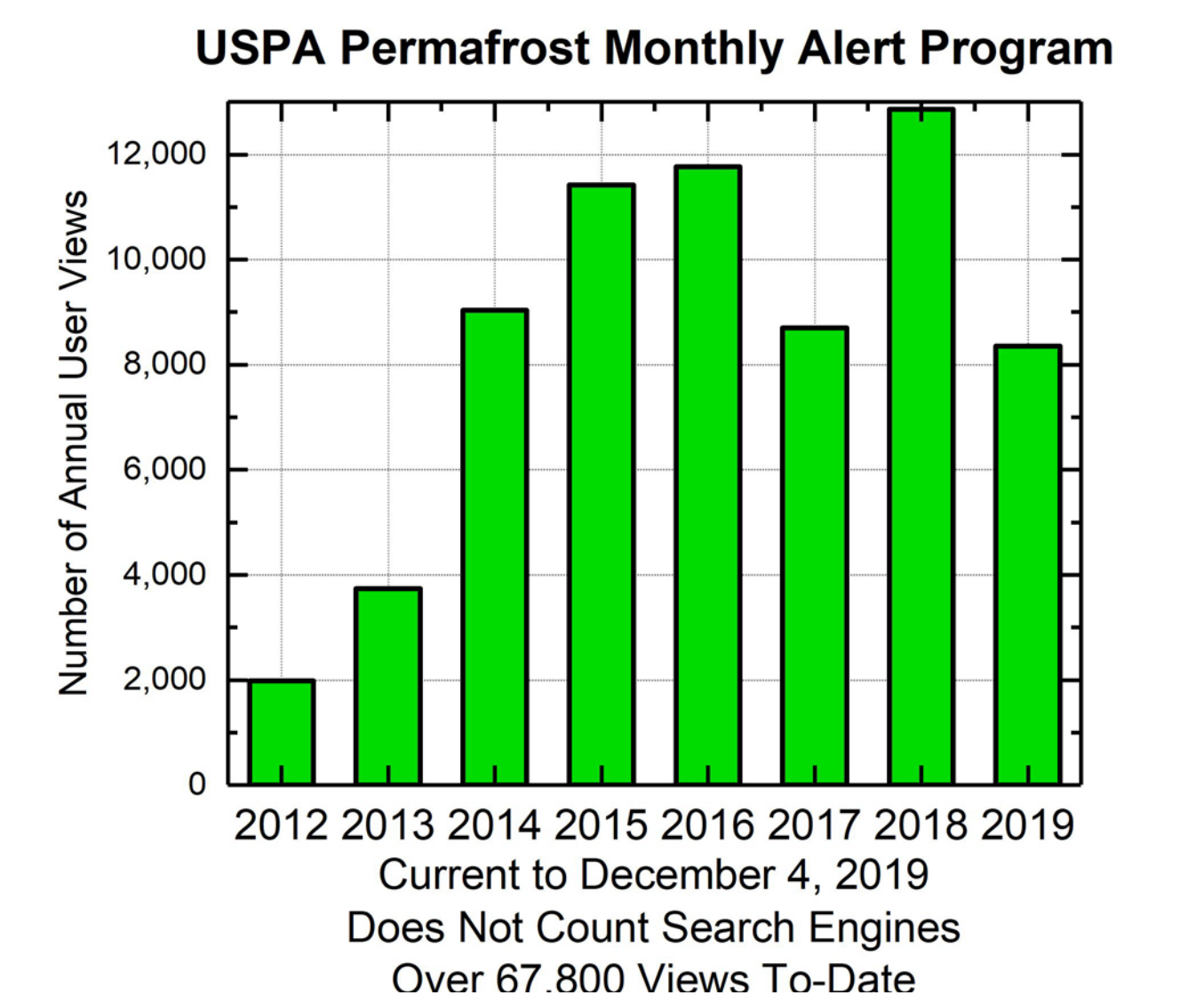
- ✓ Improve permafrost engineering content
- ✓ Improve carbon related permafrost content
- ✓ Improve use by K – 12 teachers and students
- ✓ Increase cross-linking with other organizations
- ✓ Evaluate other types of content media



Thanks to TAMU G-Camp Teachers! For 2019 K-12 Survey Participation! See G-Camp for more Information – <https://leadbyexample.tamu.edu/story-gcamp.html>



## Usage Information



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank all of our 2019 PMA Program financial sponsors. We also thank all the supporting staff at AGI and USPA members who have provided comments or content to the PMA Program.



## Scan and Check Out Our Sponsors!

